

**LEADER'S GUIDE**

**BECOMING  
A DISCIPLE**

***LEARNING TO LIVE, LOVE,  
AND LEAD LIKE JESUS***

# Introduction

## Becoming a Disciple *...from the Book of Luke*

These exciting passages highlight the perfection and humanity of Jesus Christ. Jesus entered human history as the **perfect man**, his obedience to the Father offered the **perfect sacrifice** for sin, and therefore, he became the **perfect Savior** for all mankind.

Luke carefully gives a detailed and accurate record of his investigation so that readers can trust with certainty that Jesus is God. Luke also portrays **Jesus' profound interest in people and relationships**. He was compassionate to the poor, the sick, the hurting and the sinful. He loved and embraced everyone. Our God became flesh to identify with us, and to show us His genuine love. Only this perfect love can satisfy our deepest need.

### **Luke 9:23-25**

*Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?"*

*Becoming a disciple of Jesus is a journey of learning to;*

***...live, love and lead like Jesus***

### **To Our Amazing Life Group Leaders,**

*I'm excited to see each of you partner with God in your Life Groups to move these passages from each person's **Head**, to their **Heart** and then to their **Feet**! The best part is that we are doing it together!*

*Frank Bonser, Life Groups Ministry Pastor*

*Special thanks to the following leaders for their help in developing this study:*

*Ron Nelson  
David and Zindel Jackson  
Corey O'Connell  
Jenn Butenschoen*

Let's get started.....

# Becoming a Disciple

## *...learning to live, love and lead like Jesus*

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### Communion Guide

option	Scripture	Passage Title
Opt 1	Matt 26:17-19,26-29	The Lord's Supper
Opt 2	1 Corinthians 11:23-25	The Lord's Supper

## How to use this Leader's Guide

*The group story-telling and discussion time consist of five separate parts:*

### 1. Review: (2-3 Minutes)

Take a short time to review last week's passage and draw out key points that were learned. Caution: Do not create a discussion. Example questions could be:

- a. What was one thing you remember about last week's story? or,
- b. Did someone last week say something that was particularly meaningful to you throughout this week? Please elaborate. or,
- c. Did you find yourself sharing the story with anyone? Who? or,
- d. Ask follow-up questions of individuals who shared a particular action they were going to take as a result of last week's passage.

### 2. Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)

- a. Briefly set the context of this week's passage.
  - Here is what has happened since last week's story and some context to this week's story.
- b. Next, ask a couple of general questions as an introduction to stimulate the group's thoughts about the upcoming passage. They help get the group focused on the story that is about to be told.
  - Example: Say, before we start the story, I would like you to be thinking about a couple things.

### 3. Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)

- a. Tell the story as best as you can in your own words.
  - Don't stop to teach or try to make points. Just tell the story.
  - This is not a performance; just think of sitting around a campfire and telling it in your own words.
  - The objective is not to memorize it, but to learn it and be able to just share it.

### 4. Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions.

- a. What was the first thing that happened?
- b. What Happened next? Then what happened? Then....?

If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

- a. Don't stop for discussions. Keep moving through the passage until it has been completely rebuilt.
- b. Remember the **purpose** is to:
  - Get everyone to participate.
  - Make sure the passage is accurate. Nothing added or left out.
  - Help learn and remember the passage through repetition.
- c. Participants will experience the passage four different ways.(Repetition)
  - Individually read it before they come.
  - Hear it told orally in the group.
  - Participate in rebuilding it together.
  - And finally, discuss it in detail as a group.

5. **Group Discussion: (35-45 Minutes)** The group discussion time consists of three different types of questions: ***Head, Heart and Feet***. Each of these has a specific purpose and should not be skipped.

**Basic Questions:** (What does the passage say?)

These four questions can be used to start a discussion each week. You may not have time to cover all four which is good.

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God? (Jesus or the Holy Spirit?)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:** (What does the passage mean?)

These stimulate great discussion and prompt your group members into action; they can also allow you to see into a person's heart in significant ways. There are two ways to ask life application questions:

- Use story specific questions provided in the guide, or
- Form your own questions based on an individual's comments heard during the Basic Questions.

There is no particular order to ask these questions. They are used to guide the facilitator in asking follow-up questions that will reach people's hearts.

**Life Application Questions:** (What should we do with what we've learned?)

**Important:** The Life Application Question(s) are the most important questions and are the purpose of the discussion. This is where people put the scripture into action.

1. How is God asking us to respond to this passage as disciples? or,
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Tips:**

- Do not skip the Basic or Other Applications Questions. They set up the Life Application Questions.
- Manage your discussion time well to ALWAYS arrive at this question(s) with at least 10-15 minutes of discussion time left. It is intended to be the most meaningful time of the group meeting.

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Each discussion page will have some thoughts to assist in how the group can pray for each other and for the Life Group based on the context of the passages that were just reviewed.

# People of Hope

## *Luke 1:1-38*

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Have you ever gone a long time without talking to a close relative? Israel had not received a prophetic message from God for hundreds of years. Yet there were some who hoped to hear from Him and were expectantly waiting. The conception of both John the Baptist and Jesus was the unexpected answer to this hope. John and Jesus are so intricately connected that the story of Jesus begins with the conception and birth of John the Baptist.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. Who were the main characters in this story?
2. How and why do you think God is using them?
3. How did each of them respond? How would you have responded?
4. Is there one that you can especially relate to? Why?
5. How is your hope and confidence in Jesus affected by what you have learned from this passage?
6. What is one of the most important things that you are taking away from this passage about learning to live, love and lead like Jesus?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Dear Father, thank You for revealing yourself to us in your Word and showing us that nothing is impossible with You. As we sit at your feet together, teach us not to let the logic of the world cloud our hope, but to know for certain, "your will be done".

