

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE MAN WHO IS GOD

INTRODUCTION

TO COMMUNITY GROUPS

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY GROUP?

Community groups are small gatherings of people (Christian and non) that meet regularly for friendship, accountability, study and prayer, laughter, and occasionally tears. Community groups are an essential expression of the mission of Mars Hill Church. They're a place where we learn more about Jesus and life together. They're the place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life that God intends for us.

Each community group is unique, shaped by its neighborhood and the people who attend. However, you can expect a weekly gathering in a residence that involves food, conversation, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and service in the neighborhood. At the heart of each community group is the desire to see an authentic community marked by love for Jesus, one another, and the neighborhood.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN A COMMUNITY GROUP?

The God of the Bible is a Trinitarian God who is one and three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. God has made us in his image, which means we are made for community and friendship. And when we are not living in community we suffer because life in a sinful world is too complex and tempting to journey alone. Therefore, community groups are a place where we can live in relationship with one another through the ups and downs of life.

HOW DO I GET CONNECTED TO A COMMUNITY GROUP?

The easiest way to get connected is on Sunday: before or after the service, stop by the info desk at the campus where you attend. The volunteers will personally walk you through the process and connect you to a group. That will include joining The City, which is our private online social network. If you are already on The City, click the "community group" link or select "Find a Community" from the "More" menu. You can begin participating in the community of Mars Hill at any time, and we are glad to welcome you.

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Week 1
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 1:1–4 *EYEWITNESS TO JESUS*

INTRODUCTION

Luke was a first generation follower of Jesus who investigates the gospel by going to those who were eyewitnesses to Jesus' ministry. He begins his account of the life of Jesus with a greeting to Theophilus that gives us insight into his purpose and motive for writing this letter.

DISCUSSION

What does it mean to have certainty in something?

EXPLANATION

- Who is Luke?
- What aspects of Luke's experience lends to the credibility of his account of Jesus?
- What is Luke's explanation for writing this letter to Theophilus?
- How has God used eyewitnesses throughout redemptive history to point to Jesus?

APPLICATION

- What are you most looking forward to our study of Luke?
- How are you like Theophilus, looking for certainty concerning the things you have been taught?
- Where do you anchor your certainty in truth?
- Where in your life have you been called to be like Luke, testifying to the truth of Jesus?
- What personally compels you to teach people about Jesus? study and prayer, laughter, and occasionally tears. Community groups are an essential expression of the mission of Mars Hill Church. They're a place where we learn more about Jesus and life together. They're the place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life that God intends for us.

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Week 2
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 1:5–25 *JOHN THE BAPTIZER'S BIRTH PROPHESED*

INTRODUCTION

Luke begins his account of Jesus with the prophecy of birth of John the Baptist to prepare a people for the coming of Jesus.

DISCUSSION

In our culture, where do we make a big deal about preparing for someone's arrival?

EXPLANATION

- Who is Zechariah and what was the role of the priests in the nation of Israel?
- What is the significance that John will come in the spirit and power of Elijah? (ref Mal. 4)
- What will John's ministry be and how does that point to Jesus as the Messiah?
- What are the similarities between Zechariah being struck mute and Ezek. 3:26,24:27?

APPLICATION

- How has the proclamation of the word prepared you for the work of Jesus in your life?
- What work has God called you to in order that the name of Jesus would be glorified?
- When have you struggled with unbelief towards God's word and His call on your life?
- What does it look like for you to walk in faith and belief?

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Week 3
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 1:26–38 *JESUS' BIRTH PROPHESED*

INTRODUCTION

After Gabriel announces the birth of John, he visits Mary to announce the coming of the Lord into human history.

DISCUSSION

Why do you think God was so specific with the prophesied details of Jesus' birth?

EXPLANATION

- What is the significance that Mary is a virgin from Nazareth?
- Why is important that Joseph is the line of David?
- What does Gabriel proclaim about the kingdom and reign of Jesus?
- How does Mary respond to the news she hears from Gabriel?

APPLICATION

- Why is the detailed prophecy and fulfillment of Jesus' birth important to you?
- What does it mean to you that God humbled himself to become a baby?
- How do you respond to God's radical call for your life through scripture?
- Where do you hold back in following Jesus?
- What would it look like for you to submit to Jesus as your Lord?

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Week 4
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 1:39–45 *MARY AND ELIZABETH*

INTRODUCTION

After Mary's encounter with Gabriel she visits Zechariah and Elizabeth who is carrying John the Baptizer in her womb. This interaction foreshadows the ministry of John and Jesus.

DISCUSSION

What kinds of things do we sing about in our culture?

EXPLANATION

- What is the significance of the baby jumping in Elizabeth's womb?
- What does it mean that Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit?
- Why is Mary blessed?
- How did Mary's express faith and submission to God?

APPLICATION

- Who do you go to when you see God move in your life?
- How have you been blessed by Jesus?
- Give an example of how you have experienced joy in the presence of Jesus?
- What promises has Jesus God made to you that you have faith in their fulfillment?

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Week 5
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 1:46–56 *MARY'S SONG*

INTRODUCTION

This passage is an act of worship in response to God's blessing on Mary and the human race, acknowledging our position before a holy God and His mercy toward us.

DISCUSSION

What kinds of things do we sing about in our culture?

EXPLANATION

- What is the foundation for Mary's praise of God (for her and Israel)?
- How do mercy and fear go together in verse 50?
- Read psalm 107:9 and discuss what Mary means by "he filled the hungry".
- What is the significance of verse 54-55?

APPLICATION

- What does it mean for your soul to "magnify the Lord"?
- How has God shown you that he look upon your "humble estate"?
- What do you hunger for and how has Jesus filled you?
- What does it look like for you to respond to God's goodness?
- Write a poem or song that expresses your heart toward Jesus. (as a group or individually)

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Week 6
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 1:57–80 *THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIZER*

INTRODUCTION

This is the account of the birth of John the Baptizer and the prophetic hymn of praise and prophesied over his life.

DISCUSSION

What does your name mean? How was it significant to you parents?

EXPLANATION

- Recall why Zechariah could not speak.
- Why was Elizabeth so determined to name her son John and why was it challenged?
- Why did the neighbors respond with fear?
- What is the knowledge of Salvation?
- What is the significance behind the symbol of the sunrise?

APPLICATION

- Where have you seen God do something that awakened you to the reality of His activity in your life?
- How has Jesus made it possible for you to serve God without fear?
- Does the idea of God's "tender mercy" change the way you see God?
- How does Jesus shine light in your life?

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Week 7
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 2:1–7 *JESUS' BIRTH*

INTRODUCTION

We now move to the birth of Jesus, the second person of the Trinity entering human history for the redemption of Mankind. This is the moment when everything changed.

DISCUSSION

What would you give up to save a friend or family member from death?

EXPLANATION

- Why did Joseph go to Bethlehem with a late term pregnant wife?
- Read Mic. 5:2, why is it significant that Jesus be born in Bethlehem?
- Why is it important that Joseph was from the line of David? (Read 2 Sam 7:12-16)
- What are the circumstances and conditions around Christ's birth?

APPLICATION

- Do you see God as active in your life and circumstances?
- How do the circumstances around Jesus' birth inform your view of the incarnation?
- Read Phil. 2:5-11 and spend some time meditating and reflecting on what it means that the second person of the Trinity became a man.
- What does the incarnation tell you about the character of God?

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Week 8
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 2:8–21 *CHRST THE LORD*

INTRODUCTION

We continue the account of the birth of Jesus. God chooses to announce His arrival to shepherds first, rather than kings and gives them a glimpse of the glory he set aside to become one of us.

DISCUSSION

If you were one of the shepherds how do you think you would have responded?

EXPLANATION

- Read gal. 4:4-5, what is the good news that the angels bring?
- Who is the source of the revelation given by the angels?
- What is the response of the shepherds after they hear the Messiah has come?
- What were the titles given to Jesus by the angels and why are they significant.

APPLICATION

- What is surprising to you about the announcement of Jesus' birth?
- Why was it necessary for God to enter into human history?
- When have you seen a glimpse of Jesus' glory?
- How do you, or do you want to, live your life in response to the gospel?

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Week 9
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 2:22–40 *JESUS AND THE TEMPLE*

INTRODUCTION

This is the account of Jesus' presentation at the temple, as is customary for the firstborn son, and the prophesy over him by Simeon as God continued to reveal the plan of redemption for Israel and gentiles alike.

DISCUSSION

What traditions do you have in your family for the birth of a child?

EXPLANATION

- What was the importance of Jesus being presented at the temple?
- What does it mean that Simeon has "seen salvation"?
- How do verses 30-32 speak to the plan of redemptive history?
- What is the meaning behind verses 34-35?

APPLICATION

- How did God reveal the truth of the gospel to you?
- What was your response to the good news?
- Read 1 Peter 2. How Jesus appointed for the rise and fall of people.
- What does verse 40 tell us about the humanity of Jesus?

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Week 10
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 2:41–52 *JESUS THE BOY*

INTRODUCTION

The story of Jesus' birth and childhood ends with narrative of Jesus as a boy at the temple. In this story we begin to see the future of Jesus who is about his Father's work. We see that He understands who he is in God, (the Son of God) and man (submissive to His parents).

DISCUSSION

Have you ever lost someone or something and found it in an obvious place?

EXPLANATION

- What feast were they celebrating in Jerusalem and why might that be significant?
- What was Jesus doing in the temple?
- Why should the temple have been an obvious place to find Jesus?
- Where do you see indications of Jesus' divine nature and human nature in this passage?

APPLICATION

- What surprises you about this story?
- How is Jesus an example of growth and maturity for us in our walk with Him?
- How often do you take time to read and learn the word of God?
- What does it mean that the Temple was Jesus' "Father's house"?

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Week 11
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 3:1–14 *REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM*

INTRODUCTION

This passage of scripture describes the ministry of John the baptizer in preparation for the ministry of Jesus. This fulfills the prophecies about John's life as he continuously points to Jesus not himself.

DISCUSSION

What was the purpose of the Law?

EXPLANATION

- Read Isa. 40:3, how is John fulfilling this text?
- How was John's Ministry a link between the Law and grace?
- What were the "vipers" trusting for their salvation from God's wrath?
- Why is their hope in their family line unfounded?
- What is John's definition of repentance?

APPLICATION

- What is your definition of worldly sorrow?
- What have you put your faith in that will not bear fruit?
- What kind of fruit is Jesus looking for in your life?
- What does repentance look like for you specifically?

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Week 12
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 3:15–22 *JESUS IS GOD*

INTRODUCTION

In this passage John continues to preach the good news of Jesus who comes to be baptized, validating John's ministry and identifying with our sin. In this passage we see the three persons of the Trinity together as Jesus begins his public ministry.

DISCUSSION

What is the difference between John's baptism and Jesus'?

EXPLANATION

- How does John describe the ministry of Jesus? What determines wheat vs. chaff?
- What does it mean that Jesus has come to "fill his barn"?
- What does it mean that Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire?
- Where do you see three distinct persons of the Trinity in verses 22?

APPLICATION

- How is John an example of glorifying Jesus without glorifying himself?
- How does John's picture of Jesus change the way you see Jesus?
- Why is it important that we see three distinct persons of the Trinity in this passage?
- Why is the Trinity an essential doctrine to the Christian faith?

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Week 13
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 3:23–38 *JESUS IS MAN*

INTRODUCTION

Before beginning the account of Jesus' ministry, Luke gives an account of the genealogy of Jesus focusing on Jesus being the fulfillment of the promises of God tracing back to Adam.

DISCUSSION

Have you ever traced your genealogy? If so, what did you discover?

