



THE BOOK OF
LUKE

LIFE GROUP GUIDE: UNIT 5

September-October 2024

Luke 12:49-59 | September 1, 2024

It is passages like these that can catch many people off-guard because they deal specifically with Jesus bringing division, fire, judgment, and a multitude of things that the world attempts to disassociate with Jesus.

Read Luke 12:49-50, Matthew 3:11-12 and Malachi 3:2-3

Jesus says He came to "cast fire on the earth." What do you think He meant by this? How does this statement challenge your understanding of His mission?

Jesus speaks of a "baptism" He must undergo and the distress it brings Him. What is this baptism, and how does it relate to His saving work on the cross?

Read Luke 12:51-53, Matthew 10:34-36, and Micah 7:6

What then, is Jesus going to bring division to? What is it that he is dividing, and what does this tell us about Jesus' mission?

Read Luke 12:54-58

Why does Jesus rebuke the crowd for understanding the weather but not the present time? What does this say about spiritual discernment?

In the legal setting, if you did not have a strong defense, it is in your best interest to settle the matter outside the courts before your case stands trial. For the sinner, there is an option to settle the offense before we stand trial at the end of our lives. Jesus urges reconciliation before judgment. How does this teaching apply to personal relationships and our relationship with God?

What does Jesus mean when He says you will not get out until you have paid the last penny? How does this relate to the urgency of addressing sin and conflicts? And how is it that we can pay the full amount of our offense?

Key Takeaways:

- Jesus is the instrument of the Father's judgment upon the world. He is here to rightfully judge and, in doing so, divide those of which have come to faith in him and received the gift of eternal life from those who reject him. There is time for the sinner to come to faith before they stand trial on the day of Judgment.

Prayer Prompt:

- Pray that the Lord would make it clear to you the times that we are in. Thank Him for providing a way to reconcile our offense against him now, while you still have breath in your lungs.

Luke 13:10-21 | September 8, 2024

Jesus is the one who came to fulfill all the law, not abolish it, and certainly not to violate it. What he does in our passage reminds us that the scribes and pharisees misunderstood the purpose of the Sabbath. Not only do we find that Jesus gives us the true purpose of the Sabbath, but he proves to be compassionate to those in need.

Read Luke 13:10-17

Why do you think Jesus chose to heal the crippled woman on the Sabbath, despite knowing it would provoke controversy? What message is Jesus communicating?

Read Exodus 20:8-11, Exodus 31:13-17, and Mark 2:28

How do you respond to the synagogue leader's indignation at Jesus healing on the Sabbath? Why would the leader hold such a strong conviction?

In what ways does Jesus expose the hypocrisy of the religious leaders? How can we guard against hypocrisy in our own lives?

Read Luke 13:18-21

How does the parable of the mustard seed describe the nature of God's kingdom? What does this teach us about the seemingly small beginnings and eventual growth of God's work?

In what ways does the parable of the yeast illustrate the transformative power of the Kingdom of God? How can we see this principle at work in our own walk with the Lord?

Key Takeaways:

- The Lord Jesus is the Son of Man, he holds all authority over creation and has authority over the Sabbath. In no way does he violate the law by healing on the Sabbath, but he rather demonstrates his compassion toward the disabled woman.
- The ruler doesn't realize that watering his animals and tending to their needs is in fact work, yet he is indignant toward healing a person in need. To make things worse, the woman is identified to be a member of God's covenant community and the leader gives not regard toward even his own people.

Prayer Prompts:

- Ask the Lord to not allow someone in need to feel like a burden or inconvenience to you. Pray that any sense of hypocrisy would be exposed in your heart so that you become less concerned with checking religious deeds off the box and more concerned with lovingly serving God's people and those in need.

Luke 13:22-35 | September 15, 2024

Jesus is nearing the end of his public ministry, where much of what he was doing was miraculous healings, teaching to the masses, and drawing out the message of the kingdom of God. In the middle of all of this, he is making it abundantly clear that this is not a social gospel, this isn't an alternative way of life. He is proclaiming there is the only way to salvation, and it is urgent, and it is exclusive to those who put their faith in him.

