News Story Summary

Researchers believe they have uncovered a mystery about the scribes who copied the Isaiah Scroll from the Dead Sea Scrolls. Using Artificial Intelligence, researchers discovered that two unknown individuals with nearly identical handwriting did the copying. The Isaiah Scroll is one of approximately 950 different texts first discovered by a Bedouin shepherd in the 1940s and 1950s. Researchers analyzed ancient ink traces related directly to a person's muscle movement which are person specific. The technique the two used was so good that until now modern scholars had not been able to distinguish between the two sources.

For more about this story, search "AL Unlocks Ancient Dead Sea Scrolls Mystery".

Focus Attention

Replace the Respond suggestion under Focus Attention, share about the discovery of two different scribes being responsible for copying the Isaiah Scroll. Explain that people have wonders for years about how the Dead Sea scrolls were created including the number of scribes involved. Allow the group to discuss the importance of knowing the sources of the Scrolls and of scribes working in pairs (based on this new discovery). Emphasize that this revelation gives greater credibility to the Scrolls since partners tend to check the other's work. Transition by saying: *Today, we will look at two men traveling to Emmaus who reported an encounter with Jesus after His resurrection. The evidence they presented helps us understand the mystery of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.*

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Respond idea under Summarize and Challenge, remind the group about the Isaiah Scroll discovery. Ask: *How does this discovery open the door for greater understanding of the Dead Sea Scrolls?* Remind the group that spending time with God in Bible reading and study opens the door for greater understanding of Him and His truth. Complete the step as written, pointing the group to the second question set under Apply the Text.