EXPLANATION

- How does the genealogy of Jesus trace through all the covenants that God has made with man? (Highlight the significant patriarchs for each of these covenants)
- Why is it important that Jesus was in the line of David?
- Why does Luke trace the genealogy back to Adam?

APPLICATION

- How does this genealogy speak of the sovereign and active hand of God in history?
- What sticks out to you about the genealogy of Jesus and why?
- Trace your genealogy of Faith and reflect on the active hand of God in your life.

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Week 14
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 4:1–13 *JESUS WITHOUT SIN*

INTRODUCTION

As a prelude to Jesus' public ministry, the Holy Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness where He is tempted by Satan. This account gives us a picture of Jesus as our example, walking in the Spirit and dependant on Scripture to resist temptation.

DISCUSSION

Where do you experience hunger in your life? (physical/spiritual/emotional).

EXPLANATION

- What is the role of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' trip into the wilderness?
- Why would Jesus turning a stone into bread be a big deal? (Discuss implications of each temptation)
- How are all three temptations an assault on the cross?
- What does Jesus use as a defense against the temptations of Satan?

APPLICATION

- What does it look like to be lead by the Spirit as a believer?
- How are you tempted to shortcut Gods plan of sanctification?
- As a group, practice applying Gods truth in response to some of these temptations.
- How does seeing Jesus in his Spirit-filled humanity help to see Him as our example?

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Week 15
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 4:14–21 *JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT*

INTRODUCTION

Teaching in the synagogues around Galilee and led by the Spirit, Jesus reads from Isaiah 61 and makes a staggering claim that reveals his nature and purpose in the world.

DISCUSSION

Has anyone in the group been part of a surprise party? Discuss the emotions and responses that you remember.

EXPLANATION

- What is the initial response to Jesus' teaching in the synagogues?
- What was the significance of the synagogue in the life of Israel at the time?
- What was the significance of the messiah in the faith of Israel?
- Read Isaiah 61:1-2. What is the context and importance of this Scripture?
- What is the claim Jesus is making in verse 21 and why is this a big deal for the hearers?

APPLICATION

- When did you first hear the claim that Jesus was your savior, God incarnate?
- What was your initial response to these claims?
- How has Jesus made good on the claims of Isaiah 61 in your life?
- Who do you know that needs to hear these promises from Jesus?
- How can we respond in faith as a community to share this good news?

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Week 16
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 4:22–30 *JESUS THE PROPHET*

INTRODUCTION

In the previous verses Jesus made the claim that he was the fulfillment of Isaiah 61:1-2. Today we will look at the response from to these claims from His community and explore our own response to His claims.

DISCUSSION

What have you done in your life that would surprise the friends you grew up with?

EXPLANATION

- Recall the significance of Jesus claim in verse 21.
- What does the response in verse 22 tell us about Jesus? (Ref. Isa 53:2b)
- Jesus references the ministry of Elijah and Elisha, how did Israel respond to those prophets?
- Why did the attitude toward Jesus change from verse 22 to verse 28?

APPLICATION

- How does sin affect our ability to recognize Jesus and truth in our lives?
- Who has God used to speak truth into your life that you have had hard time accepting?
- What truths and promises of God do you have a hard time believing?
- What does repentance and redemption look like in trusting God?
- Who has God called us to as a community to share the truth and grace of God?

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Week 17
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 4:31–41 *JESUS AND DEMONS*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus, rejected by His hometown, continues His ministry in Capernaum teaching with authority, encountering the demonic, and healing the sick.

DISCUSSION

What does it mean to have authority?

EXPLANATION

- How is Jesus' healing ministry linked to his proclamation at the beginning of this chapter?
- What do the demons know and declare about Jesus that those around him don't?
- How do the people of Capernaum respond differently than the people of Nazareth?
- To what do you attribute the different response?
- What do verses 38-41 tell us about the nature of God?

APPLICATION

- How does this passage change your view of spiritual realities?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus has authority of physical and spiritual things?
- Do you respond quicker to your physical needs or your spiritual needs?
- How is our compassion for the sick and oppressed a reflection of the image of God in us?
- How can we as a community address both needs for our neighbors?

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Week 18
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 4:42–5:11 *JESUS CALLS PETER, JAMES, AND JOHN*

INTRODUCTION

In this passage we see the calling of the first disciples and are challenged to consider what it means for us to be called as disciples of Jesus.

DISCUSSION

What is a disciple?

EXPLANATION

- Why was Peter skeptical of Jesus' request to lower the nets?
- Why does Peter respond the way he does in verse 8?
- Where else have you seen this type of response in scripture? How are they similar?
- How do Peter, James and John respond to Jesus' call to be disciples?

APPLICATION

- When has God shown up unexpectedly in your life?
- How inclined are you to talk back to God like Peter?
- What do you have a hard time letting go of to follow Christ completely?
- As disciples, how fruitful have we been as fishers of men?
- What would it look like for us to let down our nets in our neighborhood?

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Week 19
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 5:12–26 *JESUS HEALS A LEPER*

INTRODUCTION

In this passage we see Jesus heal a leper and a paralytic. In doing so, He challenges us to understand the deeper need of our soul for the forgiveness of sin over the temporal needs of the flesh.

DISCUSSION

What is the cultural significance of being a leper or a paralytic?

EXPLANATION

- What is the motivation for the leper and the paralytic to see Jesus?
- How is the leper's view of the need to be clean different from God's view? (Ref. Lev. 14:2-32)
- How does Jesus illustrate this with his response to the paralytic?
- Why do the Pharisees accuse Jesus of blasphemy?

APPLICATION

- Why is the deity of Jesus essential to the Christian faith?
- What usually motivates you to pray or seek God?
- How much time do we spend addressing sin, (confession and repentance) compared to the time we spend addressing physical needs?
- What does that say about our understanding of our need for the Gospel in our lives?
- How can we be more intentional about meeting the deeper needs of our neighbors?

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Week 20
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 5:27–32 *JESUS LOVES SINNERS*

INTRODUCTION

A man who cannot admit that he is sick will never go to the doctor. In his ignorance he will suffer defiantly, even die. Clinging to religious works for our righteousness puffs us with pride and seals our destruction, but humility leads to the cross.

DISCUSSION

What is the difference between being disciples of Jesus and being religious?

EXPLANATION

- What was the roll of tax collectors during this time?
- Why did they have such a bad reputation?
- What did the Pharisees objections reveal about their understanding of the gospel and salvation?
- Contrast Levi's response to Jesus with that of the Pharisees.
- What does Jesus mean by the statement that he has not "come to call the righteous" (v. 32)?

APPLICATION

- Where are you prone to religious thinking and self-righteousness?
- Who are the tax collectors in your life? Who have you avoided sharing the gospel with?
- Does your response to the gospel in your daily life look more like that of Levi or the Pharisees'?
- Spend some time in reflection and confession regarding religious thinking and actions.
- What is it going to look like for us to walk in repentance?

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Week 21
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 5:33–39 *JESUS AND FASTING*

INTRODUCTION

Comfort is so enticing. Change and transformation can be painful. We often choose comfort over sanctification and in so doing thwart the work of the gospel in our lives.

DISCUSSION

What traditions do we have as a community that could become religious?

EXPLANATION

- What are the Pharisees insinuating about the disciples of Jesus (v. 33)?
- What does this indicate about their understanding of righteousness?
- What are the “old garment” and “old wineskins” in Jesus’ metaphor?
- What is the “new wine” and “new garment” in his metaphor?
- Discuss the significance of verse 39. What does this reveal about our inclination toward religion?

APPLICATION

- Articulate Jesus’ point with your own culturally relevant metaphor.
- How have you elevated tradition—the comfort of religion—above the gospel and the mission of God?
- Why are we inclined to prefer old wine?
- How does that affect your ability to abide in Christ?
- Where do we need to be new wineskins?

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Week 22
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 6:1–11 *JESUS THE SABBATH LORD*

INTRODUCTION

Religion blinds us to the work of God and his blessing. We must examine our own hearts to ensure that we don't build traditions or religious behavior as padding around the gospel.

DISCUSSION

What is the Sabbath?

EXPLANATION

- What law are the religious leaders referring to when accusing Jesus of breaking the “law”?
- What is the purpose of their “laws” regarding the Sabbath?
- What is the purpose of the Sabbath? (see Gen. 2:2, 3; Mark 2:27)
- Why are the Pharisees asking these questions? What does it reveal about their hearts?

APPLICATION

- We are commanded to observe the Sabbath. How do we do that without becoming religious?
- Where is your heart blind to the glory of Christ because of religion or self-righteousness?
- What are our unspoken expectations of each other that lead us into self-righteousness?
- How can we balance calling one another to holiness and sanctification while letting our righteousness be found in Christ alone?

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Week 23
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 6:12–19 *JESUS CALLS THE TWELVE*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus called his disciples to follow him and join him in the mission of God. What has God called you to? We have all been called to this mission to advance his kingdom.

DISCUSSION

What is a “calling”?

EXPLANATION

- What do you think Jesus was talking to the Father about in prayer all night?
- What does this indicate about Jesus’ dependence on the Father and the Spirit?
- What was special about the men Jesus chose to be Apostles?
- What did ministry look like for these guys in verses 17–19?

APPLICATION

- What is God’s call on your life? How has that been confirmed?
- How does the chaotic and messy picture of ministry in verses 17–19 align with your view of ministry?
- How are we as a community ministering to the sick and troubled in our neighborhood?
- What will we do as a community to minister to those who need Jesus?

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Week 24
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 6:20–36 *THE BEATITUDES, PART 1*

INTRODUCTION

How does our life reflect the image of God and how does it communicate the gospel to the world around us? The gospel must come to bear on every aspect of our life and reflect the glory of God..

DISCUSSION

What does it mean to be blessed?

EXPLANATION

- What is the common thread between the four blessings?
- What is the common thread between the four woes?
- Discuss the orientation of the two groups of people?
- How is the charge to love your enemies a proclamation of the gospel?

APPLICATION

- How does the gospel come to bear on our lives daily?
- What are we afraid to give up for the sake of the gospel?
- How do our lives communicate the gospel to our friends and neighbors?
- Why is this message so hard to take at times? What in us fights against it?

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Week 25
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 6:37–49 *THE BEATITUDES, PART 2*

INTRODUCTION

We often want to believe we are good people regardless of our actions. We justify behavior and try to manage our reputation. Unfortunately we cannot escape our condition except through the cross of Christ and transformation through him.

DISCUSSION

What does it mean for us to produce fruit?

EXPLANATION

- Consider the context; why did Jesus hammer so hard on judging others in this passage?
- Why can't Luke 6:37 be used by a believer to deflect a rebuke from another Christian?
- How does Jesus strike a balance between a critical spirit and spurring one another to good works?
- What can we learn about our hearts from the parable of the tree and its fruit?

APPLICATION

- What is the goal of a person who is always critical of others?
- How have we been critical of one another?
- What kind of fruit has your life produced? What excuses have you used to justify sin and rebellion?
- Where have you built your life on the sand?
- What does building your house on the rock look like in your life?

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Week 26
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 7:1–10 *JESUS HEALS A CENTURION'S SERVANT*

INTRODUCTION

Are you a kind of a big deal? We often take ourselves very seriously and are flippant toward God. When we recognize the authority and glory of Jesus we will worship him and walk in humility..

DISCUSSION

What is authority?

EXPLANATION

- Why did the elders go to Jesus for the centurion?
- What is the difference between the centurion and the elders?
- What does the understanding of authority of the centurion say about the authority of Jesus?
- Why is Jesus so impressed with the faith of the centurion?

