THE BOOK OF

LIFE GROUP GUIDE: UNIT 8

March 23, 2025 - May 11, 2025

Luke 22:47-71 | March, 23 2025

Our passage today shows us the unfolding of God's saving plan. This dark night, full of betrayal, denial, and mockery, is a showcase of where God's glory shines brightest. Jesus is the Sovereign King who, through His suffering and submission, brings the salvation of the world.

Read verses 47-53

Read John 13:18

What do you see in Judas's betrayal that reveals the nature of human sin? How does Jesus' response to Judas' kiss show His divine authority and submission to the Father's will?

Why does Jesus rebuke His disciples for attempting to fight back?

What does Jesus mean by 'the power of darkness'? How does His arrest and the events surrounding it show the sovereign plan of God unfolding, even in the midst of evil?

Read verses 54-71

How does Peter's failure serve as a warning and an encouragement for believers? In what ways have you missed the mark in your faith, yet God gave you another chance?

What is the significance of Jesus enduring mockery and abuse at the hands of those who held Him? How does His response reflect His identity as the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53?

Why do you think Jesus chooses not to directly answer the question of His identity? How does this exchange point to the unbelief and hardness of heart in the religious leaders?

How do these events demonstrate that Jesus was in control, even as He suffered and was betrayed? How does this shape our understanding of God's sovereignty over evil?

Key Takeaways

- God is sovereign over every detail of salvation, especially the suffering and mockery that his Son, Jesus Christ, endured on our behalf.
- There have always been people who will betray and deny Jesus Christ. Either they will betray him and their prior commitments to following him, or they will deny his lordship over their lives.
- Our failure to testify of our faith in Christ does not mean we are unable to continue with our relationship with Christ. There is grace for these sins, but only if we repent and turn back to Christ unashamedly.

Prayer Prompt

- Pray for strength to endure temptation. Ask for boldness in your Christian witness so that those around you would sense the aroma of Christ. Pray for opportunity to bring the gospel into the dark world and that you would not shrink back at the opportunity.

Luke 23:1-25 | March 30, 2025

In this passage, we witness a pivotal moment in the history of redemption. Jesus, the sinless Lamb of God, is subjected to a mock trial. The religious leaders, Pilate, and the crowds reject the truth, choosing to release a murderer—Barabbas—while condemning the innocent Son of God to die. This passage reveals the depth of human depravity, the sovereignty of God, and the magnificence of Christ's sacrifice.

Read verses 1-25

Why do the religious leader's level these specific charges against Jesus?

What is the significance of Jesus' response to Pilate, "You have said so"? How does this subtle answer point to the true nature of Christ's kingship?

What does Pilate's declaration of Jesus' innocence reveal about the travesty of this trial? Why is it important to understand that Jesus was completely innocent?

What does the crowd's choice of Barabbas over Jesus reveal about the sinful nature of humanity? How is this choice symbolic of mankind's rejection of the true Savior?

Why does Pilate continue to attempt to release Jesus, even in the face of growing opposition? What does this struggle reveal about Pilate's internal conflict, and what does it teach us about the difficulty of standing for what is righteous?

What is the theological significance of the release of Barabbas in exchange for Jesus? How does this event point to the great exchange of the gospel—Christ taking our place and offering His righteousness to those who believe?

Key Takeaways

- The rejection of Jesus by both the religious leaders and the crowd underscores the depravity of human hearts apart from God. The people, presented with the Savior of the world, chose a murderer—Barabbas—over the One who could grant them eternal life. This is the ultimate picture of humanity's sinful rejection of God's grace.
- The release of Barabbas in place of Jesus points to the great exchange at the heart of the gospel—Jesus, the sinless One, taking the place of the guilty, so that those who trust in Him may receive forgiveness and eternal life. This is the core of the Christian message: Christ died for sinners, the righteous for the unrighteous, that we might be made right with God.

Prayer Prompt

- Thank the Lord for taking our place on the cross, as our substitute. Spend some time thinking of the ways that God has shown his love for you and thank Him for all of them. Pray for specific people that have rejected their creator God and ask Him to open their eyes to the gospel.

Luke 23:26-43 | April 6, 2025

Today, we are confronted with the most significant event in human history—the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ. His death is not merely a historical event, but the central act of God's redemptive plan, securing the forgiveness of sins for all who repent and believe. In this passage, we also encounter a powerful display of divine grace as Jesus, in His final moments, offers salvation to a thief who deserves nothing but death.

Read verses 26-31

Why is Simon of Cyrene chosen to carry Jesus' cross?

Why does Jesus turn to the women of Jerusalem and pronounce a prophetic statement about the coming judgment (Luke 23:28-31)?

Read verses 32-43

How does the division of Jesus' clothes fulfill prophecy (Psalm 22:18)? What does this act of humiliation signify in the broader narrative of His crucifixion?

What is the irony of the inscription that reads, "This is the King of the Jews"? How does it highlight the contrast between Jesus' true identity and the world's rejection of Him as King?

Why do the two criminals respond so differently to Jesus? What does this contrast reveal about the nature of repentance and faith, even in the final moments of life?

