

That very same day, a group of them were on their way into a common future which lay just ahead but beyond what they could see.

As they lived into the future, they talked together about all the happenings among them.

As they talked and discussed with one another, God joined them and moved into the future in their midst.

But something kept them from seeing and understanding that it was really happening that ordinarily.

God entered their hearts and asked, *"What is it you are troubled about? What are you wondering? What questions are unsettling you?"*

The group stopped, full of fear and anxiety, and one among them said,

We thought it would be simpler.

We thought it would be more clear.

We thought the choices would be more evident.

We thought we would agree more easily on what decisions to make.

We thought we knew how things would be.

We thought God would lead us more directly.

We thought the way would have no conflicts, doubts or confusion.

We had hoped the future would be uncomplicated.

We had hoped things would not be so messy.

We had hoped the power to choose would be easy.

We had hope our experiences would confirm what we knew, not change it again.

We had hoped that familiar theories would still fit.

We had hoped.

We had hoped.

And now some among us are saying that things are not as we first imagined them to be. Now some are saying that future conditions challenge us in different ways.

And God said, *"How slow you are as a group! How hard it is for you to trust. Have I not promised from the beginning to be with you, to sustain you, and to continually reveal to hearts that are open to my plans? Have I not promised you more than you can ask or imagine?"*