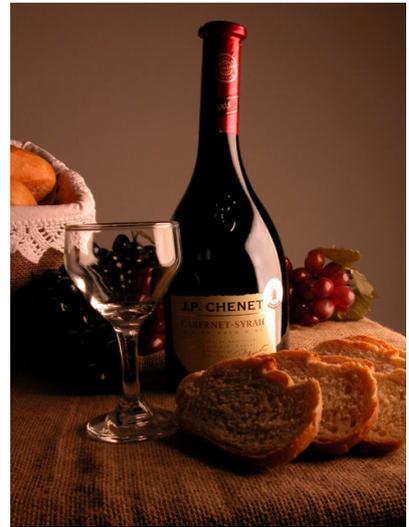


A special lunch!

Use or adapt this in a way to suit your group. You might use a different Bible version. You might omit or shorten the 'Imagining' section on this page. But have bread and wine (or juice) on your table and share these in Jesus' name. The *italics* are instructions, normal type is words you say.



First, a prayer:

God our Father, creator of all,
today is the day of Easter joy.
This is the day on which the Lord appeared to those
who had begun to lose hope
and opened their eyes to what the scripture foretold:
that first he must die, and then he would rise.

Imagining (*do this standing, outside your home or in a different room to the one you will eat in*):

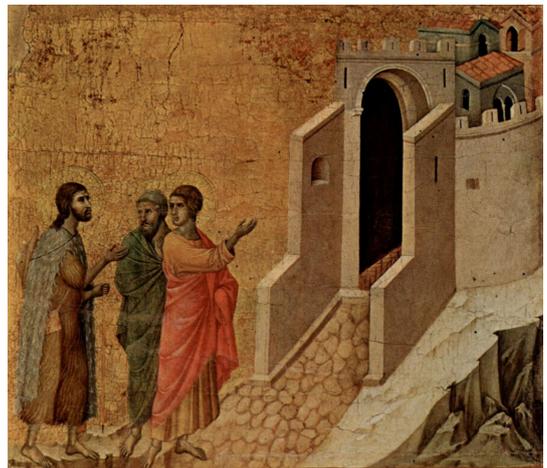
Someone read from Luke 24:

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?"

Imagine you are there with this 'stranger' who somehow seems trustworthy. Tell him and each other what you are sad about right now. Tell him the things that have happened in these last weeks.... Then read on:

They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." ²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over."



Imagine: you've arrived outside your home, and the stranger wants to go on. It might be dangerous to invite him in, yet you sense that he might hold the answer to your sadness. Will you invite him in? What words would you use to 'urge him strongly'. Are there others, friends or strangers, that you wish you could invite in, after these days of isolation are over?

Eating together

Go to the place where you will eat. Make sure there is bread and wine (or juice) on the table. Somebody read:

So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him;

Somebody pray:

Father God, we thank you for this food. We bless it, we bless you and we ask your blessing on us.

Break the bread and say:

On the hillside, in the wilderness, with five thousand and more hungry people, Jesus took the bread that they had, broke it and gave thanks to you.

He shared the bread, that no one should be left out, and they all ate and were satisfied.



Pour the wine and say:

Hurting God, you hurt with our pains, you weep with our tears, when you see how we struggle and suffer.

You long for our peace, you long for our healing and wholeness.

And at a wedding in Cana when the wine ran out,

Jesus asked them to fill the empty jars with water,

and by your grace, water became wine, sadness was turned to joy, and all were able to share in the best wine of all.

Together say:

The Lord has risen indeed! Death has lost its sting and nothing shall separate us from the love of God.

HAPPY EASTER to you! Enjoy your meal together!

At the end you might like to finish the story:

and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.