



**DATE** April 1, 2018

**SPEAKER** David Smith

**TITLE** Recognize Him?

**SERIES** The Easter season means many things to many people, but it begs one important question: who is Jesus to you? Let's take a closer look at the man who declared, "I am the way, the truth and the life" and rediscover why we follow Him.

1. If Jesus sat near you at a restaurant, would you know Him? What would you say to Him? Share where and how you first recognized Jesus in a way that was significant in your life.
2. Read Luke 24:13-35. When Jesus asked the two men what they were discussing, they described the death of a prophet (v. 19), but not a Savior. Do people today misunderstand who Jesus is? In what ways? How has society shaped our view of Him? When or why do you think it "clicks" for people?
3. Pastor David said there are 353 Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in scripture—98 specific to Jesus. Read the passages below and discuss your thoughts. How do they validate the truth of the Easter story in your mind?

Prophecy: Isaiah 7:14  
Fulfillment: Luke 1:35

Prophecy: Psalm 78:1-2  
Fulfillment: Matthew 13:34-35

Prophecy: Isaiah 40:3-4  
Fulfillment: John 1:23

Prophecy: Isaiah 53:3  
Fulfillment: Luke 4:28-29

Prophecy: Psalm 22:18  
Fulfillment: John 19:23-24

4. Pastor David said "Jesus always encounters us wherever we go." Have you or someone you know well, ever struggled to encounter Jesus? How do you think our expectations affect that?
5. As a group, compile a list of things that come to mind about who Jesus is to you. Have you discovered anything enlightening? Share thoughts on how you've encountered Jesus along the way.
6. *Pastor David said, "You can celebrate Easter and still end up sad if the resurrection doesn't mean anything to you. Why do you think this is true and what does it look like in a person's life? What do you think that attitude indicates? Lack of faith? Lack of commitment? Something else?"*
7. *Read Luke 24:18-25; & 1 Corinthians 2:14. Pastor David described foolish as... When you*

*know what God wants, but you don't trust that it will work or matter, so you do what you want.*  
What else do Scriptures indicate are important to belief? How do you balance in your mind the responsibility of the believer and the Spirit?

8. Pastor David said recognizing Jesus involves...

- Acknowledging that you want something better
- Experiencing hope restored
- Moving from knowing about Jesus to surrendering to Jesus

How would you apply these 3 statements to your own spiritual journey? Where would you say you are doing well and where are you lacking?

Conclusion: Spend time in prayer as a group reaffirming your belief in Jesus and renewing your commitment to following him.