



# LUKE

LIFE GROUP GUIDE  
UNIT THREE

**May - July 2024**

## Luke 7:36-50 | May 26, 2024

The Christian faith results in lives changed. Our passage today is a perfect example of a life changed by encountering Jesus and placing faith in Him. In this encounter, a sinful woman, most likely a prostitute or adulteress, entered a pharisee's house when she learned that Jesus would be there.

### Read Luke 7:36-39.

What do you think the tone was in this room? Imagine all the people there. and this encounter happening. What was going through the minds of the people seeing this happen in real time?

In many ways, this is a comparison of what someone who loves Christ looks like versus someone who does not love Christ. What are the main differences between the heart posture of this sinful woman versus the pharisee?

To get insight on what happened internally to this sinful woman in this moment of salvation, read **Romans 8:1-11**.

Being in Christ is where there is no condemnation. Having faith in Christ is what saves us from condemnation. Why was it so hard for this pharisee to wrap his head around this woman not receiving the due punishment for her sins?

### Read Luke 7:41-43.

Is it common to forget the magnitude of God's grace because we don't see the depth of our sin? Our passage tells us that the one who owed the greater debt will love the forgiver more. How should we see our debt toward God? How should this cause us to love God more?

How do you think that woman's life was changed after being saved?

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Our love toward God is directly linked to how great we see our sin. If we see our sin as great and our need for grace even greater, we will look to God in every way to supply us with His grace. This causes a deep love and longing for our Redeemer.
- God will take any life, regardless of the sins committed, and completely accept them into eternity with Him. All it takes is faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

### PRAYER PROMPTS

- Ask the Lord to reveal to you the deepest parts of your life. The sin that you would say isn't having that much effect on you, seek that you would see those sins the way God sees them.
- Pray about the loveliness of our God. As this woman was lavishing Christ with her best blessing and admiration, seek to exalt Christ in your own prayers by speaking of His wondrous works and attributes.

## Luke 8:1-25 | June 9, 2024

This collection of parables and events all have one thing in common: hearing the Word of God. The main question we need to ask ourselves is, "what happens in my life when I hear the Word of God?"

Compare the three environments that prevented the seed from growing. Reflecting on your own life, how have you seen these scenarios play out when you have heard the Word of God?

What would you say is the most prevalent scenario found in Christian circles today?

### **Read Isaiah 55:8-11.**

How do we reconcile the fact that God accomplishes what He sets out to accomplish, yet we see the seed (the Word of God) getting trampled, withering away, and choked out by thorns? What does this tell us about the providence of God and the human heart?

How does this message of the Parable of the Sower relate to the concept of spiritual growth and perseverance in the face of challenges?

In **Luke 8:11**, Jesus says that the seed represents the "word of God." What are some practical ways we can ensure that we are receiving and nurturing this word in our lives?

Discuss the role of distractions and worldly cares, as mentioned in verse 14, in hindering spiritual growth. How can we guard against these distractions in our daily lives?

Verse 15 describes the "good soil" as those who "hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience." What does this process of "holding fast" look like practically in our lives?

Reflecting on the different responses to the seed in the parable, what are some practical ways we can cultivate an environment that lends to spiritual growth and receptivity to God's Word in our families, churches and communities?

### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- The most important thing we do with our lives is how we respond to hearing the Word of God.
- The soil of our lives will determine the fruit that we produce.

### **PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Seek the Lord to create in your life a soil that allows the Word of God to produce much fruit. Ask for the perseverance and faithfulness that will carry you through the trials and setbacks of this life. Spend a moment on reflecting and thanking God for the wonder of His scriptures. Ask Him to continue to reveal the glories and excellencies of Himself through His written Word.

## **Luke 8:26-56 | June 16, 2024**

The passage at hand covers a few encounters of Jesus with various illnesses and demon possession. The first encounter is with the demon-possessed man.

According to verses 26-33, what are some conclusions we can draw about how demons operate and what they are like?

What does this encounter show us about the power and authority of Jesus Christ?

How is this event used to glorify God and bring about evangelism in verses 34-39?

What does the story of the woman with the issue of blood teach us about faith? Explore how her persistence and belief in Jesus' healing power led to her miraculous healing.

Why do you think Jesus took the time to pause and acknowledge the woman who touched Him, considering the urgency of Jairus' request? What are we shown about the character of Jesus in this encounter?

How do you think Jairus felt when he received news of his daughter's death while Jesus was on the way to heal her? How might his faith have been tested in that moment?

In what ways can we apply the lessons from this passage to our own lives today? How does it encourage us to trust in Jesus even in the face of seemingly impossible situations?

### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- Jesus has the ultimate authority over all creation, even demons, sickness, and death.
- One of the primary evangelistic tools is simply proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus has done.
- The most powerful decision we can make in this life is to have faith in Jesus Christ.

### **PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Ask the Lord to open your eyes to the spiritual battle we face every day. Bring to Jesus all your struggles and difficult circumstances, knowing that He alone is the only one that can help. Bring any needs to the Lord, knowing that He is the provider for everything.

## Luke 9:1-17 | June 23, 2024

Reflecting on **Luke 9:3**, where Jesus instructs His disciples to take nothing for their journey—no staff, bag, bread, money, or extra shirt—what do you think Jesus is teaching about dependence on God?

