

Talk:

We've just seen the children perform a skit about two men (Cleopas and an unnamed man) who met up with Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

This story happens around midday on the Sunday after Jesus has been crucified (which means being hung on a cross to die). This story appears at the end of Luke's gospel in Chapter 24.

So Jesus has just been crucified and he appears to these two men. In the skit they are called followers of Jesus. Jesus' followers were often called disciples. A disciple is basically the pupil or student of a teacher. The term 'disciple' also referred to those who travelled with Jesus.

These people gave their personal loyalty to him.

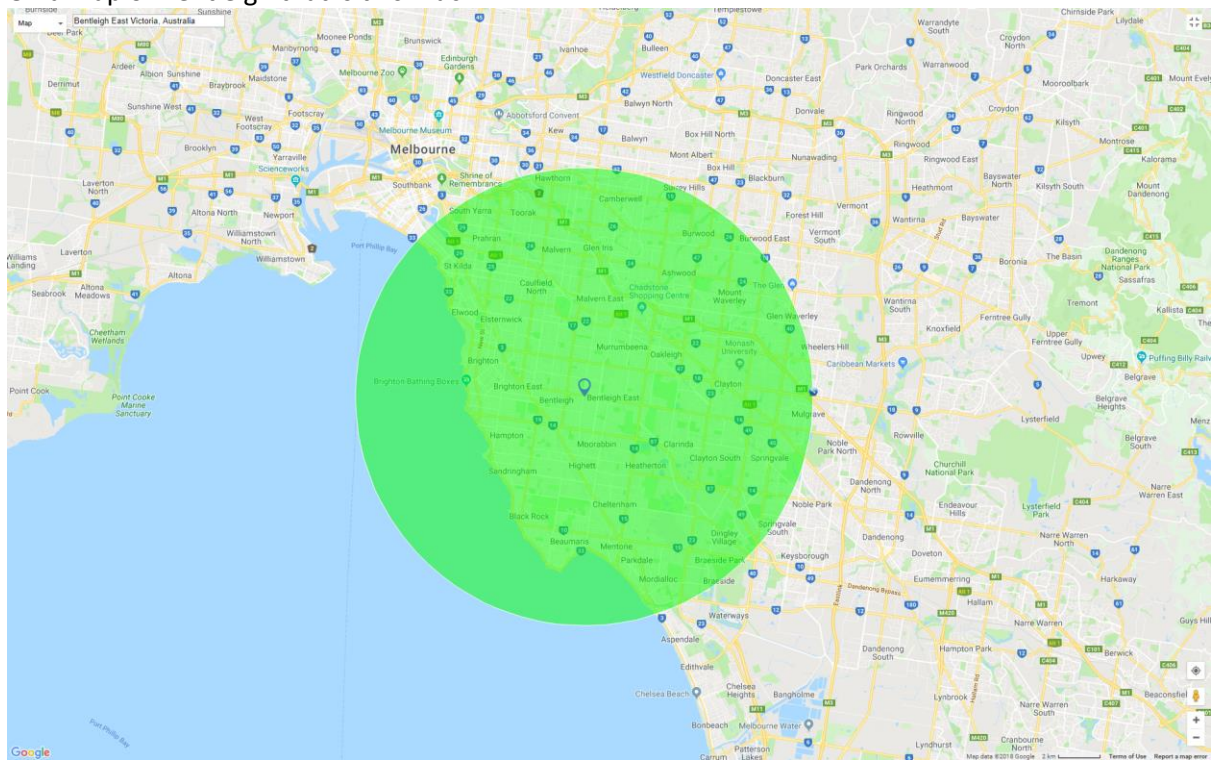
Faith in Jesus, and loyalty or commitment to him, is what determines our fate at the last judgement, when Jesus returns.

Disciples are Jesus' representatives to the rest of the world.

Disciples are those who were supposed to know Jesus – they are his mates and friends.

Jesus travels with them, but it's only a short distance. Do you know how far Emmaus is from Jerusalem? It's about 11km. It looks like this on a map

On a map of Bentleigh that is this much:



If St John's church is in the middle of the circle, 11kms is to about South Yarra/Hawthorn to the north and Braeside/Mordialloc in the south.

You could walk that in about 2 hours or so. It's not really that far.

In early Christian times the normal distance travelled by foot in a day was about 16 Roman miles, which is just under 24 kilometres. About 4 to 5 hours of walking.

Jesus didn't walk that far with them really, but the point is he didn't stay at home. He met with people where they were. He didn't expect them to come to him.

Did Jesus just stay at home playing his X Box? No
Did he cook lots of yummy things in his kitchen and play with his cat? No
Did he have a nice clean house where he had lots of parties? No

Jesus travelled, and while travelling he made himself known to his companions. There are many other stories about Jesus travelling in the bible – can you think of any?

Up a mountain where he taught the Beatitudes
Meeting with people and healing them throughout Gallilee
Teaching in the synagogues
By lakes and seas

Now, this area around Benteigh is actually quite a large area, about 35km (I think). There are a lot of people who don't know Jesus around here. However there are a large number of people who DO know Jesus there too. We don't have to travel very far to meet with others – either at school, work, sport, doing hobbies or in the local park walking the dog.

Jesus told the disciples (Cleopas and the other one) stories from the bible and explained what they meant. We know stories from the bible too.

At the end of this story they ask Jesus to join them for a meal. This was considered normal behaviour in those times, as providing hospitality (food, drink and sometimes a bed to sleep in) to travellers was the usual thing.

Jesus has a meal with the men, and gives thanks for the meal with them, and they figure out who he is.

After this story he appears to the other disciples too, and then they are given the Holy Spirit and sent out into the world.

So how do we know these stories and about Jesus? Originally they were told from person to person, until eventually people wrote them down for us.

Think how many Christians there are in the world now. Why?
Because people travelled and told stories. They did what Jesus did.

Can we do that? Yes, of course we can.

Let's think of ways we can start on our travels with Jesus this week.....