APPLICATION

- How has your identity shaped your view of God?
- When have you thought too highly of yourself and made demands of God?
- When do you struggle with trusting God at his word—that he is in control and cares?
- Who do you know that needs to be healed (physically or spiritually) that you need to trust Jesus for?
- Spend time in prayer for faith like the centurion with regards to the authority of Jesus?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 27
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 7:11–17 *JESUS RAISES A WIDOW'S SON*

INTRODUCTION

When God reveals his attributes in Exodus 34:6 he begins with mercy and grace. As beneficiaries of his mercy and grace, are we still moved to worship by his kindness?

DISCUSSION

Where do we see compassion displayed in our culture today?

EXPLANATION

- What was the significance of the man being the only son of his mother who was a widow?
- How does this need compare to the concerns of the Pharisees in the previous texts?
- Contrast the way Jesus deals with the Pharisees with the way he deals with the widow.
- What was culturally significant about Jesus touching the bier?
- How do the responses of fear and worship go together?

APPLICATION

- Does God's glory inspire fear in you? Why or why not?
- Where have we used spiritual excuses to overlook physical needs around us?
- How can we show compassion to each other and our neighbors?

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Week 28
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 7:18–23 *JOHN THE BAPTIZER, PART 1*

INTRODUCTION

“Who has understood the mind of the Lord?” (Isa. 40:13) When our plans and God’s plans don’t align we can find ourselves doubting. Our temporal circumstances should not dictate our faith; otherwise, we are proclaiming a prosperity gospel.

DISCUSSION

When are you most prone to doubt?

EXPLANATION

- Read Luke 3. Why do you think John is asking whether or not Jesus is the Christ?
- Read Luke 4:16–19 (from Isaiah 61:1–2; 58:6). What does Jesus leave out in his reply to John?
- What does it mean to be offended by Jesus?

APPLICATION

- How does doubt manifest in your life?
- How do your circumstances affect your faith?
- What evidences of God’s grace do you see in your life during times of doubt?
- What truths in Scripture do you lean on during times of doubt?
- Where do we need to repent from being offended by Jesus?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 29
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 7:24–35 *JOHN THE BAPTIZER, PART 2*

INTRODUCTION

Some people will never be satisfied. The music is too loud or the music is too soft. If we do not walk in humility, then neither law nor grace will draw us closer to God.

DISCUSSION

Do you tend to lean on truth or grace in your life?

EXPLANATION

- Why does Jesus commend John after answering his question?
- Describe how verse 28 is a contrast between the Old and New Testament.
- Why does Jesus compare the religious to unsatisfied children?
- What do the Pharisees and lawyers reject?

APPLICATION

- How is your identity shaped by verse 28?
- If we are a greater than John, what is the expectation for us in regards to proclaiming the gospel?
- What have you rejected because of your own preconceived expectations of God?
- How have we been blind to the work of God because of our own pride?
- Where is your heart hardened against truth and grace?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 30
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 7:36–8:4 *JESUS FORGIVES A SINFUL WOMAN*

INTRODUCTION

When we are oblivious to our condition before God we take for granted the grace that he offers through the cross. Thank you Jesus that you took on our iniquity and gave us your righteousness that we don't deserve.

DISCUSSION

What does it mean to be forgiven?

EXPLANATION

- What is the condition of the Pharisees heart as revealed in this passage?
- How is the sinful woman different from the Pharisee?
- What point is Jesus trying to make for his dinner host?
- How did the hospitality of the Pharisee reveal his heart?
- What is the response of those who understand forgiveness?

APPLICATION

- Thank Jesus for the forgiveness of your debt.
- How has self-righteousness interfered with your forgiveness?
- What should our response be to Christ's forgiveness? Where do we hold back?
- Who have we withheld the gospel from because of their sin?
- In light of God's grace in our lives, what would joining his mission look like for us?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 31
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 8:4–15 *THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER*

INTRODUCTION

The gospel has the power to save and transform our lives but it must land on receptive hearts. We are reminded in the Parable of the Sower that if our hearts are not tender then the gospel will not take root.

DISCUSSION

What do seeds need to take root and grow?

EXPLANATION

- Why does the sower scatter seed in all these places?
- Why does Jesus speak in parables?
- How do these descriptions connect with conversations Jesus has had in his ministry?
- What is the indication of good soil and of the gospel taking root?

APPLICATION

- Where in our lives are our hearts like the hard path?
- Where in our lives are our hearts like the thin soil?
- What are the thorns that are choking out truth in our lives?
- How does the fruit of our lives reflect the receptivity of our hearts?
- Where are we scattering the seed of God's word?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 32
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 8:16-21 *JESUS' TRUE FAMILY*

INTRODUCTION

Worldly sorrow is the habit of conviction that is not followed by repentance and obedience. Jesus wants more. He wants our lives to be transformed by His word to His glory and our joy in receiving His blessing and adoption as sons and daughters of God.

DISCUSSION

How is the gospel like a lamp?

EXPLANATION

- What lamp do we possess as Christians? How was that lamp lit?
- How does the way we hear relate to hiding or displaying the light of the gospel?
- What is the significance of the contrast Jesus makes between his biological and spiritual family?
- What point is Jesus making in these two sections about the nature of faith and obedience?

APPLICATION

- In what ways does the gospel naturally come to bear on your day-to-day life?
- How or when are you tempted to hide the gospel in your life?
- How do we hide the gospel under a light in the way that we interact with each other?
- What can we do as a community to encourage one another to be doers of the word of God?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 33
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 8:22-25 *JESUS CALMS THE STORM*

INTRODUCTION

In the chaos of life we often forget the reach of God's power. We often have a small view of Jesus by compartmentalizing Him to the "spiritual" aspects of our lives. Where is your faith when the practical storms of life hit?

DISCUSSION

What areas of life do you have a harder time seeing Jesus impact directly?

EXPLANATION

- Why are the disciples and Jesus on the lake in the first place?
- What does this teach you about Jesus and His humanity?
- In what way is Jesus' response to the storm surprising to you?
- Where do you see the humanity and divinity displayed on the boat?
- How do these contrast help you understand Jesus as both God and man?

APPLICATION

- In what circumstances is it easy for you to remember the sovereignty and power of God?
- In what circumstances do you find it hard to trust in God?
- How do expectations and circumstances affect your faith?
- How are some of your expectations inconsistent with scripture?
- What does it look like for us to have faith in the middle of the storm?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 34
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 8:26-39 *JESUS CASTS OUT DEMONS*

INTRODUCTION

Last week we looked at Jesus' authority over the natural world. This week we see His authority over the spiritual world as He encounters a demonized man. In this passage we see that there are spiritual realities in our world and that Jesus has authority over both the spiritual and physical.

DISCUSSION

How are you aware of the spiritual world in your daily life?

EXPLANATION

- Consider the man, what would compel Jesus to reach out to this man?
- What does the man's response to Jesus reveal about the understanding of who Jesus is?
- What has changed in the description of the man from the beginning to the end of the story?
- What is revealed about the authority of Jesus in this passage?
- What does the reaction of the people indicate about their hearts?

APPLICATION

- Who in your life have you written off as a lost cause for the gospel and why?
- In what ways is each of us like the demonized man in this Scripture?
- How is this interaction with the demonized man a picture of salvation for us?
- How does your understanding of the authority of Jesus change the way you live?
- What should our response be to the work of salvation Jesus has done in our lives?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 35
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 8:40-56 *JESUS HEALS A WOMAN AND A GIRL*

INTRODUCTION

Who is this? That was the question the disciples ask on the boat and the answer continues to be answered. He has authority over nature, demons, and now we see His power over disease and death. If they wanted an answer they got it.

DISCUSSION

How do we see sickness and death as “powerful”?

EXPLANATION

- Why does Jarius ask for Jesus' help?
- Jesus, calls the woman daughter, how does this connect him to the desperation of Jarius?
- What is an indication that the woman's healing was more than just physical?
- What does verse 43 indicate about our hope for salvation in anything other than Jesus?
- What do these verses tell us about Jesus' authority?

APPLICATION

- In what ways has Jesus healed you physically and spiritually?
- How do we practically respond in doubt like the house of Jarius?
- How do we encourage one another to live in response to the revealed power of Jesus?
- Who are we praying for physical healing and salvation? (Spend time in prayer)
- How has chapter 8 of Luke changed our view of God and His power in our world?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 36
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 9:1–9 *JESUS SENDS OUT THE APOSTLES*

INTRODUCTION

On the heels of Jesus answer the question of who he was through the display of His power and authority we have Jesus sending out His disciples to proclaim the truth and power of the gospel.

DISCUSSION

Where have you seen the power of God displayed through a believer or the church?

EXPLANATION

- How does chapter 8 prepare the disciples for this mission?
- Where do the disciples receive their power over demons and disease?
- How do the physical limitations remind them of the source of their power?
- What promise is not made, as illustrated by verse 4?
- How is Herod an example of those who do not receive the disciples?

APPLICATION

- What is our responsibility as Christians to advance the kingdom of God?
- Do we live as though we believe that Jesus has given us power?
- How do you live in that way without taking credit for what the Holy Spirit does through you?
- What things do you find hard to leave behind in your walk with Jesus and trust Him for?
- What would it look like for us as a CG to go into our neighborhood in this fashion?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 37
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 9:10–17 *JESUS FEEDS 5,000 MEN*

INTRODUCTION

The disciples just got done experiencing the power of Jesus through extraordinary ministry, yet are unable to connect the dots to the ordinary meeting of needs. In this passage we see the grace of God through the meeting of practical physical needs that is just as miraculous as work of healing, preaching and casting out of demons.

DISCUSSION

When have you seen God meet practical needs in an extraordinary way?

EXPLANATION

- Recap what the disciples have seen and experience since the beginning of chapter 8.
- How is their experience at odds with their doubt in the ability to feed the people?
- Where is their focus that contributes to their doubt?
- What does Jesus' prayer reveal about his dependence on the Father?
- Who distributes the food and collects the leftovers?

APPLICATION

- What are you focused on when you have trouble trusting God for practical needs?
- Imagine that you are one of the disciples on this hillside... What is going through your mind as you pass out the food and collect the leftovers?
- How is this an act of grace to the disciples?
- How does God want to use us to display His glory in this manor to our neighbors?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 38
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 9:18–27 *JESUS THE CHRIST*

INTRODUCTION

After some extraordinary displays of Jesus' power and authority that give us a taste of his kingdom, the mood turns somber as Jesus foreshadows his death. He reminds us that his kingdom is coming in glory but that until then the battles will be won through suffering.

DISCUSSION

What or who would you lay down your life for?

EXPLANATION

- Why does the crowd say that Jesus may be Elijah or John the baptizer?
- Why is it important that we know exactly who Jesus was?
- How would people have response to verse 23? (Remember, this is pre-crucifixion)
- What do you think the motives of people following Jesus were when he said these words?

APPLICATION

- What answers do people give to the question of who Jesus is today?
- Why do you follow Jesus?
- What does it mean for you to lay down you life and pick up your cross?
- How do our lives reflect an all out commitment to the gospel?
- In what ways have we been ashamed of the gospel and how do we correct that?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 39
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 9:28–36 *JESUS' TRANSFIGURATION*

INTRODUCTION

Who is this? If this question has not been answered through Jesus' display of power and authority or the recognition of the disciples, God Himself has now answered it. For the disciples who do not have the benefits of the rest of the New Testament this would have been an astonishing confirmation of their earlier confession.

DISCUSSION

What does glory look like?

EXPLANATION

- What are the indications that Jesus was intentional about the disciples seeing this?
- What do they see? What did it mean to them at the time?
- How does this trip up the mountain parallel Moses' ascent up the mountain in exodus 23?
- What is the significance of Moses and Elijah being present with Jesus?