# Child of Hope

## *Luke 2:1-20*

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

After the birth announcements of John and Jesus, Mary visits Elizabeth to confirm the promise Mary received from the angel Gabriel. The story of Jesus' birth that follows is one of contrasts. The glory of God is revealed surprisingly in the most humble of circumstances, a child announced to humble people;... Shepherds. This setting showcases God's divine hand at work in the unlikely manner of the coming of His Son.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. What circumstances led Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and what importance does it have in the midst of this amazing event?
2. How was the birth of Jesus announced and to whom? Why in this way?
3. How did they respond to the news? How did you respond? How have you seen others respond? What do you learn from this part of the passage?
4. How is your hope and confidence in Jesus affected by what you learn from this passage?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Praise You Father for such a love that You would send your one and only Son to this earth and give us a hope that passes all understanding. Teach us and equip us as we seek You out and join together with the angels in praise to our Savior, Jesus. May our joy and praise spill over to all those around us. To You be the glory and honor through Jesus our Lord. Amen



# Preacher of Hope

## *Luke 3:1-20*

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

In our last study we learned of Jesus humble circumstances coming into the world as an infant King. Chapter two continues to show glimpses of His divine nature, by His teaching in the temple, while stressing humanity by His obedience to His parents. The story now transitions back to John who proclaims a two part message of repentance and announcement to Israel that their King is coming soon.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. What was the main message preached by John the Baptist and to whom?
2. What were the various reactions to John's message?
3. How do you see some of those same reactions today? How do they affect you?
4. What did you discover in this passage about courage and persecution? Does it encourage or discourage you? How?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Thank you Father for the good news of your plan for us through your Son Jesus. Help us to live our lives in such a way that it makes those around us ask, "What should we do?" Please give us wisdom to have the right words and take advantage of every opportunity to boldly proclaim your good news.



# Temptation of Jesus

## Luke 4:1-13

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (3 Minutes)**

Luke continues examining Jesus as the rest of chapter three unfolds. We learn Jesus has the correct genealogy to be the Messiah and is in agreement with John's message through this willingness to be baptized. Next Luke tells us about Jesus' temptation which demonstrates he is entirely qualified to provide salvation.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. What were some of the circumstances present during the time that Satan tempted Jesus? Do see any of these present in your life today? How so?
2. What is temptation? How does Satan use these same methods on you?
3. What was the purpose of Jesus being tempted and how did He respond? What are some of your first responses to temptation? How would you like to respond? Could we pray for each of us at the end of the discussion?
4. Did Jesus see the temptations coming? Do you see temptation coming? How?
5. Can you be victorious, as Christ, over Satan? How?
6. What is one of the most important things that you are taking away from this passage about learning to live, love and lead like Jesus?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Father, thank you for giving us each other and for opening your Word to us. We pray that You would help us to follow the example of our Savior and know your Word so well that the evil one would not find an opportune time to be able to tempt us with half-truths. Even when we are weak, we are strong through our God and your Spirit that lives in us.

# Call to Discipleship

*Luke 5:1-11*

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes) Helps** transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

After clearly being shown to be the Messiah, Jesus begins His ministry first by being rejected in His home town and then being accepted by the people of Capernaum. Jesus starts flexing His spiritual muscle and shows He has authority over demons, disease, and to teach. Here in Galilee, far from Jerusalem and the Jewish establishment, is where Jesus first calls disciples to minister to Him. Let's see how they respond.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)** Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. Does Jesus need us? Explain.
2. What boat in your life does Jesus want to get in?
3. What is Jesus asking you to do to launch out into the deep?
4. What is the next level of following Jesus that He challenges you to?
5. Have there been any miracles in your call to service? Would you be comfortable sharing them with us?

**Life Application Question:**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage a disciple?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Praise you Father for calling us to You. We pray that we would be willing to go with You even in deep water where we haven't been successful on our own. We are in awe as we see You work so powerfully in our lives. Use us Jesus to be fishers of men. We want all those around us to know the peace and excitement that comes from salvation in Jesus Christ.

# Sermon on the Mount

## Luke 6:17-26

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Jesus, now with newly called disciples in tow, begins to show both His power and His ministry priorities. We find that to Him spiritual healing is of greater importance than physical healing. Jesus demonstrates this by spending time with those "sinners and tax collectors" in greatest apparent spiritual need. Ironically Israel's spiritual leaders are in as much need because of their rigid focus on external religious practices as shown through their merciless approach to observing the Sabbath. The calling of the disciples peaks with Jesus choosing twelve to be apostles and then His preaching a sermon on the Kingdom of God.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. What method does Jesus use to teach in this passage and how can we use that same method in teaching others today?
2. What is one area of Jesus' teaching that stands out to you the most and why?
3. What are some of the warnings Jesus gives us? How would you communicate them today?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Thank you Jesus for being able to sit at your feet as if we were on that Mount. You live in our heart and only You can open our eyes to true riches. Help us to always realize we are completely broken and only You can fill us to the full. This world is not our home, nor where our riches are. Teach us and mold us to do your will. Help us live, love and lead like You. Amen

# Love and Forgiveness

## Luke 7:36-50

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

In a few words, Luke records the rest of Jesus' sermon and then moves on to Jesus' demonstrating the ministry for his disciples. As the twin miracles of healing and raising the dead indicate, it is a ministry of mercy. Jesus' response to John's disciples also indicates the purpose of his ministry and validates his role as Messiah. Luke then contrasts Jesus' ministry of mercy to the strict rule-keeping legalism of the Pharisees through the story of the woman washing Jesus' feet. Let see what happens.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. Who are the characters in this story? Which one(s) can you relate to most and Why?
2. What have you discovered about faith, love and forgiveness from this passage? What affect will it have on how you are choosing to live your life?
3. How does Jesus respond to our faith and love of him today? Explain.
4. What is one of the most important things that you are taking away from this passage about learning to live, love and lead like Jesus?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Thank you Jesus for the love and compassion you showed while you were here on earth. We know that none of us are capable of repaying the debt, no matter how small. Help us to love as you loved. May we always honor you in how we serve others. Our desire is to be the loving and forgiving people of God as we strive to live, love and lead like our Lord and Savior.

