

Introduction to This Study Guide

This study guide is taking a different approach than previous materials. The gospel of Luke offers much in the way of reflecting on spiritual truths. We are often quite familiar with the stories, but have a difficult time in applying them to our hearts. Hopefully this study guide will not only promote accurate understanding of the scriptures, but to help us reflect on how God might be speaking to us through the text.

The first thing you might notice is that there are fewer questions and some questions are common in each study. These questions will be a little more open ended and will require a little more personal reflection. The aim is to challenge you to interact personally with God's word.

It will be assumed that before coming to the group meeting, that each person will have taken the time to read the passage and prayerfully ask God what he might be saying to you through the text. The group discussions will be much more profitable if you are willing to share how God is speaking to you in the text. These texts are not complicated enough to need extensive discussion on merely understanding the text.

In order to foster an attitude of reflection and scripture meditation, I suggest that at the start of the group study that the group spend a minute or two in silence as a way of tuning into God and asking him to speak through the group. After the time of silence, one person should open in prayer asking God to open his word to the group. After the prayer a person or couple of people should read the passage out loud.

Pastor David

Study 1: John the Baptist Prepares the Way

Luke 3:1-20

Questions to Promote Understanding:

1. Is there anything in this passage that you do not understand, that the group might be able to clarify?
2. What is John the Baptist's role and why is it important?
3. In verse 8 John says "And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham." What do you think he meant by this?
4. What does this passage teach us about the nature of repentance?

Questions to Promote Application:

1. Is there anything in this passage that God is bringing to your attention and applying to your heart right now? Is there one verse or phrase that sticks out to you?
2. How might we play a similar role as John the Baptist?
3. Is there any way in which you need to prepare your heart for the work of God in your life right now?
4. What is one thing that you are going to take away from this passage?
5. How can we pray the truth of this passage for each other?

Study 2: The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus Luke 3:21-22 & 4:1-13

Questions to Promote Understanding:

1. Is there anything in this passage that you do not understand, that the group might be able to clarify?
2. Are these temptations unique to Jesus or can you find parallels in your life?
3. What can we learn from how both Jesus and the devil use the scriptures?

Questions to Promote Application:

1. Is there anything in this passage that God is bringing to your attention and applying to your heart right now? Is there one verse or phrase that sticks out to you?
2. Have you ever experienced the highs and lows as Jesus did, coming out of his baptism into a time of temptation? Is this a common pattern?
3. What is one thing that you are going to take away from this passage?
4. How can we pray the truth of this passage for each other?

Study 3: Jesus' ministry

Luke 4:14-44 & 5:12-16

Questions to Promote Understanding:

1. Is there anything in this passage that you do not understand, that the group might be able to clarify?
2. What are the priorities of Jesus in his ministry? How would you rank his priorities?
3. How do these pages portray Jesus as an attractive person?

Questions to Promote Application:

1. Is there anything in this passage that God is bringing to your attention and applying to your heart right now? Is there one verse or phrase that sticks out to you?
2. How do our lives line up with the priorities of Christ?
3. What is one thing that you are going to take away from this passage?
4. How can we pray the truth of this passage for each other?

Study 4: Calling and Teaching of Disciples Luke 5:1-11 & 6:20-49

Questions to Promote Understanding:

1. Is there anything in this passage that you do not understand, that the group might be able to clarify?
2. What does it mean to be a disciple?
3. Why is it significant that Jesus is addressing his disciples with the teaching in chapter 6?
4. What is the difference between the wise and foolish builder?

Questions to Promote Application:

1. Is there anything in this passage that God is bringing to your attention and applying to your heart right now? Is there one verse or phrase that sticks out to you?
2. How seriously should we hear the phrase in 5:12 “they...left everything and followed him”
3. How seriously do you believe in being rewarded by God?
4. What is one thing that you are going to take away from this passage?
5. How can we pray the truth of this passage for each other?

Study 5: Jesus anointed by sinful woman

Luke 7:36-50

Questions to Promote Understanding:

1. Is there anything in this passage that you do not understand, that the group might be able to clarify?
2. How is this woman an illustration of faith? What does she tell us about the nature of a faith relationship with Jesus?

Questions to Promote Application:

1. Is there anything in this passage that God is bringing to your attention and applying to your heart right now? Is there one verse or phrase that sticks out to you?
2. Who do you identify most with in this story? Why?
3. What is one thing that you are going to take away from this passage?
4. How can we pray the truth of this passage for each other?

Study 6: Parables of the Sower and Lamp

Luke 8:4-18

Questions to Promote Understanding:

1. Is there anything in this passage that you do not understand, that the group might be able to clarify?
2. Why does Jesus teach in parables?
3. What is the main point of the parable of the sower?

Questions to Promote Application:

1. Is there anything in this passage that God is bringing to your attention and applying to your heart right now? Is there one verse or phrase that sticks out to you?
2. How is verse 18 significant to the way we live out our spiritual life?
3. What is one thing that you are going to take away from this passage?
4. How can we pray the truth of this passage for each other?

Study 7: Peter's Confession / Transfiguration

Luke 9:18-36

Questions to Promote Understanding:

1. Is there anything in this passage that you do not understand, that the group might be able to clarify?
2. What do you think is the point of the transfiguration? How does it relate to Peter's confession?

Questions to Promote Application:

1. Is there anything in this passage that God is bringing to your attention and applying to your heart right now? Is there one verse or phrase that sticks out to you?
2. How do we show that we have correctly identified Christ?
3. What is one thing that you are going to take away from this passage?
4. How can we pray the truth of this passage for each other?