APPLICATION

- How has the glory of Jesus been revealed to you personally?
- Where else has God made His glory unmistakably known to the world?
- How do we respond awkwardly like Peter to such revelation?
- What does it look like for us to worship Jesus in light of His glory?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 40
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 9:37–45 *JESUS HEALS A DEMONIZED BOY*

INTRODUCTION

Returning from the mountain where the disciples witness the transfiguration, they are confronted with the continued needs of people suffering from the effects of sin in a broken world. Jesus foretells his death, a stark and grim contrast to their recent, heartening experience of witnessing God the Father affirm Jesus on the mountain.

DISCUSSION

Why is the cross considered scandalous?

EXPLANATION

- With what does Jesus express his frustration?
- What were the people marveling at?
- What did they fail to understand? Why didn't they understand?

APPLICATION

- How would it feel to see your son afflicted like this boy?
- How does God relate to the feeling of this father?
- Where in your life are you failing to recognize the scandal of the cross?
- Pray for understanding as God reveals himself through his word.
- Pray for those you know who do not understand the truth of God's word.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 41
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 9:46–50 *REDEEMING GREATNESS*

INTRODUCTION

An argument arises among the disciples revealing sin in their hearts. Jesus takes the opportunity to teach his disciples some valuable lessons.

DISCUSSION

What does it mean to be the greatest?

EXPLANATION

- What does the argument reveal about the hearts of the disciples?
- How did Jesus address this issue with the disciples?
- Discuss the meaning of verse 48.
- Why did the person who was casting out demons trouble the disciples?

APPLICATION

- Where in your life are you concerned about position and stature?
- What does it mean to you to be the least?
- Whom is God calling our community group to receive like a child?
- Pray for humility and the willingness to become less.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 42
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 9:51–62 *JESUS BEFORE ALL*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus sets off toward Jerusalem. On the way, he challenges three people who want to follow Him by saying that there is a cost to being a disciple of Jesus.

DISCUSSION

What has it cost you to follow Jesus?

EXPLANATION

- Why was Jesus not received in Samaria? (v. 53)
- What does the response of the disciples reveal about their hearts? (v. 54)
- Why does Jesus rebuke them? (v. 55)
- How does Jesus respond to those who want to follow Him? (v. 58, 60, 62)

APPLICATION

- What has God called you to that you need to set your face toward?
- How do you generally respond to opposition?
- How does Jesus' responses to the three potential followers surprise you?
- What do you need to leave to be a faithful disciple of Jesus?
- Pray for the resolve to follow Jesus with your whole life.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 43
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 10:1–16 *THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL*

INTRODUCTION

In preparation for his ministry in Jerusalem, Jesus sends out his disciples to proclaim the good news and usher in the kingdom of God.

DISCUSSION

What does it mean to be sent as a messenger?

EXPLANATION

- Why are there so few laborers for the harvest? (v. 2)
- Why did Jesus tell the disciples not to take anything with them? (v. 4)
- What does it mean to be sent out as “lambs in the midst of wolves”? (v. 3)
- Why were Tyre and Sidon destroyed in the Old Testament? (Ez 27, 28)
- Why does Jesus rebuke the cities around Jerusalem? (v. 13-15)

APPLICATION

- How are we living as messengers of the Gospel?
- What does it look like to depend on Christ as you live out the gospel in your neighborhood?
- Where do we need to repent as a community?
- Pray for our neighbors that have yet to accept Jesus.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 44
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 10:17–24 *JESUS REJOICES IN THE HOLY SPIRIT*

INTRODUCTION

This week the disciples return to Jesus after being sent out ahead to heal the sick and proclaim the arrival of the kingdom of God.

DISCUSSION

What is real power?

EXPLANATION

- Why does Jesus respond to the disciples' joyful return with the fall of Satan?
- Why does Jesus tell them not to rejoice in their authority?
- Why does Jesus rejoice that the Father hides truth from some?
- How does Jesus' prayer effect your view of salvation?
- What did the prophets long to see and hear that we get to experience?

APPLICATION

- What are you tempted to rejoice in other than the grace of Jesus?
- What does it look like to rejoice that your name is written in heaven?
- What would it look like for us to live empowered by the Holy Spirit?
- How should your life be changed by the fact that God has revealed His truth to you?
- Pray that God would reveal His truth to our neighbors through us.
- Thank God for His mercy and grace in your life.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 45
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 10:25–37 *THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus has just finished telling the disciples that it is the Father who reveals truth to us so that we can believe. Explaining that we are blessed to see and hear the gospel. From there he tells the parable of the good Samaritan.

DISCUSSION

Who is your neighbor?

EXPLANATION

- What was the intention of the Lawyer who was questioning Jesus?
- Why is the lawyer hung up on the definition of neighbor?
- What is the significance of the Samaritan responding with mercy in contrast to the priest and Levite?
- What lengths did the Samaritan go to help the man in need?
- How would this parable have challenged the worldview of the lawyer?

APPLICATION

- What neighbors does God want us to serve that we walked past?
- How do you justify ignoring the practical and spiritual needs of people in your life?
- Who do we see loving people in the ways that Jesus calls us?
- How can we go and do likewise as a community group?
- Pray for opportunities to serve others in our neighborhood and eyes to see them.
- Pray that Jesus would be made much of because of our presence in this neighborhood.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 46
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 10:38–42 *MARY AND MARTHA*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus and the disciples continue their journey to Jerusalem when Jesus gives Mary and Martha a visit. The interaction between Jesus and the sisters reminds us to keep our relationship with Christ as our first priority.

DISCUSSION

What distracts you?

EXPLANATION

- What was the purpose of Jesus' visit?
- What does Martha's frustration reveal about what was going on in her heart?
- How did the priorities of Mary put her other responsibilities in perspective?
- Why didn't Jesus rebuke Mary for neglecting her work?
- How did Jesus respond to Martha's distortions?

APPLICATION

- What things keep you preoccupied and your focus off Jesus?
- What do those preoccupations reveal about your heart?
- How are the priorities of our community distorted?
- How can we encourage one another toward gospel-centered priorities?
- Pray for conviction where we are preoccupied in our lives.
- Pray that we would not be anxious or worried, but would trust in Jesus.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 47
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 11:1–4 *THE LORD'S PRAYER*

INTRODUCTION

The disciples observed Jesus praying and are curious. In this text, Jesus teaches the disciples how to pray.

DISCUSSION

What is prayer?

EXPLANATION

- Why do the disciples ask Jesus about prayer?
- How does Jesus teach about prayer?
- Break down the Lord's Prayer and the principles that you learn regarding prayer.
- How does the way Jesus begin the prayer align our hearts for prayer?
- How are the requests Jesus makes oriented toward God's kingdom?

APPLICATION

- What aspects of the Lord's Prayer do you gravitate toward naturally?
- What aspects do you tend to neglect?
- How can we grow as a community of prayer?
- What did you learn about God's character from Jesus' prayer?
- Prayer: Ask the Spirit to teach you how to pray.
- Prayer: Pray through the Lord's Prayer.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 48
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 11:5–13 *ASKING FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus continues to teach the disciples how to pray. Last week He taught them by giving them the Lords Prayer as an example. This week, Jesus teaches that God responds to your prayers with the love of a Father.

DISCUSSION

What is the best gift you have ever received?

EXPLANATION

- In the analogies that Jesus gives, what is similar about the request being made?
- What does the image of the loaves teach us about persistence in prayer?
- How does Jesus portray the Father in his response to our prayers?
- How does the Father's inclination differ from the sleeping friend?
- What do these differences teach us about God's willingness to respond to our prayers?
- In what ways has the Holy Spirit been the greatest gift from God in your life?

APPLICATION

- Recall a time when God answered a prayer and share it with the group.
- Why does Jesus want us to be persistent in prayer?
- What do these verses reveal about God's nature? Is this consistent with your view of Him?
- What are we praying for today?
- How are those things aligned with the purposes of God?
- Pray for Jesus to continue to teach us how to pray.
- Pray for God's kingdom to come in our neighborhood and among our neighbors.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 49
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 11:14–28 *JESUS VS. SATAN*

INTRODUCTION

After teaching the disciples how to pray Jesus continues to minister to the crowds. After delivering a mute man from a demon some from the crowd accuse Jesus of receiving power from Satan.

DISCUSSION

Why are we generally skeptical of the supernatural?

EXPLANATION

- Why were the religious leaders threatened by Jesus' power?
- What blinded these leaders from being able to see the truth of Christ's work?
- How does Jesus' response open our eyes to the reality of the spiritual war we are in?
- What room does Jesus leave for being neutral or disengaged in the battle?
- What does Jesus' response teach us about Satan and his power?
- How does Jesus' warning contrast the importance of temporal and eternal healing?

APPLICATION

- Do you feel like you can distinguish between acts of God and works of the enemy?
- How do you challenge God to prove himself? What does that reveal about your heart and doubts?
- Where in your life have you lived as if we are in a time of peace rather than a time of war?
- What does it look like to live like this battle is real as a community? (Inwardly and outwardly)
- Where have you been satisfied with temporary relief of sin but stopped short of letting Jesus rule?
- Prayer: Ask God for eyes to see the battle and the strength to join it.
- Prayer: Pray that the Spirit would inhabit every room in our house.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 50
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 11:29–32 *JESUS IS GREATER THAN JONAH*

INTRODUCTION

Still addressing the crowd that accused Jesus of getting his power from Satan, He rebukes them for continuously clamoring for more signs and wonders.

DISCUSSION

Think of a product that makes you skeptical, what kind of proof would you need to trust it?

EXPLANATION

- Why does Jesus turn the woman's declaration back to faith?
- Why does the use of the queen of Sheba and Nineveh expose the blindness of the religious?
- What do these illustrations reveal about the patience of God?
- How does Jesus want the people of Israel to respond the truth of the gospel?
- What does Jesus make clear about the consequences of failing to repent and believe?

APPLICATION

- Where is the Holy Spirit prompting you to repent and you are resisting?
- How has God shown you patience?
- In what ways do we live like we don't believe in the consequences of unbelief?
- Are we a safe community to confess and repent of sin?
- Are we sharing the truth of the gospel to our neighbors so they have a chance to repent?
- Prayer: Pray for God to forgive us for our unbelief and the forgiveness for our sin.
- Prayer: Pray for opportunities to share the gospel in our neighborhood.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 51
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 11:33–54 *JESUS AND RELIGION*

INTRODUCTION

Challenged by the Pharisees and lawyers at dinner, Jesus warns them and us to not be blinded by religion. Woe to us! he says, if our hope is in religion rather than the atoning work of Jesus.

DISCUSSION

- How can light distort rather than illuminate?
- How does religion corrupt the eye?
- What were the six “woes” that Jesus proclaims?
- How are these heart conditions?
- Why is it so wicked to be concerned with appearances rather than the heart?

APPLICATION

- Where has religious thinking distorted your vision?
- What sins of religious belief or action do you need to repent of?
- What does repentance look like in those areas?
- Pray for conviction from the Holy Spirit for where we are being religious.
- Pray that we would be filled with the Holy Spirit and our vision would be clear.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 52
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 12:1–12 *JESUS AND FEAR*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus warns us of hypocrisy but encourages us that the Holy Spirit will be with us when we need him.

DISCUSSION

What is hypocrisy?

EXPLANATION

- How is the hypocrisy of the Pharisees like leaven?
- Why should we not fear those that could kill us?
- What is the promise for those who acknowledge Jesus as the Christ before men?
- What promises does Jesus make in this passage for the faithful?