# The Sower

## Luke 8:4-15

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

We are not to be passive participants in God's kingdom, but active participants. When we receive God's truth we become accountable to that truth. In several short episodes Luke illustrates this point. In the parable of the Sower (and that of the lamp) Jesus places a measure of responsibility for growth on those who hear His Word.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. Why did Jesus tell stories?
2. How does the Word/Seed multiply?
3. What are the rocks or thorns in your life that choke the Word?
4. What does this story tell you about telling stories?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

We thank you Father for the power of Your Word. We pray for understanding as we go out to sow Your Word. Prepare us. We know there are obstacles and barriers that the evil one is always out there with. We pray that You would prepare hearts to receive your word so that it can grow deep and strong roots. Yours be the glory and honor, Amen

# Transfiguration

## *Luke 9:28-36*

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes) Helps** transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Throughout chapter eight Luke records a series of stories that give us a variety of clear examples of the type of faith Jesus is looking for in us. These stories teach us that Jesus can be trusted to take care of those who are His. Knowing Jesus empowers us to participate in the Kingdom. This process leads us to experience life as Jesus did, including sufferings.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)** Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. Tell about a time when you had a mountain top experience followed by a valley experience?
2. What was the significance of the Mount of Transfiguration for Jesus? The disciples? For you?
3. What mountains do you have that need to be moved and how can you have faith enough to move them?

**Life Application Question(s)**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Praise you Father that You would love us so much that You would send Your one and only Son to this earth to save us. Help us to keep our eyes on Him and Him alone. There are mighty men of God, but only one is your Son. Only one is worthy. May we listen to only You, as You speak to us through Your Word.

# Cost of Following Jesus

## *Luke 9:57-10:2*

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Luke has recorded the type of faith a disciple must have and the toll it will take on those who truly follow Jesus. Jesus now sets out for Jerusalem to offer himself as king. Accepting this offer demands absolute devotion and we cannot short change the king. Many will reject Jesus outright while others will be more passive in their response. However, both fall short of the devotion Jesus requires. Let's see what Jesus teaches about the cost of following Him.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. What were some of the excuses used in this passage for not following Jesus? What excuses do you find yourself using?
2. What are at the root of these excuses? Why doesn't Jesus accept these excuses?
3. What are some of the potential costs of following Jesus? Is the "cost" the same for everyone? Can you share what some of the costs have been for you?
4. Why should you keep on doing what Jesus asks you to do?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

We love You Lord. Our desire is to put You first in everything. We know that this earth is not our home. There are so many who need to come to know You. Lord, help us to be bold in serving You and not let things get in the way, but to put You first always, no matter the cost.



# Good Samaritan

*Luke 10:25-37*

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes) Helps** transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

After touching on the cost of following Jesus, Luke records that Jesus sent out disciples to seek more followers and announce his message. People who reject the message face severe judgment, while people who accept rejoice over their eternal security. The simplicity of our faith; simple appreciation, simple love, simple understanding, simply following the words of Jesus all stands at odds with the sophisticated Jewish leaders. It is through a simple story that Jesus illustrates the quality of a follower who understands what Jesus' is all about. Let's go to the story of the Good Samaritan.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. What answer do you think the "Teacher of the Law" wanted when he questioned Jesus about how to inherit eternal life?
2. What are some of the attitudes of these characters? Which character best describes your attitude?
3. Why is it so easy to pass the injured man up? How do you hide behind these excuses?
4. Who is your neighbor?
5. Is there any neighbor in your life that needs a Good Samaritan? What steps do you need to take today?
6. Who are the main characters in this story? Which ones can you identify with the most? Why?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Lord, how easy it is for us to try and keep score; wondering if we are doing enough; wondering if others are doing enough. Teach us Lord, to love as You love, live as You lived and lead as you would lead. Help us face every circumstance and season in obedience to the Father just as You were obedient. Strengthen us in your word that our deeds would bring praise ,glory and honor to You alone.

# Jesus on Prayer

## *Luke 11:1-13*

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Being a follower of Jesus seems complex but only because we make it so. Luke concludes Jesus' teaching about love and then moves the story to Jesus teaching on prayer. Prayer allows us to enjoy a deep level of intimacy with God, share in His concerns, and be confident in his willingness to bless us with the good gifts he knows we need.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. Explain each of the requests in The Lord's Prayer.
2. What should you do when you have a need?
3. When you don't get an answer to your prayer, what should you do? What do you do?
4. Why do you suppose the disciples wanted to learn to pray?
5. How does prayer honor God? How does it benefit us?
6. What should our prayer life look like? How could you improve yours? Can we pray for that now?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Let's pray the Lord's Prayer. Luke 11:2-4

“Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. <sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup>Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation”.