What is the significance of the thief's statement, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom"? How does this demonstrate the simplicity and power of saving faith?

Key Takeaways

- Jesus was not just a martyr, but the Lamb of God who willingly bore the wrath of God for the sins of His people.
- The repentant thief, who acknowledged his sin and trusted in Jesus, received immediate assurance of salvation. This moment teaches us that it is never too late to repent, and that salvation is found in Jesus alone.
- The pain and humiliation that Christ received was ours to bear.

Prayer Prompt

Spend some time thinking about the passion week and all that Jesus experienced on his way to the cross. Thank the Lord for sending His Son to experience such a horrible death. Thank Him for making a way of salvation and for giving us eternal hope. Pray for those around you that are like the thief on the cross that desperately need faith in the Lord.

Luke 23:44-56 | April 13, 2025

Read verses 44-49

As you read about the darkness that covered the land during Jesus' death, what do you feel when you consider the weight of God's judgment upon sin? How does understanding the severity of God's judgment on sin help you grasp the depth of Christ's sacrifice on your behalf?

What does the tearing of the temple veil symbolize? How does this act signify the removal of the barrier between God and humanity and open the way for direct access to God through Jesus?

Jesus' final words reflect His complete trust in the Father. When you face difficulties or suffering, do you find yourself surrendering to God with the same trust? What might it look like for you to say, "Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit," in your own life today?

What is the significance of the Roman centurion's declaration that Jesus was innocent?

Read verses 50-56

What does the faithfulness of the women and Jesus' acquaintances teach us about devotion in the face of suffering? How do we see the contrast between the faithfulness of these followers and the abandonment of others during Jesus' crucifixion?

What is the importance of the women observing the tomb and preparing for the Sabbath in the context of Jesus' death? How does this moment set the stage for the glorious reality of the resurrection, which would soon follow?

Key Takeaways

- The cross is the ultimate display of God's justice and mercy, and the burial of Jesus reminds us that He truly died, preparing the way for His glorious resurrection.
- Christ's atoning sacrifice has forever changed the relationship between humanity and God, removing the barrier of sin and providing access to the Father.
- The burial of Jesus is not the end of the story. The careful preparation for His burial points to the certainty and power of His coming resurrection, which would demonstrate His victory over sin and death.

Prayer Prompt

- Thank the Lord that the salvation He extends to you is a free gift, that there was nothing you could have done to earn it. Thank Jesus for bearing your sin upon the cross, for making a way to have access to the Father. Bring the God any remaining sin in your life so that he would forgive you and you could walk in newness of life.

Luke 24:1-12 | April 20, 2025

This event is the foundation of the Christian faith; without the resurrection, we have no gospel, no hope, and no salvation. Jesus' bodily resurrection from the dead demonstrates His victory over sin and death and authenticates His divine nature. The women who witnessed the empty tomb, along with the disbelief of the disciples, lead us to examine both the historical certainty of the resurrection and how it will change the world forever.

Read verses 1-7

Why is the empty tomb such a powerful testimony to the victory of Jesus over death? Why does this matter today?

In your life, how does the reality of Christ's resurrection serve as the foundation of your confidence in the gospel?

The angels point the women back to Jesus' own words. Why is it crucial to remember and believe the promises of Christ, particularly regarding His resurrection? In what ways can you strengthen your faith in the promises of God as revealed in Scripture, especially when you face trials or doubts?

Read verses 8-12

The apostles initially dismissed the women's testimony as "an idle tale." Why do you think they responded with unbelief, despite the clear testimony of Scripture? Have there been times in your own life when you've struggled to believe God's promises, and what was it that made you believe again?

The resurrection demands a personal response. How does the reality of Jesus' bodily resurrection impact the way you live your life day by day? In what areas of your life do you need to yield more fully to the implications of Christ's resurrection, and how should it transform your priorities and actions?

Key Takeaways

- The resurrection is the definitive proof that Jesus is the Son of God and that His atoning sacrifice was accepted by the Father. It is the ultimate confirmation that He has triumphed over sin, death, and hell, and that He is the Savior of the world.
- As the disciples wrestled with disbelief, the resurrection calls for a personal acknowledgment of Jesus' victory over death. It's not enough to acknowledge the resurrection as a historical event; it must be embraced in faith and applied personally.
- The resurrection of Jesus guarantees the believer's future resurrection and eternal life.

Prayer Prompt

- Ask the Lord to renew your heart and mind to the wonderful reality of the Gospel. Every day we must renew our minds, seek his Holy Spirit to shape you and convince you even more that this truth is worth building your life upon.

Luke 24:13-35 | April 27, 2025

In this passage, we encounter the powerful account of two disciples on the road to Emmaus who are confused and troubled by the recent events of Jesus' crucifixion. However, in an unexpected and profound moment, Jesus reveals Himself to them as the risen Savior.

Read verses 13-21

The disciples express their disappointment and confusion, as they were hoping Jesus would be the one to redeem Israel. In what ways do you, like these disciples, sometimes misinterpret God's plans or expect Him to work according to your own understanding?

Read verses 22-35

Jesus rebukes the disciples for their slowness to believe what the Scriptures had foretold about Him. Why is it essential for Christians to have a biblical understanding of who Jesus is?