APPLICATION

- Where in your life are you prone to hypocrisy?
- How has fear of man hindered your faithfulness to God?
- What does repentance in these two areas look like?
- How can we be a community that acknowledges Jesus before men?
- Prayer: For conviction of hypocrisy and fear.
- Prayer: For the courage to fear God rather than men.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 53
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 12:13–21 *THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL*

The following questions and topics are from the book *Money: God or Gift*, by Pastor Jamie Munson, available for free at the Connect Desk. Pick up a copy to read and discuss in your community group.

- Which column (gratitude or greed) most accurately describes your life? In which areas are you encouraged? Where do you need to repent and seek forgiveness?
- Where in your life are you prone to grumbling? What does grumbling sound like in your heart? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you resist the temptation to grumble. Cultivate a heart of gratitude by sharing evidence of God's grace in your life, in your community, and in the promises of Scripture.
- What is your gut-level response to the call to giving? How does that align (or not) with how you believe God wants you to give? What is holding you back from giving in response to God's grace?
- Which aspect of biblical giving is most difficult for you: cheerful, sacrificial, or regular? What does this struggle indicate about your heart and what you believe about the character of God?
- What fears compel you to hoard or spend more money than what you believe brings honor to God?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 54
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 12:22–34 *JESUS AND ANXIETY*

The following questions and topics are from the book *Money: God or Gift*, by Pastor Jamie Munson, available for free at the Connect Desk. Pick up a copy to read and discuss in your community group.

- If somebody were to observe your life for a week—how you spend your time, what you do with your money, who you hang out with—what would they say your priorities are? Ask your spouse or a close friend to give their honest assessment.
- What do you worry about? What does your anxiety reveal about what you believe regarding the character of God? What would it look like to be prudent while trusting God as a good Father?
- Do you find it more difficult to be generous with your money or your time? Explain why. What random act of generosity would you like to try this week?
- Explain the difference between guilt-based and grace-based generosity. Does pride, guilt, or grace tend to motivate your generosity?
- “He who lays up treasures on earth spends his life backing away from his treasures,” says author Randy Alcorn. “To him, death is loss. He who lays up treasures in heaven looks forward to eternity; he’s moving daily toward his treasure. To him, death is gain.” Do you feel that you’re drifting toward your treasure, or away from it? How can you tell?
- Which excuses, questions, or financial sins have you struggled with in the past? How did God teach you to mature in your giving habits? Which excuses, questions, or sins do you struggle with today?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 55
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 12:35–48 *THE PARABLE OF THE WISE MANAGER*

The following questions and topics are from the book *Money: God or Gift*, by Pastor Jamie Munson, available for free at the Connect Desk. Pick up a copy to read and discuss in your community group.

- Which areas of your life do you tend to keep from God because you don't want to "bother" him with small stuff?
- Read chapter twelve in *Money*. Based on your season of life, which piece of stewardship advice is most encouraging? Which one is most challenging, and how do you hope to change?
- Share some of your long-term goals with your community group. Invite them to help you revise, subtract, or add to your goals as necessary. How has Jesus shaped your plans?
- When it comes to money, is giving your number one priority? Why or why not?
- Pray for the future of your church, that God would use its ministry and resources to reach millions of lives for generations to come with the gospel of Jesus.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 56
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 12:49–13:5 *JESUS AND REPENTANCE*

INTRODUCTION

After calling us to be prepared for his coming in the previous section, Jesus warns us of the reality that his death and resurrection will bring division, because there is no middle ground between faith and rebellion.

DISCUSSION

What types of things divide families?

EXPLANATION

- What does the fire that Jesus comes to bring represent? Why does he long for it to be kindled?
- Why do Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection divide families?
- Why does Jesus insist that they should understand the current times?
- What are the consequences for failing to settle debts before facing the Judge?
- What does Jesus teach about the nature of judgment?

APPLICATION

- In what ways do these verses surprise you or challenge your picture of Jesus?
- How do our lives reflect or not reflect the urgency with which Jesus calls for repentance?
- How are we living hypocritical lives by ignoring the signs of the times?
- What debts do you have to settle?
- Where in your life do you need to repent of thinking your sin is not as bad as others'.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 57
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 13:6–9 *THE PARABLE OF THE BARREN FIG TREE*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus tells a parable of a fig tree running out of time to produce fruit. This is a warning for Israel and for us all that a time of judgment is coming and that we must repent, placing our trust in Jesus, before that day arrives.

DISCUSSION

What do you do with a business venture that doesn't make a profit?

EXPLANATION

- What is the purpose of a fig tree?
- Why is it not good to leave a tree to grow that does not produce fruit?
- What do we learn about God's grace from the owner's extension of one year?

APPLICATION

- Where are there fruitless trees in your life?
- How have we presumed on grace in our lives?
- Where in your life do you ask for prayer but resist personal repentance?
- What fruit has God called you to produce?
- What would it look like to start producing fruit in those areas of your life?
- Prayer: For fruitful lives that bring glory to Jesus.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 58
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 13:10–21 *JESUS HEALS A DEMONIZED WOMAN*

INTRODUCTION

On a Sabbath day, Jesus encounters a crippled woman while teaching in a synagogue. Healing her reveals the blindness caused by religion and challenges us to consider where tradition and religion have kept us from living with compassion and hope in light of the Gospel.

DISCUSSION

What traditions/social norms make it easier to avoid caring for others in need?

EXPLANATION

- What is the Sabbath and what is its purpose?
- Why are the religious leaders upset with Jesus for healing the crippled woman?
- How does Jesus' response speak to the value of being an image bearer of God?
- Why is it ironic for the ruler to suggest coming on a day other than the Sabbath to get healed?
- What did you learn about the kingdom of God from the image of a mustard seed and leaven?

APPLICATION

- How is the gospel distorted by religion?
- Are there any areas in your life where you are shortsighted by tradition or religious behavior?
- How has your view of the Kingdom been challenged by Jesus in this passage?
- Where have you seen the Kingdom proclaimed in the life of someone in our group?
- What does it look like for us as a community to proclaim the Kingdom through our lives together?
- Prayer: Pray for a big view of God's kingdom and opportunities to make it tangible through our community.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 59
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 13:22–35 *JESUS THE NARROW DOOR*

INTRODUCTION

As Jesus is teaching, someone in the crowd asks him, “How many will be saved?” His answer cuts to the point that we would do better to consider the state of our own soul rather than speculate on the fate of others while there is still time to repent.

DISCUSSION

- What security do we have in our own salvation?
- Why does the crowd ask about the number of those who will be saved? (v. 23)
- How does Phil. 2:12-13 help us understand the relationship between striving and grace?
- When will the door be shut to salvation? (v. 25)
- Who will recline at the table of God? Why would that have disturbed the crowd? (v. 29)
- What does Jesus’ response to the warning of Herod indicate? (v. 32-35)
- What does his lament of Jerusalem reveal about his love for people even as they are in rebellion?

APPLICATION

- Where in your life have you been judging others rather than addressing sin in your own life?
- How does this section of scripture affect your sense of urgency to share the gospel?
- How has our city rejected the proclamation of the gospel?
- Does that rejection affect your heart toward the city? Does it ache or long for justice?
- How can we put our conviction into action with the determination of Jesus?

PRAYER

- Pray for an honest perspective on our own relationship with Jesus.
- Pray that our lost neighbors would enter through the narrow door while there is still time.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 60
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 14:1–6 *JESUS HEALS ON THE SABBATH*

INTRODUCTION

While dining with some Pharisees on the Sabbath, Jesus uses the opportunity to heal a sick man to confront the religious hearts of his guests.

DISCUSSION

- Why did the Pharisees invite Jesus to dinner? (v. 1)
- What did Jesus expose by contrasting healing with the helping of a son or ox? (v. 5)
- Why was healing on the Sabbath such an affront to the Pharisees?
- Why would the religious leaders rescue an ox but not allow healing on the Sabbath?

APPLICATION

- Have you ever felt like you were set up to fail?
- Is it easier for you to address a person's physical needs or his or her spiritual needs?
- Related to the dinner in these verses, how does religion bring condemnation rather than life?
- Where are we blind to the work of the Holy Spirit because of our own traditions?
- Are there any places in your life where rules trump compassion and grace?
- How does Jesus provide us an alternative that is joy-filled and life-giving?

PRAYER

- Pray that our eyes would be open to our own religion.
- Pray that we would live in the Spirit and experience joy in the movement of God.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 61
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 14:7-11 *THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST*

INTRODUCTION

Continuing his dinner we observed last week, Jesus addresses our pride through an example of self-importance and the blessing that comes from humility.

DISCUSSION

Have you ever sat at the head table at a wedding? How did you feel?

- Why was where you sit at the table so important to the Jesus's host in this cultural context?
- Why would this have been an affront to the religious leaders hearing this?
- What does seating at a banquet have to do with coming to salvation through Jesus?

APPLICATION

- Where have you been tempted to seek your own honor?
- Give an example in which you have been humbled for lack of humility.
- How does walking in humility bless both the guest and the host?
- How does pride make it difficult for both the guest and the host?
- How does the gospel give us the freedom to walk in humility?

PRAYER

- Pray for a true humility that reflects the sacrifice that Jesus made to save us.
- Pray for joy that comes from finding our identity in Christ and no longer needing to exalt ourselves.

THE PRIDE TEST

1. Do you long for a lot of attention?
2. Do you become jealous or critical of people who succeed?
3. Do you always have to win?
4. Do you have a pattern of lying?
5. Do you have a hard time acknowledging you were wrong?
6. Do you have a lot of conflicts with other people?
7. Do you cut in line at the store, airport, on the freeway, etc.?
8. Do you get upset when people do not honor your achievements?
9. Do you tend more toward an attitude of entitlement or thankfulness?
10. Do you honestly feel you are basically a good person and superior to others

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 62
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 14:12-24 *THE PARABLE OF THE GREAT BANQUET*

INTRODUCTION

This is the last time we see Jesus dine with the religious leaders in the book of Luke and his warning is clear: Now is the time to repent. The invitation to dine with the king is before us and is real. Accept the invitation or you will miss the party.

DISCUSSION

What was the best celebration or party that you were a part of? Why was it memorable?

- Why would inviting those that cannot repay be counter-cultural to Jesus's host?
- Jesus does not seem to praise the blessing given in verse 15. What did the man miss?
- Who do the original guests, the poor, and the highwaymen represent?
- What do the excuses of the guests reveal about them and their hearts?
- What does the invitation to the poor and others reveal about the heart of God?

APPLICATION

- How does being asked to invite people to a party in this way seem odd?
- Do the hurt and needy find a comforting place in our group? Why or why not?
- What does this teach you about the kingdom of God?
- What excuses are you giving from following Jesus with your whole life?
- How does this picture speak to the urgency with which we share the invitation?

PRAYER

- Pray that we would have God's heart toward those in need of the gospel and an invitation to the wedding supper.
- Pray for opportunities to invite our neighbors into our community.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 63
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 14:25-35 *THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP*

INTRODUCTION

In this section, Jesus has returned to speak to the crowds and begins to speak to the cost of being a disciple of Jesus. He doesn't pull any punches. There is no room left for competing loyalties or idols. To follow Jesus is to destroy all backup plans.

DISCUSSION

Have you ever had your loyalties challenged?

Give an example and discuss what that felt like and how it played out.

EXPLANATION

- What does Jesus mean by requiring us to “hate” our own family to follow him?
- What cross are we expected to bear as followers of Jesus?
- Why is it important to count the cost of being a disciple?
- Make a list of barriers that Jesus describes to being his disciple.
- How is salt a picture of a follower of Jesus not being prepared to be a disciple?