# Beware of Greed

*Luke 12:13-21*

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Often we find Jesus pitted in arguments with the religious leaders of the day. As he taught about his Kingdom it really offended a lot of people. While the Pharisees were focused on superficial piety Jesus taught that being obedient to God comes from an inner faith that accepts God on God's terms. Being obedient to God also means that a disciple has the right attitude toward material possessions and their proper place in our life. Let's see what Jesus has to say in this parable regarding greed.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. What were the motives of the man in this parable? Why do you think people store things up today? What are some of their motives? What are some of yours?
2. Do you think it is wrong to save things up for the future? Why?
3. How do you decide when enough is enough?
4. If you were to make a list of what you have versus what you need, how would they be different?
5. When do you think enough is enough?
6. What have you discovered from this passage about your faith?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Heavenly Father, we are so thankful for the relationship we have with You because of our Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for us. That relationship is not obtained by anything that we have done or can do. It is a gift. The gift is grace. We pray Father that we would never gauge our standing with You by what earthly things we can accomplish or accumulate in this life. Our happiness is found in bringing You glory and honor. Our treasure is in heaven.

# No Worries

## Luke 12:22-34

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Last week we reviewed the parable of the rich landowner which Jesus used to teach the disciples about greed. It challenged all of us to think about what things we might be storing up. Immediately after, Luke records what the focus of a disciple should be when it comes to material possessions. Let's see what he teaches us in this story about worry.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. Do you every worry? What kind of things do you worry about?
2. Why do you think we worry? What affect does it have on us?
3. What would you say are God's priorities for your life? How do you pursue those in the face of life's pressures?
4. Do you think God wants us to have a "Don't worry, be happy" attitude. What does that mean for you?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Praise You Father God. Thank you for loving us so much and bringing us into your Kingdom. Help us to keep our eyes focused on You and have that peace that surpasses all understanding knowing You are in control. May your Spirit help us to not be anxious about anything, but to know that there is absolutely nothing that can separate us from the Love of God and your Kingdom.

# What is the Kingdom of God Like?

## Luke 13:18-28

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Last week we saw that as people, we are often lulled into complacency. We live in a world that encourages us to concern ourselves with the temporary problems of today and not eternal realities. This life is nothing but a short preparation for the life to come and we need to be ready to meet our King. We are warned to repent, produce spiritual fruit in our lives, and be ready. Even though the kingdom of God might look insignificant now it is growing stronger with every passing day. Let's hear what Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of God.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. What are some of the things that you have discovered about God from this passage?
2. Does a narrow gate to God's Kingdom mean it is difficult to get in? Why?
3. What does it mean to be "Religious"? Have you ever been religious? How?
4. How does the "First and Last" differ in God's kingdom compared to the world? If you have great wealth, does it hold you back from God's kingdom? Why, why not?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Thank you Father for the picture of what our future looks like with You in your kingdom. We strive to be more like Jesus. To live, love and lead like him. We, Father, at times feel like such a small mustard seed, but our desire is to grow and mature to produce fruit in our walk with You. Teach us; prune us, that we may in all things please you, our Heavenly Father.

# Jesus on Humility

## Luke 14:1-11

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Luke's focus now turns towards God's faithful provision in spite of the rejection that Jesus is facing. Even though Jesus was rejected by the spiritual leaders, both Jew and Gentile, nothing could stop Him from fulfilling His purpose. God has a special regard for the humble especially when contrasted to the heartless prideful ritualism so prevalent in Jesus' time. In today's passage we see the contrast of how God deals with both the humble and the proud.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you disliked or confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. What has this passage revealed to you about "working" on the Sabbath? What about serving on the Sabbath?
2. What is Jesus teach about honor? Have you ever felt dishonored? How?, When?
3. Why is it so difficult to be humble?
4. What is your attitude towards serving the Body at church? How would you feel if you were asked to help clean the building or classrooms?
5. Are you waiting for someone to ask you to serve? Why?
6. What do you think it would be like if every person at Church worshiped the Lord with an offering and volunteered to serve just a few hours a week?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

We are so thankful Father to be invited to sit at your table. Help us as we live our life for You; to show love and humility as your servant and to put our brothers first, before ourselves, so honor may be brought to the One who deserves it all, our Lord Jesus Christ.

# The Great Banquet

## Luke 14:15-24

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Only one short section of scripture separates our last two studies but it serves to explain that God showers us with His gifts according to His great mercy and not our merit. As we look at the passage of the great banquet we see that God will have guests but perhaps not those who thought they would be attending.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. How did the master respond to those that made excuses? How do you normally respond to those that ignore you?
2. How does this passage relate to people accepting Jesus? What are the most common reasons people don't?
3. What does your invitation to accept Jesus sound like? Would you mind sharing it with us?
4. Do you think the man was fair in this passage? Why?
5. Who are the characters in this story? What were some of their attitudes?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

What a Blessing it is to sit at the Lord's banquet table in your kingdom. Help us Father to be prepared, with no excuses. Help us invite everyone that we see and meet from every walk of life to the great banquet. Keep us focused on the responsibility and command to extending the invitations and not be burdened with the results or responses. The responses are for You and You alone. Thank You that you have an invitation for each and every one of us. Amen



# The Cost of Being a Disciple

## Luke 14:25-35

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

The story of the great banquet and this week's passage are intentionally placed adjacent to each other. Luke lays out what God has planned for those that are 100% committed to follow Him, but then pauses to ask us if we are ready to pay the cost of absolute devotion.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. Why does Jesus make being a disciple so difficult? What is the most difficult part for you? Why?
2. How do you reconcile "carrying His heavy cross" with "my burden is light?"
3. Who is the person you love that may keep you from following Jesus?
4. What does it mean to carry your own cross?
5. How do the tower story and the story of the advancing army apply to your life?
6. What is meant by salt? How do you become salty?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Thank you, Father, for your Word that speaks to us. We pray your Spirit would open your Word to us and give us understanding, to know your will for each of us. We pray Father that You would give us maturity to count the cost. We thank You always for our families and friends, Father, but we always want you first in our heart, to serve You faithfully, no matter the cost. We desire to be the salt on this earth that flavors the world with the good news of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