Upon recognizing Jesus, the disciples immediately returned to Jerusalem to share the news with the others. How does the disciples' urgency in sharing the gospel challenge your own response to the truth of the resurrection? Are there areas in your life where you feel compelled to share the gospel with others but have hesitated?

What does it mean for your heart to "burn within you" as you encounter the risen Christ in the Scriptures?

Why does the breaking of bread become the moment when the disciples' eyes are opened to recognize Jesus?

How does Jesus, in verse 27, show that the entire Bible points to Him? What does this mean for your own reading of the Old Testament and how you view it in light of Christ? How might you approach the Scriptures differently if you saw every passage as revealing something of Jesus' glory, death, and resurrection?

Key Takeaways

- For believers today, a deep understanding of Scripture is essential for correctly interpreting God's plan and for building unwavering faith.
- The resurrection is not merely a doctrinal fact; it has the power to change lives. When the disciples recognized Jesus as the risen Savior, their hearts burned within them, and they were transformed into bold witnesses.

Prayer Prompt

- Bring to the Lord the things in your life that you have cast doubt on. Whether it is the promises he has made, or the path you are on. Only God is able to guide you through life and make straight your paths. Ask him to renew your zeal for the Gospel and that you would be a bold witness.

Luke 24:36-49 | May 4, 2025

In this powerful passage from Luke, the risen Christ appears to His disciples, dispels their doubts, and commissions them to take the message of repentance and forgiveness to the nations. The passage highlights the tangible reality of Christ's resurrection, the importance of understanding Scripture, and the responsibility of believers to be witnesses of this good news.

Read verses 36-49

Christ commissions His disciples to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins. How does your understanding of repentance impact your relationship with God? How can you be more faithful in proclaiming the message of repentance and forgiveness to others in your daily life?

Jesus promises the disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit, empowering them for the mission ahead. How does the reality of the Holy Spirit's presence and power in your life impact your daily walk with Christ? Are there areas where you feel weak or inadequate, and how might you rely more fully on the Spirit's power in those areas?

The disciples worshiped with great joy after witnessing the risen Christ. How does the resurrection of Christ bring joy into your life, even amidst trials or struggles? What does true worship look like for you?

The Great Commission is not just for the disciples but for all believers. How do you personally view your role in the mission of spreading the gospel? What specific steps can you take to make disciples and share the message of repentance and forgiveness with those around you?

Key Takeaways

- Without the resurrection, our faith is in vain (1 Corinthians 15:17). Christ's physical resurrection gives us assurance of the forgiveness of sins and guarantees our future resurrection. This reality must be central to our personal faith and our proclamation of the gospel.
- From Genesis to Revelation, all Scripture points to Jesus. Understanding this unifying theme of the Bible enriches our knowledge of God's redemptive plan and deepens our love for Christ.
- Christ has commissioned all believers to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness in His name. This is not an optional task—it is the very purpose for which we are saved. Our lives must be centered around fulfilling this mission, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Prayer Prompt

- Pray by name for the individuals in your life that you know need to hear the saving message of Jesus Christ. Spend some time praying for God's providence in their life, asking him to work and draw them to himself. Thank the Lord for the wonderful news of the Gospel in your life.

Luke 24:50-53 | May 11, 2025

In our passage today, we witness the final moments of Jesus' earthly ministry as He ascends to the right hand of the Father. This moment signifies the completion of His earthly mission and the beginning of a new phase in God's redemptive plan. As the disciples are witnesses to His ascension, they are filled with joy and worship. They return to Jerusalem, awaiting the promised Holy Spirit.

Read verses 50-53

Why is the ascension of Christ so significant for our faith today?

How does His ascension assure us of His ongoing reign and intercession on our behalf? In what areas of your life do you need to remember that Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling and interceding for you?

Jesus' blessing here is a profound moment, and it marks the final act of His earthly ministry. How does the idea of Christ blessing His followers shape your understanding of His love and care for you?

The disciples responded with worship and joy after witnessing Jesus' ascension. How do you express worship in your own life, and what role does joy play in your worship? In what ways does recognizing the ascended Christ deepen your worship?

Read Acts 1:6-11

According to verse 8, what does the power of the Holy Spirit cause us to do? Why is this significant in the life of the Christian?

This passage reminds the disciples that Jesus will return in the same way He left. How does the certainty of Christ's return affect the way you live today? In what ways does this truth fuel your hope and motivate your actions as you await His return?

Key Takeaways:

- The ascension of Jesus to the Father's right hand confirms His authority over all things. This event signifies that He is now reigning in heaven, guiding, and interceding for His people. As believers, we must live in the light of His sovereignty and lordship over all areas of our lives.
- Jesus' ascension does not signal the end of His work but the beginning of the disciples' mission to proclaim repentance and forgiveness in His name. Likewise, as His followers, we are called to bear witness to the gospel, empowered by the Holy Spirit, until He returns.

Prayer Prompt:

- Marvel at the glory of Christ as he is currently seating at the right hand of the Father. Spend some time expressing your admiration and awe of the Lord.