How does this principle align with Jesus' teachings in **Matthew 6:25-34**?

### Read Luke 10:16.

How does this verse relate to Jesus' command to shake off the dust from the disciple's feet when they are not received? What does this tell us about our witness in the world?

In **Luke 9:6**, the disciples go out, proclaiming the Good News and healing everywhere. How does their obedience to Jesus' command in this passage inspire us to similarly share the Gospel and demonstrate God's mission in our communities today? How can we practically apply this example in our own lives?

Consider the disciples' initial response when faced with the hungry crowd. Why do you think they suggested sending the crowd away to find food for themselves? What might this reveal about their perception of the situation and their faith in Jesus?

Not only was the entire crowd full and satisfied, but God even provided twelve baskets of leftovers for the apostles. What does this show us about God's ability to provide in times of need? Have you experienced a time where God provided for you exactly what you needed at exactly the right time?

The feeding of the five thousand is the only miracle that is recorded in all four Gospel accounts. Why is it such an important event for Christians to know?

### Read Luke 9:16.

How does this visual of Jesus blessing the bread and breaking it relate to the Last Supper account? How might you find a deeper meaning to Jesus breaking bread to give to His apostles, who will bring it to the multitude?

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- God will provide what is necessary to carry out His plan and purpose for your life.
- God's providence is not only the "providing" of God in our circumstances, but it is the "purpose" of God in our circumstances.
- The act of Jesus breaking the bread and multiplying it among the multitude is a real reminder that His body broken on the cross multiplies and fills the hungry souls of a lost world.

### PRAYER PROMPTS

- Ask the Lord to provide everything that is necessary to accomplish His purposes in your life. Dwell on what this means for your families' lives. On your work life. In your relationships. Seek the Lord for the things that are not material but the things that are spiritual and eternal to shape and direct your life.

## **Luke 9:18-27 | June 30, 2024**

Much of Jesus' public ministry in Galilee has been focused on the identity of Jesus. Everything that He is doing is directing the people in this region to the very truth that He is the Messiah.

Read verses 18-19. Along with John the Baptist and Elijah, what else might people have thought about Jesus during this time?

Jesus instructs His disciples not to tell anyone that He is the Messiah. Why do you think Jesus wanted to keep this secret at that time?

Jesus speaks about the necessity of taking up one's cross daily to follow Him. What does this metaphor mean in the life of the Christian? How do you apply it in your daily life?

In verse 25, Jesus presents a paradoxical statement about gaining and losing life. How would the world say you gain life? What are things that you believed would offer life, when in fact they didn't?

Why would losing your life for Christ actually save your life?

Reflect on a time when following Jesus required sacrifice or came at a personal cost. Why does discipleship require sacrifice to be effective?

How does the promise of eternal life influence the way we live our lives and make decisions in the present?

What practical steps can we take to respond to the call to discipleship and follow Jesus wholeheartedly in our daily lives?

### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- Understanding the identity of Jesus primary in the life of a Christian.
- Following Jesus causes you to trade the things you most valued in life for Christ, who becomes the most valuable thing. This is a costly decision to make.
- Eternal life is only found in Jesus Christ, there is no other thing in this world that will gain your life.

### **PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Spend some time in prayer reflecting on who Jesus is. Ask the Lord to reveal to you the things that you value more than Him. Give thanks to the Lord for the life that He gives and pray for more opportunity to live a life that denies the temporal things of this world and clings to the eternal life found in Christ.

## Luke 9:28-45 | July 7, 2024

Has there ever been a time in your life where your jaw dropped in amazement because of something you experienced?

Jesus takes a select few of His apostles to the mountaintop to pray. It was no accident that this moment of going to pray turned into the Transfiguration. Why was it significant that this was the main purpose for Jesus taking them to the mountaintop? What does this tell us about how prayer functions in our lives today?

### **Read Hebrews 1:1-4.**

Jesus is the radiance of the glory of God, and this event is a showcase of that radiance. How might Jesus be the radiance of the glory of God according to Hebrews?

### **Read Deuteronomy 18:14-21 and Malachi 4:5-6.**

What would you say is the significance of Moses and Elijah's presence here?

### **Read Luke 9:35.**

It is emphasized again and again throughout the Gospel of Luke that Jesus is the Messiah. He is the Son of God. Why is this statement from the Father so important for people to know when they hear about who Jesus is?

This encounter really speaks to the reality of verse 26. How does this give us a glimpse of the future return of the glorified and risen Jesus Christ?

Read verses 43-45. Why would have been so hard to grasp this reality right after seeing firsthand a glimpse of the glory of God on the mountaintop?

Jesus said, "Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men." Why is this statement so important for the disciples to understand?

### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- Prayer is essential to the daily rhythms of the Christian life.
- The natural reaction for when humans experience the glory of God is fear.
- We have seen both the glory of God displayed on a mountaintop in the transfiguration, and we also see the love of God displayed on a mountaintop on the cross at Calvary. Jesus in all His glory humbled Himself by taking the form of a servant.

### **PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Sit for a moment and dwell on the glory of the Lord. Read **Psalms 19:1** and reflect on the glory of God through His creation. Read **John 1:14** and reflect on the glory of God in His Word. Read **John 3:16** and reflect on the glory of God found in the Gospel message. Ask God to work in your mind this week so that you would see His glory and worship Him wholeheartedly.