# Parable of Two Prodigals

## Luke 15:1-32

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Reading through passages in the Old Testament, it is obvious that the prophets understood God to be incredibly merciful and abounding in love for His people. In Jesus' time this special relationship had been reduced, for the most part, to an external list of rules that must be kept to be accepted by God. In light of this, Luke records three stories that clearly show that God is still incredibly merciful and willing to accept all those who turn back to Him.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. How much value does God place on one soul? How do we demonstrate the same value?
2. Why should we care about the lost if it's their doing?
3. Have you ever fit the role of being lost and needing someone else to help you?
4. Who are the main characters in this story? Which one can you relate to the most? Why?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Father, we come humbly before You, so thankful that You have blessed us so abundantly in the heavenly realms, even when we don't deserve it. None of us are without sin. Help us to see everyone through Your loving and forgiving eyes. Everyone is precious to You, and You want all to be saved. We have faith and we have hope and love, but help us always to remember that the greatest of these is love.

# The Rich Man and Lazarus

## Luke 16:19-31

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Luke records that God's kingdom is so valuable that it is worth giving up all of our earthy treasures to pursue heavenly rewards. This idea was so foreign to the Pharisees that they despised Jesus for even suggesting it. Jesus then teaches by using another illustration of where the path of materialism will lead them.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. Why is it more difficult for the affluent to accept Christ? How can we be certain we don't fall into these motives?
2. Why is it difficult to share our fortune with the unfortunate? How do you discern when and how to do it?
3. This message seems harsh. How would you, as a disciple of Jesus, teach others about the principles in this passage?
4. What do you think needs to be done to get a message of repentance to our community? In what ways are you participating?
5. What difference could we make as a Life Group? How?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Praise you, Father, for the Love You have for us and the comfort we have because of Jesus. Help us to always remember that it's not what we have or don't have on this earth that matters, but what's in our heart. We pray to be poor in spirit, to know your word and serve You faithfully while it is today.

# 10 Lepers

## Luke 17:11-19

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Luke ends a large section of scripture with several short teaching illustrations given by Jesus. These illustrations served to teach the disciples that they needed to be careful about their spiritual influence on others. It also stressed the importance of simple obedience to God. Now the teaching turns to show the expectations Jesus has for his followers. Let's see how these examples teach us the appropriate responses to God's gracious gifts.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. What were some of the differences between the 9 lepers and the 10th leper?
2. Did all 10 Lepers have faith? How has this passage helped you discover more about your faith?
3. Is it possible to receive God's great gifts without believing in Him? How so?
4. What significance do you think there is in praising God for His gifts to us? How are you affected when you praise Him?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Praise God! We are forever thankful to You Jesus that You have made us clean. We pray that our thoughts and our actions show You our thankfulness, and our thankfulness turns to actions that others would see and give praise and honor to our Heavenly Father.

# Losing Heart

*Luke 18:1-8*

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Part of our preparation for the coming kingdom is the reality of waiting for it. There is an implied delay in this passage which has become all too obvious for us today. It is our task to be persistent in prayer as we wait for our King. Let's hear the encouraging words of Jesus as we wait.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. Why did the Judge grant the widow's plea for justice? What would you have done?
2. Would you describe yourself as persistent? Persistent with God?
3. How about your prayer life? Would describe yourself as a pray once and move on, or, persistent until answered? What would you like to do? How can you do it?
4. How does God intervene with justice in today's world? How does He intervene in your day to day life?
5. Do you think God answers all of our prayers? Has He answered all of yours?
6. Do you think God responds to persistence or pressure from us? Why, or why not?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Help us Father to truly have faith that passes all understanding. To know that You are in complete control, even when we don't see the answers we expect and don't understand the how and why. We praise You and are so thankful to be your children. Your will be done in all things. We pray for your strength to make us strong so we never lose heart.

# Self-Righteousness

*Luke 18:9-17*

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Humility is a very important spiritual attribute in God's eyes. We have touched on its importance several times in Luke and we see it again in this parable. Jesus continues to teach us about the attitudes we should have and maintain as we wait for His return.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. What are some of the attitudes and motives displayed by the two men praying? Can you relate to any of these and why?
2. What are some of the things that God is looking for in our prayers? Are there any changes you would like to make in your prayers in light of this passage? What are they?
3. What is the basic prayer that needs to be made for our redemption?
4. What does it mean to receive God's kingdom as a child? How do you do that? Why is it so hard?
5. What warning does Jesus give in verse 16? Are there any situations that you have witnessed the hindrance of other people? Have you ever been a hindrance yourself? When? How?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Thank you Father for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord, that we can be called children of God. And that's what we are. Help us Lord to remain humble as your children and to never think that it's because of anything we have done or can do. We have everything in Jesus. Jesus paid the same price, at the same time, in the same way for each of us. Not one is greater than the other.