APPLICATION

- What is the cost to you to be a disciple of Jesus?
- What competes for first place in your devotion to Jesus?
- How are you tempted to put down your cross?
- How do we encourage one another to remain “salty” in our life as disciples?
- How does the gospel make that possible?

PRAYER

- Pray for clarity in counting the cost and the ability to repent in areas we are letting things compete with Jesus as our king.
- Pray for a passion and joy in being disciples of the only king worthy of our worship.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 64
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 15:1-10 *THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP AND COIN*

INTRODUCTION

After wrestling with the true cost of following Jesus in the last session we see it in relation to the love of God for the lost.

DISCUSSION

What have you lost that you searched for and found? Explain your journey.

EXPLANATION

- What does the reaction of the religious leaders reveal about their hearts?
- What do we learn about the heart of God from these parables?
- What do these examples tell us about the value of the lost?
- Why will there not be rejoicing for the religious who do not need to repent?

APPLICATION

- How do these examples shed light on last week's discussion regarding the cost of discipleship?
- Does the heart of your community look more like the leaders' or God's?
- How do we join with God in the pursuit of the lost as a community?
- How do we join with God in the celebration of the found as a community?

PRAYER

- Pray for the heart of God in our lives toward those that are lost.
- Pray for our neighbors and friends that they would be found.
- Pray for opportunities to play a part in that discovery.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 65
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 15:11-32 *THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON*

INTRODUCTION

One of the most famous parables that Jesus taught, this text is a picture of God's grace toward the repentant while contrasting it with the pride of the religious.

DISCUSSION

Discuss examples of when you have received grace from someone you sinned against.

EXPLANATION

- What is the sin of the younger son?
- What is the sin of the older son?
- What attributes of God are revealed in the father? (Any surprises?)
- Why do you think the older son had such a hard time rejoicing for his brother?
- How would the audience from verses 15:1-2 have taken this parable?

APPLICATION

- How do you relate to the younger son?
- How do you relate to the older son?
- How have you experienced the joyful embrace of the Father?
- Who is God calling you to forgive or experience joy for the grace they received?

PRAYER

- Give thanks for God's grace to us.
- Pray for the heart of God and compassion for those who have sinned against you.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 66
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 16:1-13 *THE PARABLE OF THE DISHONEST MANAGER*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus follows up the parable of the prodigal son with a parable about the shrewd manager. In this parable we are challenged to prepare for our eternal future rather than place our trust in wealth. Our trust must be in Jesus, not money.

DISCUSSION

Discuss a time when you realized that something you had placed your trust in was going to fail.

EXPLANATION

- How did the object of the manager's faith affect his actions?
- Why would the actions of the manager be considered shrewd and commendable?
- What does it mean for children of light to be shrewd?
- What do you think it means to serve money?

APPLICATION

- In what ways have you, (or do you), put your trust in wealth or possessions rather than Jesus?
- How does this parable challenge the true ownership of your wealth?
- What does it look like for you to be faithful with resources that are not yours?
- How can we serve God and have an eternal perspective regarding money as a community?

PRAYER

- Pray for an eternal perspective on wealth.
- Pray for opportunities to use our wealth to advance the gospel.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 67
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 16:14-18 *JESUS AND THE LAW*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus continues to challenge the religious leaders and their failure to understand the purpose of the law and the Kingdom. With hard hearts the Pharisees use the law to justify themselves rather than see their need for a savior.

DISCUSSION

Have you ever tried to justify yourself in a situation? How did that turn out?

EXPLANATION

- How did the Pharisees distort the law for their own benefit?
- How are the Law and the Gospel connected?
- Why will the Law not become void?
- Why does Jesus insert the understanding of divorce in this section?

APPLICATION

- How can we avoid distorting Scripture to our benefit like the Pharisees?
- How does our view of the Bible affect our submission to God?
- What does it look like for you to wrestle with hard passages of Scripture?
- What does it mean to you to be justified by Jesus?

PRAYER

- Pray for humility when approaching God's word.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring conviction where we are usurping God's authority.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 68
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 16:19-31 *HEAVEN AND HELL*

INTRODUCTION

In this parable we see that worldly stature and wealth has no bearing on our eternity and our only hope is to put our faith in Jesus who all Scripture reveals as our only hope.

DISCUSSION

What are the consequences of misplaced trust?

EXPLANATION

- Why was the poor man with Abraham and the rich man in Hades?
- What did wealth have to do with their condition?
- How does this parable speak to the hearts of the religious leaders?
- Why would this have been a disturbing picture for the Pharisees?

APPLICATION

- How does our view of entitlement get distorted?
- How did you feel about Abraham not being willing to send Lazarus back?
- In what way are you moved by the foreshadowing in verse 31 and why?
- In what way is the Holy Spirit prompting you to respond to this text?

PRAYER

- Pray for the lost that they would come to know Jesus soon.
- Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with our neighbors.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 69
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 17:1-10 *JESUS AND DUTY*

INTRODUCTION

Temptation is inevitable. As Christians, we are called to be vigilant against sin and quick to repent while being ready and willing to forgive one another. Jesus also reminds us of the power that comes through faith while reminding us to exercise that faith in humility.

DISCUSSION

How do you balance faith and humility in your life?

EXPLANATION

- How does Jesus see the role of the church community in the fight against sin?
- How does Jesus' connection between vigilance and forgiveness reflect the gospel?
- What are the implications to us from Jesus' picture of faith?
- Why does Jesus compare our faithfulness to the duty of a servant?

APPLICATION

- How can we unwittingly encourage others to sin?
- In what ways can we encourage one another to be vigilant against sin?
- Would you characterize our community as a safe place to repent of sin? Why or why not?
- Where in your life do you need more faith?
- How can we experience the gift of faith without becoming prideful in our fruit?

PRAYER

- Pray for hearts of repentance and forgiveness within our community.
- Pray for God to increase our faith and keep our perspective before God.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 70
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 17:11-19 *JESUS CLEANSSES 10 LEPERS*

INTRODUCTION

Many of us cry out for mercy, but what do we do when we experience it? Do we give glory and praise to the one who grants it to us? This week we will explore our understanding of the mercy of God and our response.

DISCUSSION

How do you respond to the mercy of God in your life?

EXPLANATION

- What do we learn about the character of God in his mercy toward the ten lepers?
- What do we learn about the ultimate desire of the ten lepers after their encounter with Jesus?
- Why is it surprising that the Samaritan is the one who returns to praise Jesus?
- What do we learn about the nature of grace and saving faith in this encounter?

APPLICATION

- How do we respond to God's grace in our lives as a community?
- What is the difference between being free to praise God versus being obligated?
- How does your response to Jesus' mercy in your life reflect the state of your heart?
- How can we grow as a community in our worship and praise of our King?

PRAYER

- Thank God for his grace and mercy that he has lavished upon us.
- Spend time praising God as a community.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 71
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 17:20-37 *THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM*

INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of God is a major theme in Luke's gospel. Provoked by a contemptuous question from some religious folks, Jesus answers the question of when and where the Kingdom will come.

DISCUSSION

What is the Kingdom of God?

EXPLANATION

- Consider the previous context, why is the question of when proof of continued religious blindness?
- What are the Pharisees looking for as a sign of the Kingdom? Why can't they see the obvious?
- As Jesus turns his attention to the Disciples, he warns not to get caught up in looking for signs. Why?
- What does it mean that the Kingdom is in our midst and yet to come?
- How does Jesus describe the scene that will play out when He returns in glory?
- How will we know when Jesus has returned?

APPLICATION

- How have we defined our expectations of God rather than put faith in his promises?
- Why were the people in the days of Noah and Lot caught unaware when judgment came?
- How do we presume upon grace in our lives?
- What in your heart tempts you to preserve your life rather than give it to God fully and completely?
- Does your life reflect a committed life to Christ or are you prone to look back at your old life?
- What backup plans do we have in our lives that we need to let go?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 72
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 18:1-8 *THE PARABLE OF THE PERSISTENT WIDOW*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' previous picture of his future coming was fairly bleak, but he follows it here with a picture of the generosity and love of the father toward his children.

DISCUSSION

What does persistence look like in your life?

EXPLANATION

- How does the parable of the persistent widow relate to the previous passage on the Kingdom?
- What do we learn about the character of God in comparison to the unrighteous judge?
- Why should we continue to pray and hope for justice in this world?
- What is the relationship between justice and grace?

APPLICATION

- With what things are you persistent in your life?
- How is your hope tied to the compassion of God?
- How does that change your daily life?
- What does it look like for us to persevere in faith until the return of Jesus?

PRAYER

- Thank God for his compassion.
- Pray for the return of Jesus and the salvation of lost people in your life.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 73
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 18:9-14 *WORKS RIGHTEOUSNESS VS. GIFT RIGHTEOUSNESS*

INTRODUCTION

Dependence on Christ is the product of a right view of our righteousness before a holy God. Don't put your faith in your own righteousness, humble yourself before the King and receive his mercy.

DISCUSSION

What does contempt look like in our culture?

EXPLANATION

- Who is Jesus telling this parable to, and why does he tell it?
- Contrast the confidence of the two men, in what is their confidence?
- How do the prayers of the two men reveal the condition of their hearts?
- Why does the Pharisee not return home justified?
- Why is Jesus the only safe investment for our justification?

APPLICATION

- What/whom do you compare yourself to as a measure of righteousness when no one is looking?
- Why does that breed contempt toward others in our hearts?
- How do we fight for finding our righteousness in Jesus alone?
- How can we encourage one another to walk in humility and rest on the mercy of God our Father?
- In what way does our faithfulness come out of a right security in the mercy of God?

PRAYER

- Thank God for his mercy and the security we have in him.
- Ask for forgiveness where you have been proud and trusted in your own righteousness.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 74
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 18:15-17 *JESUS AND CHILDREN*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus often did things that were counterintuitive to the culture around him. As an important Rabbi, it would seem disrespectful to bother him with children. But in this interaction we see the love of God for children and those that come to him with pure dependence and love.

DISCUSSION

How does our culture interact with children?

EXPLANATION

- What do you think the disciples were thinking when they rebuked the crowd?
- In what way does the example of the children reinforce the previous parable?
- How does accepting children blow the minds of the religious?
- What do we learn about the character of God in his love toward these children?
- What does it mean to receive the kingdom?

APPLICATION

- How do we fence God in ways that keep him at arms length from those that need him the most?
- Who are you too busy for?
- Who is God calling us to be willing to receive?
- How can we come to Jesus in the way that a child does?
- How is receiving the kingdom different from making the kingdom happen?

PRAYER

- Pray for the faith of a child.
- Pray for the eyes of God to see people as he sees them.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 75
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 18:18-30 *JESUS ON MONEY, IDOLOTRY & COMEDY*

INTRODUCTION

Many people want to know what it will take to attain eternal life but few are ready for the answer. The goal of salvation is spending eternity with Jesus, not avoiding Hell. Put your faith in your works and it is impossible to attain, but put your faith in Jesus and it is already accomplished.

DISCUSSION

Why do we strive for eternal life?

EXPLANATION

- Why do you think the ruler wants eternal life? What supports your conclusion?
- In what does he put his faith in for such salvation?
- How does his response reveal the condition of his heart?
- Why is it difficult for the “rich” to enter into the kingdom of heaven?
- Why do those that hear this fear that salvation is impossible?
- What comparison does Jesus make between the rich man and the saved?