Study 8: Good Samaritan and Mary and Martha Luke 10:25-42

Questions to Promote Understanding:

1. Is there anything in this passage that you do not understand, that the group might be able to clarify?
2. How do the two stories complement each other?
3. Why was hero of the first story a Samaritan? What does that say to us today?

Questions to Promote Application:

1. Is there anything in this passage that God is bringing to your attention and applying to your heart right now? Is there one verse or phrase that sticks out to you?
2. Which story do you identify with the most right now?
3. What is one thing that you are going to take away from this passage?
4. How can we pray the truth of this passage for each other?

Study 9: Teachings on Prayer

Luke 11:1-13 & 18:1-8

Questions to Promote Understanding:

1. Is there anything in this passage that you do not understand, that the group might be able to clarify?
2. What do these passages say about our roll in receiving an answer to prayer?
3. What do these passages teach about God's attitude towards us in our prayers?

Questions to Promote Application:

1. Is there anything in this passage that God is bringing to your attention and applying to your heart right now? Is there one verse or phrase that sticks out to you?
2. How will these passages influence your prayer life?
3. What is one thing that you are going to take away from this passage?
4. How can we pray the truth of this passage for each other?

Study 10 The Rich Fool and Worry

Luke 12:13-34

Questions to Promote Understanding:

1. Is there anything in this passage that you do not understand, that the group might be able to clarify?
2. How can worry and greed be close cousins?

Questions to Promote Application:

1. Is there anything in this passage that God is bringing to your attention and applying to your heart right now? Is there one verse or phrase that sticks out to you?
2. What truths do we need to remember in order to fight greed and worry?
3. How seriously do we hear the instructions in verses 31-34?
4. How does your attitude towards money and possessions reflect on your spiritual condition?
5. What is one thing that you are going to take away from this passage?
6. How can we pray the truth of this passage for each other?

Study 11 Banquets and Cost of Discipleship

Luke 14:7-35

Questions to Promote Understanding:

1. Is there anything in this passage that you do not understand, that the group might be able to clarify?
2. What is the meaning of the parable about the banquet? How is it related to the material on the cost of discipleship?
3. How does Matthew 10:37 help us understand Luke 14:26

Questions to Promote Application:

1. Is there anything in this passage that God is bringing to your attention and applying to your heart right now? Is there one verse or phrase that sticks out to you?
2. In what ways has your discipleship been costly? Has it been worth the cost?
3. How do you react to the extreme language in this passage on the cost of discipleship?
4. What is one thing that you are going to take away from this passage?
5. How can we pray the truth of this passage for each other?

Study 12 Parables of the Lost

Luke 15

Questions to Promote Understanding:

1. Is there anything in this passage that you do not understand, that the group might be able to clarify?
2. What do these stories tell us about the heart of God?
3. In what way is the older son also a lost son?

Questions to Promote Application:

1. Is there anything in this passage that God is bringing to your attention and applying to your heart right now? Is there one verse or phrase that sticks out to you?
2. With which son do you identify with most? Why?
3. How should these stories shape our attitudes towards people? Towards ourselves?
4. What is one thing that you are going to take away from this passage?
5. How can we pray the truth of this passage for each other?

Study 13 The Shrewd Manager and The Rich Man and Lazarus Luke 16:1-15 and 16:19-31

Questions to Promote Understanding:

1. Is there anything in this passage that you do not understand, that the group might be able to clarify?
2. How do we explain that this dishonest manager is commended? What are we supposed to learn from this parable?
3. In verse 9 what does gaining friends have to do with receiving eternal life?
4. On what basis does Lazarus go to heaven and the rich man to hell? Is this shocking considering we are wealthy by many standards?

Questions to Promote Application:

1. Is there anything in this passage that God is bringing to your attention and applying to your heart right now? Is there one verse or phrase that sticks out to you?
2. How serious is Jesus about the way we use our money?
3. What is one thing that you are going to take away from this passage?
4. How can we pray the truth of this passage for each other?

Study 14 Tax Collector / Children / Rich Ruler

Luke 18:9-30

Questions to Promote Understanding:

1. Is there anything in this passage that you do not understand, that the group might be able to clarify?
2. Over and over again in the book of Luke, we are confronted with material about wealth and money. Take some time to remember where else this has come up in our studies so far.
3. Why do you think this is such a dominant theme for Jesus?

Questions to Promote Application:

1. Is there anything in this passage that God is bringing to your attention and applying to your heart right now? Is there one verse or phrase that sticks out to you?
2. Given the amount of time that Jesus teaches about money, does the way you handle your finances honor Christ?
3. How important is humility? Is it possible to have faith without humility?
4. What is one thing that you are going to take away from this passage?
5. How can we pray the truth of this passage for each other?

Study 15 Preparation for Easter

Luke 22-24

As a change of pace perhaps conduct a small worship service together as a group. Incorporate any of the following that are appropriate for your group.

- a. Sing some songs that focus on Christ's death and resurrection
- b. Do a dramatic reading assigning parts to different people (Jesus, Pilate, Peter, Narrator etc.) It can be very powerful if everyone reads the parts of the crowd and soldiers together.
- c. Use the questions below as a sharing time to reflect on the meaning of Christ's death
- d. Share communion together
- e. For the more ambitious, celebrate a Passover Seder dinner (contact Pastor David for materials)
- f. Watch the movie "The Passion of the Christ" and talk about it afterwards

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