# The Peril of Riches

## Luke 18:18-30

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Humility is a difficult attitude to master. We are all hardwired to think too much of ourselves. This task becomes almost impossible for those who occupy important positions in our culture. Let's see some of the rewards for those who are not mastered by their position in life.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. Is Jesus saying in this passage that the wealthy can't get into heaven? Why, or why not?
2. How would you describe being "wealthy" in today's standards? Would you consider yourself wealthy? Why?
3. How much would you need to be wealthy? What would you do with it if you got it? How has God equipped you for wealth, or has He?
4. What would you do today if you were given a million dollars?
5. How does this passage affect your thoughts about your faith? Can you share some of those thoughts with us?
6. Name one thing you would be willing to sell or give up, if you knew the money could help bring someone to know Jesus? What if your local church was that place?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Give us wisdom Jesus to put You first. We are so thankful and blessed for all that You give to us and for the people in our lives, but we don't want them to be our focus in any way that keeps us from following You as we should. Our treasure is in Heaven. Help us Lord, so that anything here is not a stumbling block, but a tool for your glory.



# Zaccheus-You Matter

## Luke 19:1-10

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

In this section of scripture Luke records that inheriting the Kingdom of God is only possible with our acceptance of Jesus. Jesus was more than willing to heal and, open the eyes, of those who believed in Him. Don't overlook the powerful image of Jesus walking through a crowd of Israelites most needing of His mercy but few responding appropriately. This truth becomes even more evident with a character that is sometimes overlooked in the New Testament. His name is Zaccheus. Let's see what happens.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. Jesus showed favor to Zaccheus who was despised by the people as a tax collector. Who in today's society do you think is despised? Why?
2. What would Jesus want us to do regarding those that are despised? What is it that He could be asking you to do?
3. What were the reactions of the people when they saw Jesus interact with this tax collector? What would happen to you if you interacted with a despised official today?
4. What does this passage teach you about faith? How has it encouraged you? How can you encourage others as a result of this passage?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

We pray Father that as we seek to know Jesus better and to follow Him, that Him, we, like Zaccheus, will realize that we are important and precious to YOU. We want to live a life of love with integrity, putting others first because we have been chosen by YOU. To live, love and lead as our Savior has shown us.

# Stewardship

*Luke 19:11-27*

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Luke connects the story of Zaccheus and the parable of the Ten in the first few verses of chapter 19. The people witnessing these events assumed Jesus was going to set up His kingdom on earth. Jesus tackles this faulty assumption head on in the parable and tells His audience why the kingdom could not yet be inaugurated. Let's see how they react.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. How does this passage influence your thinking about the relationship you have with your employer? How important do you think it is with God? Why?
2. How is loyalty to our employers fit into living a Christ centered life? Explain.
3. What is our part in discovering what investments Jesus wants us to make? What do you think Jesus is calling you to invest in today? What are the risks? Rewards?
4. How does this passage deal with being faithful and unfaithful employees? What are some of the consequences? Do any of these apply today? How?
5. How did the servants respect or admiration for their employer affect their desire to serve him? How does it affect yours? Are you satisfied with your service?
6. What are some of the motives of these servants? What are some of the motives you struggle with when serving your employer?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Lord, thank You for how You have given us abundant resources that are well beyond what each of us deserve and need. Help us bring honor and glory to You by giving back our time, talents and treasures in worship to You.

# Parable of the Vine Growers

## *Luke 20:1-18*

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Luke's gospel now makes its final major movement as Jesus arrives at His destination, Jerusalem. Here He presents himself to Israel as their king and while accepted by the humble He is rejected by-in-large due to the influence of the Pharisees, Israel's spiritual leaders. Our story finds Jesus being challenged with trick questions. He then uses a parable to respond that is directed at the heart condition of Israel's leaders. Let's see what parable Jesus uses next.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. How did Jesus respond to the challenge of his authority? Have you ever had your authority challenged? How do you normally respond? How would like to respond?
2. What did Jesus use to respond to the priests and teachers of the law? Why? How would you?
3. What method do you see Jesus using to teach the people in this passage? Is it possible for us to do the same? How could you teach like Jesus?
4. Who are the main characters in this passage? Which ones can you relate to most and why?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Lord, thank You that you have given us the truth in the Word. Give us the discipline to be in it every day to grow in knowledge, wisdom and stature. Let us learn to live, love and lead like You and help others grow in their relationship with You.

# Religiosity versus Jesus

*Luke 20:19-47*

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Here again Jesus is put to the test with several trick questions. Two attempts are made to try and publically discredit Jesus and, as expected, He fends off both with ease. Jesus then goes on the offensive, challenging the religious leaders and warning His disciples against following their example.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. What thoughts do you have about paying fees, permits and taxes in light of this passage? How has your conversation with others about them reflected on you and your testimony? How have they reflected on Jesus?
2. How does this passage influence your thinking about your personal finances and stewardship of money?
3. What is Jesus saying about the resurrection of believers? How does this encourage you?
4. Explain the difference between the religiosity of the Jewish leaders and the teachings of Jesus.

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Lord, thank you for helping us see our roles as your disciples living in the world but not becoming of the world. Let our love of you be demonstrated as a testimony to others by the way we honor the leaders and laws of our country.

# The Coming of Jesus

## *Luke 21:5-36*

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

The parable of the widow immediately preceding our passage serves to reinforce Jesus' message of the importance of humility. Luke transitions next to what will and must happen to Israel because they rejected their king. This passage serves as a warning for everyone of what must take place in the future and stresses that we, as Jesus' disciples, must stay alert and be aware of the times we are in.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. What is the purpose of these teachings from Jesus about his coming? Do we really need to know? Why? What difference does it make in the end?
2. How will we really know when the time is right for Jesus to return?
3. What did Jesus want us to know from verse 33? Why is that important?
4. How do these passages encourage you, or, make you anxious about the future? Why?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Facilitator Note:** *A reminder that the next passage includes the group sharing in communion together.*

*Take the opportunity to have group members get involved in the process (See the Appendix for the Leaders Guide).*

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Lord, thank You for the assurance that You will never leave us. Thank you for the victory You have secured and promise that we will be victors with You. We ask that You give us strength, perseverance and discernment as we your disciples serve to be your witnesses.