APPLICATION

- How can we mistake devotion to religion for devotion to Jesus?
- What things in your life are harder to give up for the cause of Christ than others?
- Where do we put our security or confidence in other than the mercy of God?
- How does the promise of God inspire you to be willing to let go of those things?
- What does it look like to put Jesus first in our lives? How do we practically measure that?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 76
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 18:31-34 *THE BIBLE IS ALL ABOUT JESUS*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus endures the wrath of God on our behalf willfully and with determination. He was not under compulsion but was resolute in fulfilling the plan of redemption. His love for us did not waver as he looked to the cross. Thank you Jesus.

DISCUSSION

What does it mean to you that the cross was not an accident?

EXPLANATION

- Why does Jesus make this statement to the disciples?
- How does this section show the love of God for the world?
- How do you think Jesus knew what was to come in Jerusalem without leaning into his divinity?
- What is it that the Disciples don't understand?

APPLICATION

- How do you respond to situations that you know are going to cost you something?
- How does knowing God is in control give you hope for your circumstances today?
- How are you moved by the willful act of Jesus to submit to the cross?
- Where is God asking us as a community to sacrifice for the benefit of others?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 77
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 18:35-43 *JESUS HEALS THE BEGGAR*

INTRODUCTION

In Jesus' last recorded miracle in the Gospel of Luke, we see the heart of God for those who are blind physically and spiritually..

DISCUSSION

- What are the areas of blindness in your life?
- What is revealed by the impatience of those who rebuked the beggar?
- Why does Luke use this as the last recorded miracle of Jesus?
- How is this encounter a picture of salvation?
- Compare this interaction with the one in Luke 18:18. What can we learn?
- What did you learn about the character of God through this encounter?

APPLICATION

- How is Jesus' response to the beggar different than ours might be?
- How is God calling us to consider the needs of the poor?
- In what ways do we respond like the beggar and the crowd to the power of the gospel?
- How do we effectively offer life through Jesus to those in need around us?

PRAYER

Pray for the heart of God for those in need and those who need salvation.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 78
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 19:1-10 *JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS*

INTRODUCTION

In this interaction with a tax collector, we see the heart of God to save sinners contrasted with the hearts of the religious who look down on those most in need of grace. This is a good time to examine our own hearts for the lost and align them with Jesus'.

DISCUSSION

- What assumptions can we make about the life of Zacchaeus?
- What causes you to feel unworthy of God's love?
- What does the crowd's reaction reveal?
- In what ways does Zacchaeus' reaction to Jesus indicate new birth?
- What is the Holy Spirit challenging you with through this passage?

APPLICATION

- Whom could we share the gospel with if we ignored our assumptions about them?
- How do the rhythms of our Community Group reflect the heart and mission of God?
- What would joyful obedience to God's grace look like for us as individuals and a community?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 79
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 19:11-27 *THE PARABLE OF THE TEN MINAS*

INTRODUCTION

In response to confusion surrounding the establishment of the kingdom of God, Jesus tells this parable about faithfulness and judgment. There will be time before Jesus establishes his kingdom when the disciples of God will be rewarded, while those who reject Jesus will be judged.

DISCUSSION

- What does this parable tell us about the kingdom of God?
- How are the faithful and the unfaithful judged differently according to this parable?
- How does your faithfulness affect your view of the king in this parable?
- What does God expect from those who have been saved in this time before he returns?
- In what way does God himself contribute to what he expects from us?
- How does Jesus make faithfulness possible?

APPLICATION

- In what ways have your views of faithfulness and judgment been challenged by this passage?
- What has God given us that he expects us to faithfully steward?
- Where have we been poor stewards of the gifts that we have received from God?
What does repentance look like?
- How can we encourage one another to be faithful stewards of the gospel?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 80
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 19:28-44 *JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, KING, AND SAVIOR*

INTRODUCTION

As Jesus approaches the city of Jerusalem, we see a contrast between the reaction of the disciples, the Pharisees, and Jesus himself. The tension is building as his final days draw near, between the gifts of salvation and compassion and the truth of judgment for those who walk in darkness.

DISCUSSION

- How does the previous parable about the ten minas lend context to this scene of Jesus entering Jerusalem?
- What is the significance of the interaction with the colt?
- Why are Jesus' and the disciples' reactions upon arrival in Jerusalem so different?
- What is the cause of the Pharisees' rebuke? How is this related to last week's parable?
- Why does Jesus weep over Jerusalem?
- Have you ever had to watch someone make a bad choice? How did you feel watching them?

APPLICATION

- How do you experience the tension between rejoicing in your salvation vs. compassion for the lost?
- Do we feel urgency for the lost that live in our neighborhood? Why or why not?
- What hardens our hearts against compassion and urgency? What does repentance look like?
- What rhythms could we incorporate into our community to reach more people?
- Pray for the lost in your neighborhood and your city with Jesus' heart.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 81
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 19:45-20:8 *JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE*

INTRODUCTION

Now in Jerusalem, the confrontation between Jesus and the religious leaders heats up as he prepares for his rejection by the people of Jerusalem.

DISCUSSION

- Why was Jesus angry when he entered the temple?
- How would you describe pure worship?
- Why do the chief priests ask for the source of Jesus' authority?
- How does Jesus use the priests' deviousness against them?
- In what way does this Scripture make us confront who we believe Jesus to be?

APPLICATION

- How can we guard against our hearts becoming a den for robbers in worship?
- How do we unwittingly question Jesus' authority in our daily lives?
- How does the truth of who Jesus is change the way you live today?
- What can we learn from Jesus about engaging those who are clearly hostile to the gospel?
- How do we discern between the lost who need to hear the gospel and those who just want to fight?
- What does it look like to trust God with those interactions?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 82
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 20:9-18 *THE PARABLE OF THE WICKED TENANTS*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus paints a clear picture of Israel's rejection of God's prophets and its eventual rejection of Jesus.

DISCUSSION

- Where in your life are you most patient? Where are you the most impatient?
- What in your own life is represented in the parable?
- What is revealed about God's character, even in his judgment, through this passage?
- Why does the crowd react with such surprise and insult?
- Read Psalm 118. What is Jesus saying with this reference?
- How does this interaction reinforce the power of Jesus?

APPLICATION

- Where in your life have you experienced the patient love of God?
- Does God's judgment on those who reject him as King surprise you? Why or why not?
- How can we relate to the tenants in this story? How do we reject the authority of Jesus in our lives?
- Where can we contend with one another to keep Jesus as the cornerstone of our lives?
- Do you have confidence that you have a relationship with Jesus? Why or why not?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 83
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 20:19-26 *JESUS AND TAXES*

INTRODUCTION

Consumed by the need to avoid repentance, the religious leaders again try to trap Jesus between the nationalists and the Roman Empire.

DISCUSSION

- Why does Jesus make this statement to the disciples?
- How does this section show the love of God for the world?
- How do you think Jesus knew what was to come in Jerusalem without leaning into his divinity?
- What is it that the Disciples don't understand?

APPLICATION

- How do you respond to situations that you know are going to cost you something?
- How does knowing God is in control give you hope for your circumstances today?
- How are you moved by the willful act of Jesus to submit to the cross?
- Where is God asking us as a community to sacrifice for the benefit of others?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 84
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 20:27-44 *JESUS AND THE SADDUCEES*

INTRODUCTION

God is the God of the living, not the dead. In this passage, Jesus uses this description of God the Father to answer the Sadducees' challenge to the resurrection.

DISCUSSION

- What are some common cultural descriptions of what happens when you die?
- Who are the Sadducees?
- What are they asking Jesus to answer in their puzzle about the widow and seven brothers?
- What does Jesus teach them about resurrection?
- Why does Jesus refer to Moses when addressing the Sadducees?
- What does Jesus mean when he says that God is “not the God of the dead, but of the living”? (v. 38)

APPLICATION

- What does it mean to be equal to angels and sons of God?
- If you are a Christian, how does the knowledge of eternal life affect your daily life and circumstances?
- How does being a child of God affect your identity and define who you are?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 85
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 20:45-21:4 *THE WIDOW'S MITE*

INTRODUCTION

God measures our gifts, not by their size, but on the basis of how much of a sacrifice they were to give and how sincere the heart was that gave that gift.

DISCUSSION

- Who are the scribes? What sort of lifestyle do they live?
- Why was the widow's gift considered to be a generous one?
- What does it mean to be righteous and rich? Unrighteous and rich?
- How would you describe the rich/scribes?
- What does it mean to be righteous and poor? Unrighteous and poor?
- How would you describe the widow?

APPLICATION

- How has God been generous to you? What abundances do you enjoy?
- Do you give of your time, talents, and treasure out of your abundance or firstfruits?
- Do you feel compelled to be sacrificially generous toward others?
- How is God calling you to give?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 86
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 21:5-19 *THE WORST TRAGEDIES CAN BE THE BEST OPPORTUNITIES*

INTRODUCTION

With the cross fast approaching, Jesus turns his attention to the end times. He warns us not to get caught up in the fear of predictions but to be prepared for persecution. We do not live in fear of the end but we are prepared and live in expectation of the glory of Jesus.

DISCUSSION

- What goes through your mind when you watch the daily news and all the tumult in the world?
- What do people's words reveal about where their confidence is found?
- Why would the destruction to the temple be a shock to those listening to Jesus?
- Why is it important for us to not assume the signs of the end times mean an imminent return of Jesus?
- Where does Jesus want our hearts during times of destruction and persecution?
- How is Jesus' description of the life of a disciple different from what you have heard or told others?

APPLICATION

- In what things do we find our security?
- How does fear affect your life? What stirs the most fear in you?
- How does the truth that God is not surprised or alarmed by our circumstances give you confidence?
- Why do you think Jesus doesn't want us to rehearse how we would respond to persecution?
- How can you apply dependence on the Holy Spirit in everyday spiritual trials?
- In what ways are you encouraged by Jesus' call to endurance?
- How can we make the most of tragedies and trials in our lives?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 87
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 21:20–28 *THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus turns his attention to the fate of Jerusalem and his return as King. The fall of Jerusalem is a preview of the coming judgment but the final return of Jesus will not be mistakable. As believers we should not fear the turmoil to come but raise our heads in preparation of our full redemption. In the meantime, this should be a reminder to us to be active in spreading news of salvation through Jesus for the sake of those who have not tasted salvation.

DISCUSSION

- Do you ever think about the return of Jesus and what it will be like?
- Why is the fall of Jerusalem significant to the hearers of Jesus' message?
- Why would they have felt that the fall of Jerusalem must be the end of days?
- What does Jesus tell us about the second coming that would give us confidence in spotting it?
- What does it mean that our redemption will be drawing near?

APPLICATION

- How would you react if you heard the U.S. was going to be destroyed?
- How does the eminent coming of Jesus affect the way we live today?
- As we look at the fall of Jerusalem and the fate of the unredeemed when Jesus returns, how are we challenged to share the gospel with those in our neighborhood?
- How can we provide space in our community for those who are exploring the truths of Jesus?
- Pray for your friends, family, and neighbors who don't know Jesus and that your community will be a proclamation of the gospel in their lives.?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 88
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 21:29–38 *THE PARABLE OF THE GENTILES*

INTRODUCTION

After describing the second coming and its signs, Jesus encourages us to be on watch and prepared for his return. Don't be caught unaware, the return of the Lord is coming.

DISCUSSION

What do you do to prepare for a big event or an important house guest?

EXPLANATION

- What are the “leaves” that signal the nearness of the Kingdom?
- Why is it important for us to be aware of the signs of the coming Kingdom?
- What are the pitfalls we face when we fail to have an eternal perspective on life?
- Why is this message significant in Jesus' public ministry?