# The Last Supper

## Luke 22:7-22

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Luke begins his count down to the cross with the Jewish leaders, Judas, and Satan all conspiring against Jesus. While this is happening Jesus seems to calmly go about His business of eating the Passover meal and preparing His followers for what will take place in the immediate future. Being rejected as king, He will serve instead as the Passover Lamb.

**Facilitator Note:** *Suggest you discuss the story and leave plenty of time to share in communion together (See Appendix for Leaders Guide).*

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. What does the Lord's Supper mean to you? Why?
2. What was the purpose of the first Lord's Supper? Is it still the same today?
3. Why did Jesus say that He was eager to eat the Passover with the disciples?
4. How should we prepare for the Lord's Supper?
5. Why is the celebration of the Lord's Supper important for us today? How do you feel about having communion in your home with your family?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Father thank you for reminding us of the sacrifice that Jesus endured on the cross for each of us. Help us to live a life that is full of the joy and love that we have received from You. Help us share the gift of grace with others that You have so generously given us.

# The Betrayal

## Luke 22:39-53

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Before Jesus' betrayal, Luke shows us just how much work has to be done with the disciples in the final hours of His ministry. The disciples are absorbed with worldly status and unaware of the scrutiny they are about to come under. After contending with these disciples' attitudes, Jesus, accompanied by the disciples heads for Gethsemane. Here Jesus experiences the ultimate opportunity to submit to the will of His Father.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. What was Jesus praying for? Was the prayer answered? How?
2. Why did Jesus ask the disciples to pray that they would not fall into temptation? What are some of your temptations? Would you like us to pray for you right now?
3. What does this passage reveal about the attitude of Jesus' disciples while Jesus was praying? What affect do these have on you?
4. What were some of the things that Jesus was doing in the midst of this chaos? What does it teach you as one of His disciples?
5. How sincere was the kiss from Judas to Jesus? What were his motives? Are the motives or the things you do always sincere and clear? How so?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Lord, we praise You for your compassion, love and obedience. Fill us with the full measure of that same compassion, love and obedience so that we are able to see and understand the mission that You have given each one of us as your disciples.

# Peter's Denial

## Luke 22:54-71

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

As Jesus is arrested and taken away, Luke pictures Peter following at a distance from the party escorting Jesus. Peter settles in to watch what could loosely be called a trial with Jesus in the courtyard of the High Priest. Luke chooses to focus the story on the interaction between Peter and Jesus as "the rock" breaks apart. This may be a familiar story to you, but let review this passage and then discuss it.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. Why do you think Jesus was transported during the middle of the night?
2. Is there any part of Peter's situation that you can relate to? What part and why?
3. What did you learn from Peter's experience and how can you apply it to your everyday life?
4. Could Peter have avoided his denial? Could you have? Why?
5. Why didn't Jesus just tell the Council that He was the Son of Man? If Jesus didn't, why should we?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Lord, we know that each of us has denied knowing You in so many ways in our lives. Forgive us that we are sheep that are so easily led astray. Help keep us strong and give us the words to shepherd others to build a strong and vibrant relationships with You.



# Crucifixion

## Luke 23

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

There are many perspectives we can view the crucifixion from. On that day some groups were mourning, some rejoicing, others were bewildered by the events of the day. For Jesus it was His darkest hour, and not because of the physical suffering He would endure or rejection by his people, but for the first time, Holy God, would put the full measure of the sin from all of humanity on His one and only Son.

**Facilitator Note:** *Suggest the entire group share in telling the story. Approx. 6-7 verses each.*

**Tell the Story: (10-12 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (9-10 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. Can mass chaos and rioting influence leaders' decisions? How? Does that happen today? What is your role in this as a Christian?
2. What do you think were some of reasons Pilate finally relented to the crowd? Can you share a time you have relented for some of the same reasons?
3. What was the contrast between the two criminals hanging on the cross next to Jesus? How is your faith affected by their responses and the response of Jesus?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Lord, thank you for this passage and the love that it teaches that is beyond what we can possible imagine. Thank you for the forgiveness of sins and the reminder that we should forgive others out of the love You have selflessly given to us.

# Empty Tomb

*Luke 24:1-35*

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

If the crucifixion is Jesus' darkest hour, then the resurrection is His finest moment. Luke records several events unfolding in the days after the cross which all serve to inform the disbelieving disciples that Jesus has risen just as He said He would.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. Why didn't the Apostles believe the women's story? Would you have? Do people believe you when you tell them about Jesus? How do you explain to others that He is alive?
2. Why is the resurrection so important?
3. Why do you think Jesus spent the time explaining what the scriptures said about Him to the men walking to Emmaus? What does this teach you as a disciple?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Lord, thank you for the understanding that You are the great "I AM". You were, You are, and You always will be the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords. Praise be to you, that You are alive and living in each one of us by the Holy Spirit.

# Jesus Appears

## Luke 24:36-50

**Review Last Week's Story: (2-3 Minutes)** Helps transition the group into scripture.

1. What was one thing you remember about last week's story?
2. What comments were particularly meaningful to you?

**Transition to this Week's Story: (2 Minutes)**

Jesus first appears to women, then to several disciples, and finally to the eleven apostles. His appearance is received with great joy by the apostles. Hindsight always brings clarity to confusing situations in life. The apostles, looking back on the crucifixion and resurrection are now able to fully understand Jesus' teachings. Jesus takes full advantage of this teachable moment in their lives as He continues instructing them.