APPLICATION

- How are you prone to be preoccupied with life and circumstances that marginalize Christ?
- How do we balance watching for signs of the times without being obsessed or fearful?
- What does it mean for us as a community to be watchful?
- In what ways do we live as a community that is prepared for the return of our King Jesus?
- Where do we need to get things ready that have been left in disarray?
- How does this message challenge us to love one another and love our neighbors?
- Pray “that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place”

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
MAN WHO IS GOD

Week 89
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 22:1–23 *JESUS AND THE LAST SUPPER*

INTRODUCTION

As the Passover draws near the plot to kill Jesus heats up. He takes these final days to prepare his disciples and us for the ministry for which and into which he has saved us. In doing so he shares his last meal with the disciples and teaches us how to keep him at the center of our hearts through remembering what his death and resurrection mean to us through the partaking in the Lord's Supper.

DISCUSSION

What does the feast of Passover represent?

EXPLANATION

- Why do the chief priests fear the people? Why do they think killing Jesus will help?
- What does the entrance of Satan reveal about the larger story at play at this moment?
- How does Jesus represent the Passover Lamb?
- As we look at the Lord's supper, what does the bread represent?
- What does the wine represent to you as a believer?
- What does Jesus mean by the "new covenant in my blood"?

APPLICATION

- Take some time this week to share Communion as a community group.
- Pass around the bread and share what the broken body of Christ means to you and why you need Jesus to be your substitute.
- Do the same with wine or juice and take turns sharing what it means to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus and how you specifically need his cleansing in your life. In what ways do we live as a community that is prepared for the return of our King Jesus?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 90
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 22:24–34 *JESUS AND TRUE GREATNESS*

INTRODUCTION

After a solemn moment with Jesus foreshadowing his death, the human heart wins out and the disciples begin to squabble about status and worth. Jesus uses this moment to shake up our understanding of the economy of the kingdom of God.

DISCUSSION

- To what signs or circumstances do you attribute importance in your life or others'?
- Why do you think this dispute about greatness erupts at such an odd moment?
- How is Jesus' answer counter to what we learn every day in our culture?
- How does Jesus' revelation about Peter relate to their argument?
- In what ways does Jesus show love to Peter even though Peter will fail him?

APPLICATION

- How does Jesus' response challenge you and your idea of greatness?
- How do we jockey for status and position in the church and our community?
- What could it look like for us to serve one another as a family?
- What does it look like for us to be community that leads with grace and pursue reconciliation?
- How do you think our non-believing friends might react to experiencing such a community?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

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LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 91
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 21:31–34; 54–62 *JESUS AND PETER*

INTRODUCTION

This week we will take a closer look at Jesus' interaction with Peter and the resolution of his denial. In this story we see the grace and reconciling power of the Gospel that is available to us even when we feel we have failed Jesus. Jesus loved you at your worst and he is ready to welcome you back.

DISCUSSION

Have you ever been disqualified from a sporting event or a competition? What happened and how did you feel?

EXPLANATION

- What surprises you about Jesus' prayer for Peter?
- Why do you think Jesus did not just prevent Satan from tempting Peter?
- How does Jesus see Peter's failure in regards to his ability to lead his brothers in the future?
- Why did Peter deny knowing Jesus at the fire?
- Read John 21:15-19: How does Jesus restore Peter?

APPLICATION

- How is Peter's confidence reflected in your own heart?
- How do you think Peter felt about returning to his brothers after his denial?
- In what ways have you denied Christ in your life?
- How are these things holding you back from worshiping Jesus and joining his mission?
- What does it look like for us to restore one another with the truth of the Gospel?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 92
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 22:35–38 *JESUS, TOUGH AND TENDER*

INTRODUCTION

In Jesus' last recorded conversation in the upper room, He indicates that what has been set in motion will be a significant change for the disciples from their previous ministry. He exhorts them to be prepared for what is to come.

DISCUSSION

When you plan for a long trip, what are the essential items that you are sure to pack?

EXPLANATION

- What does the difference articulated between verses 35 and 36 communicate to the disciples?
- In light of Luke 22: 38,51, Matthew 26:52 and John 18:11, what did Jesus mean by verse 36?
- How might this have been meant figuratively?
- What indication do we have of the disciples understanding of Jesus' meaning and what was to come?
- How does Jesus validate the truth and power of Scripture?

APPLICATION

- How has Jesus made provision for you in your life? In what ways do you lack nothing?
- In what ways does our worldly perspective affect our view of provision?
- What does it look like for you to be prepared for spiritual opposition as a disciple?
- How does the fulfillment of the cross make provision for our transgressions?
- How have you personally experienced the provision of Jesus in this way?
- In what ways are we called to submit to the truth of Scripture our lives?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 93
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 22:39–46 *JESUS SWEATS BLOOD*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus brings some of his disciples to the Mount of Olives to prepare for the trial that he will face in the next 24 hours. After asking his disciples to pray, Jesus honestly and openly prays to the Father. In his prayer, Jesus provides an example for us of how to prepare our hearts for trials with honesty and submission to the Father, which are not mutually exclusive.

DISCUSSION

Have you ever seen a trial coming? How did you prepare?

EXPLANATION

- Why does Jesus call the disciples to prayer? (Consider his previous conversations.)
- How does Jesus' prayer establish an example for us when we're facing trials?
- How does the Father answer Jesus' prayer?
- What does Jesus teach us about the nature of submission in his prayer?
- What do we learn about the weight of the cross through the agony of Jesus in the garden?

APPLICATION

- Do you ever feel like you can't be honest with God? Why?
- What surprises you about how Jesus submits to the will of the Father?
- How does Jesus make it possible for you to be honest in prayer?
- How does our faithfulness affect the faithfulness of Jesus?
- In what ways are you moved by the faithfulness of Jesus in facing the cross?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 94
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 22:47–53 *JESUS IS ARRESTED*

INTRODUCTION

The hour of darkness has come as Jesus is betrayed by one of his own disciples and he is arrested like a common criminal. Through it all, we see how God uses evil to accomplish his good and that he is always in control.

DISCUSSION

Have you ever been betrayed by a friend? Share the effect it had on you.

EXPLANATION

- Why does Judas need to betray Jesus? (See Luke 22:6.)
- What does the disciples' response tell us about their understanding of Jesus' teaching?
- What indications do you see that Jesus is in control during this encounter?
- What is the state of Jesus' heart during his arrest? What scripture supports your thoughts?
- What can we learn about the sovereignty of God through this passage?

APPLICATION

- In what ways do we resist the plan of God, even as his disciples?
- How have you responded like Peter in your defense of the gospel?
- What might it look like to depend on the Spirit and trust the plans of God?
- How does God's control, even in the hour of darkness, encourage you in your life?
- In what ways can we learn to trust God's will over our own will?
- How does God's character and love for us make it easier to submit to his plan?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 95
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 22:63–71 *JESUS, THE SON OF GOD*

INTRODUCTION

The trial and punishment of Jesus begins. The result of our sin has caused the body of Jesus to be broken in our place. He is condemned, not for what he did, but for who he is.

DISCUSSION

Why do we naturally recoil at the punishment of the innocent?

EXPLANATION

- Why do the priests ask Jesus if he is the Christ?
- Why is that an offence to the crowd, punishable by death?
- How does this refute the idea that Jesus never claimed to be God?
- In what way does Jesus force the priests to make a decision?
- How does Jesus contrast the authority of man verses his authority?

APPLICATION

- How is Jesus' claim still an offence to the worldview of our day?
- How does Jesus force the point with us as to who we are going to follow?
- Why is there still no neutral group regarding who Jesus is?
- For believers, how are you moved by what Jesus endured on your behalf?
- As the biggest statement of mankind, discuss what it means to you personally that Jesus is God.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 96
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 23:1–25 *JESUS' TRIALS*

INTRODUCTION

As the trial continues and concludes, we are made painfully aware of the injustice of his condemnation. This is not just an innocent man but the sinless, incarnate Creator of the universe.

DISCUSSION

What makes something unjust?

EXPLANATION

- Make a list of the injustices and irony that you see in this passage?
- How does Jesus respond to these injustices?
- How do these events expose the equal danger of denial and indifference toward Jesus?
- Who demands the crucifixion of Jesus?

APPLICATION

- In what ways do you relate to the crowd calling for the death of Jesus?
- How is the exchange for Barabbas the perfect picture of the great exchange of our life for Jesus'?
- How has Jesus set you free?
- What gives you the strength to resist fear of man and peer pressure in your life?
- How can we receive this passage as grace rather than guilt?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 97
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 23:26–49 *JESUS' CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH*

INTRODUCTION

The most tragic and triumphant moment in history is recorded in this passage. As the human race, we have our worst moment—killing God—and our greatest moment, as Jesus conquers Satan, sin, and death.

DISCUSSION

What does the death of Jesus mean to you personally?

EXPLANATION

- What are the different reactions people have to the crucifixion of Jesus?
- How does Jesus respond to the different reactions to him?
- In what ways does Jesus display his control and compassion throughout this tragedy?
- How does Jesus turn the tables regarding who is the final judge of innocence and guilt?

APPLICATION

- How might the two thieves be a metaphor for the choice we all must make?
- Which thief are you?
- Why can we celebrate this tragic moment in the history of the world?
- How have you experienced the triumph of the cross?
- Read through Luke 23:42–49 and respond in prayer and worship.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 98
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 23:50–56; 24:1–12 *JESUS' BURIAL & RESURRECTION*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus is buried after his death on the cross, but death cannot contain him! We are confronted with the amazing and glorious news that the tomb is empty, words that still invoke wonder, joy, and worship of our King.

DISCUSSION

How do you think you would have responded to news of the empty tomb?

EXPLANATION

- Who is Joseph and how do you think he was feeling at this moment?
- Why is it significant that these women are the first to witness the empty tomb?
- Who were the men that spoke to the women?
- How do these angels validate the faithfulness of Jesus' word?
- What is the significance of the empty tomb for mankind?

APPLICATION

- What does it mean to you personally that the tomb is empty?
- How is the Holy Spirit calling you to respond to the good news that Jesus rose from death?
- How has Jesus set you free by conquering Satan, sin, and death?
- Plan an Easter party to celebrate the empty tomb.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

INVESTIGATING THE
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Week 99
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 24:13–35 *JESUS ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS*

INTRODUCTION

It seems that not everyone immediately understood the significance of the empty tomb. Still morning over the loss of Jesus and confused by the events at the tomb, two of the disciples are treated to the greatest Bible study ever given.

DISCUSSION

When has God shown up unexpectedly in your life?

EXPLANATION

- Why were the disciples still upset?
- Why do you think they missed the significance of the empty tomb?
- What does Jesus reveal to us concerning the entirety of Scripture?
- Who reveals the truth of the good news to the disciples? Why is that significant?

APPLICATION

- In what ways has God shown you that his plans are better than yours?
- In what ways are we still foolish in doubting the God's promises?
- How does hearing Jesus explain the Bible change the way you approach Scripture?
- How does your heart resonate with the joy of the disciples when they realize Jesus is risen?

LUKE'S GOSPEL

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Week 100
COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

LUKE 24:36–53 *JESUS ASCENDS*

INTRODUCTION

Luke concludes his first book with the assurance that Jesus has fulfilled the promises of Scripture and that he has commissioned us to accomplish his mission to the world.

DISCUSSION

What does the death of Jesus mean to you personally?

EXPLANATION

- Why is it significant that Jesus is alive in the flesh and not just spirit?
- How does this fulfill the promises of Scripture?
- From where do we receive power to fulfill the mission of God?
- How do the disciples respond to seeing Jesus in glory?

APPLICATION

- How has Jesus removed doubt in your heart that he is risen?
- What does it look like for us to be clothed in the power of the Holy Spirit?
- How are we proclaiming the gospel to the nations as a community?
- What rhythms could we start to provide opportunities to reach our neighbors?
- How can we respond in worship to our King?