**Tell the Story: (3-4 Minutes)**

*Tell the story:* as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story.

**Rebuild: (5-6 Minutes)**

Chronologically rebuild the story asking questions. If necessary, have the group look for what may have been added or left out. Stay focused on the main characters, locations and events.

**Basic Questions:**

1. What is one thing that struck you or was new to you from this passage?
2. Is there anything you dislike or that confuses you about this passage? Please explain.
3. What does this passage teach you about God?(Jesus, Holy Spirit)
4. What does this passage teach you about people?

**Other Application Questions:**

1. Why did Jesus take the time to reappear to the various individuals and groups after His resurrection? Does He still do it today?
2. What effect did His resurrected appearances have on those who witnessed them?
3. How do these accounts affect you as you hear about them?
4. How did Jesus prove He was not a ghost? How does He do that today?
5. What hope do we have regarding a new body?
6. What affect does this passage have on your faith?

**Life Application Question(s):**

1. How is God asking you, us, to respond to this passage as disciples?
2. What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?

**Prayer Thoughts:**

Lord, praise be to You that death could not hold You and You have conquered death and risen. We put our hope in you and your promise of eternal life as your disciples that believe and accept You as the only true Son of God.

# Year End Review Leaders Guide

## Purpose:

To help group members recognize the personal growth they have experienced in their relationship with Christ and with each other as a group.

## Facilitators Notes/Suggestions

- You might hand out the following questions the prior week so group members can come better prepared to share their answers.

## Discussion Questions:

### The Book of Luke Review

1. What story stands out most in your mind/ Why?
2. What is the most important practical lesson that you have learned from the book of Luke?
3. What challenges do you have regarding the change in your life because of this study?
4. If you were Luke, knowing what you know now, how would you write these stories?
5. What is different about Luke versus all other writers of Bible books?
6. How is Luke's testimony vital for today's world?
7. What book is the continuation of this story?
8. How do these two books relate to each other?

### Life Group Experiences Review

1. What is one way you have been surprised about your Life Group experience this past year?
2. What is one way you have personally grown this past year as a result of our Life Group?
3. What have been your biggest challenges this past year and what influence has our Life Group had on it for you?
4. What things have you appreciated most about being together this past year?
5. How would you describe a Life Group to someone who has never experienced it before?
6. Is there any group member's contribution that has been particularly meaningful to you? Who, What and Why?
7. What are some of the ways you would like to grow this coming year? Why?
8. Who do you know that we could be praying for this year to join us or another Life Group?
9. What would you like to see our Life Group become this coming year? Why?

## Prayer Thoughts:

- You can ask a group member to begin accumulating both individual and group prayer requests from the discussion.
- You can pray as each request surfaces from the discussion time.
- Prayers can be written down and sent out later to remind each member of what they are committing to individually and to the group.
- Pray for the leadership of your Life Group, and the development of new leaders to branch and fill the needs of our growing biblical community.

## We are thankful for...

- The instruction book that God has written for us for life.
- The personal and loving relationship He has pursued with each of us through Jesus.
- The personal relationships we have developed together as a Life Group.
- The prayers and encouragement that has been so meaningful this past year.
- You fill in the rest!

## **Appendix**

# Life Group Leader's Guide

## Communion

### *Tips, Suggestions and References*

#### What we believe

- Communion (or the Lord's Super) is an *expression* of our faith in Jesus Christ, as our Lord and Savior. We believe it is a *symbol* of Jesus Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross and is to be done in *remembrance* of Him. The key is found in the phrase: "do this in remembrance of Me" (Lk.22:19; 1 Cor.11:24-25).

#### Why do we value the Lord's Supper?

- The Lord Jesus placed a supreme value upon it (Matt 26:26-29, Mk. 14:22-25, Lk. 22:17-20)
- The Early church highly regarded it (Acts 2:42,46; 20:7, 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

#### What is the meaning of the Lord's Supper?

- A special time of remembering what Jesus has done for us. It is His body and blood which are remembered in the Lord's Supper.
  - Remember the Past: What He did on the cross.
  - Remember the Present: Our current relationship with Him.(1 Cor. 10:16-17)
  - Remember the Future: His promised return.(Lk.22:16)
- A time of thanksgiving (The Lord Jesus took the bread, and "having given thanks, He broke it...")
- A time of fellowship with other believers. Reminder of the unity we have in Jesus Christ.

#### Who should take part in the Lord's Supper?

- Assembled believers in Jesus Christ (Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 11:27-32)
- It is to believers whose hearts are prepared before the Lord (1 Cor. 11:20-22, 27)
- Ask yourself:
  - Is there any unconfessed sin in my life?
  - Do I need to restore any broken relationships in my life?
  - Do I need to recommit myself to the Lord?

#### Resources:

- Bread (A form of flat cracker by its nature represents the sinless body of Christ)
- Cup (Grape juice)
  - Special cups are not required. Any variety or size of cups can be used. Small 1 ½ oz. cups can be purchased at many local stores: Dollar Store, Christian Book Stores, etc.

#### General Group Flow

- Open with a short devotional.
  - The What and Why of Communion, or,
  - Passages leading up to the Last Super.
- Prayer of Thanksgiving for the bread.
- Read the Scripture verse
  - Take the bread together.
- Prayer of Thanksgiving for the cup.
- Read the Scripture verse
  - Take the cup together.
- Close in Prayer