Read Luke 13:22-24 and Matthew 7:13-14

What does Jesus mean when He says, "Strive to enter through the narrow door?" What makes this door so narrow? Does the modern church treat it as a narrow door?

Read verses 25-28

In verse 24, we saw that there will be those who seek to enter but cannot. Considering the following verses, why would they not be able to enter?

What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and having genuine faith in Jesus?

What does this passage tell us about the population of hell versus the population of heaven?

Considering verses 29-30, how are we to see God's plan in world missions?

Read verses 31-35. We read that Jesus would have been willing and able to gather his people up and save them if they would not have turned against the prophets. Because of their hardness of heart, they are forsaken. Why was this a reality that would cause Christ to lament?

Key Takeaways:

- God's judgement will fall on all who do not come to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus. Even those who are within Israel, God's judgement spans across all who do not believe in the Son of God. This is why the door is narrow. Only through Christ will God save his people from their sin.
- Jesus' public ministry was primarily about the Good News of the kingdom of God and secondarily about the miraculous healings and miracles.

Prayer Prompt:

- Seek the Lord's wisdom regarding his kingdom. Pray for a heart that has compassion for those in this world, yet an urgency for bringing the Good News of the kingdom of God to their lives. Ask for boldness to share the Gospel without hesitation and with clear articulation as it is given to us in the scriptures.

Luke 14:1-24 | September 22, 2024

We find Jesus healing someone on the Sabbath, seemingly in defiance of the religious elite. Then he draws the attention of the crowd to parables, yet again, that speak toward the kingdom of God.

Read verses 7-11 and Proverbs 25:6-7

In the parable of the wedding feast, Jesus advises taking the lowest place at the table. What does this teach us about humility and pride in the kingdom of God?

Why does Jesus choose to share this parable with the audience that was with him?

Read Luke 14:12-24

Why does Jesus encourage inviting those who cannot repay when hosting a meal?

What are the excuses given by those invited to the banquet, and how do these reflect common attitudes towards God's call to salvation? How can we ensure that our priorities align with God's?

What does Jesus mean when He says that none of those who were invited will taste the banquet? How does this warning apply to us today in terms of responding to God's call?

Jesus is sharing a parable, where he is making the kingdom of God known in language that is understood. What does this parable tell us about the kingdom of God? What does it tell us about the nature of God? What does it tell us about God's plan of salvation?

Key Takeaways:

- Jesus emphatically teaches that those who are great in the kingdom of God are the least in the kingdom of God. If you want to be great, you must be humbled.
- God's redemptive plan will be for all who come to the invitation of the Holy Spirit to have faith in Christ. There are many who will be invited, but not all will attend the banquet.

Prayer Prompt:

- Pray that you would respond to the call of the Lord Jesus in your life. That you would not look for excuses to not obey him. Spend some time thinking of the amazing grace that God has extended your way by offering salvation to you. Pray for boldness in your faith and for distraction free obedience in your life.

Luke 14:25-35 | September 29, 2024

While salvation costs us nothing, following Jesus costs us everything. This is a part of Christian discipleship that is often avoided. Why does it cost us something to follow Jesus? How can we view “costly” discipleship not to work our way to heaven, but as a response to salvation being freely given?

Read Luke 14:25-26 and John 12:25

Jesus says that anyone who wants to be His disciple must “hate” their family and even their own life. What do you think Jesus means by this?

Read Luke 14:27-33, Galatians 2:20, Philippians 3:7-8

What does it mean to “carry your cross” as a follower of Jesus?

Why does Jesus emphasize the importance of counting the cost before deciding to follow Him? How can we count the cost in our own decision to be His disciple?

How does the parable of the king going to war illustrate the need for counting the cost?

Jesus says that anyone who does not give up everything they have cannot be His disciple. What does it mean to “give up everything” for Christ? How can we live this out practically?

Read Luke 14:34-35

What does Jesus mean when He says that salt that loses its saltiness is no longer good for anything? How can we ensure we retain our saltiness in the world?

Key Takeaways:

- Jesus emphasizes that following Him requires a total commitment that supersedes all other loyalties in life. He uses strong language, such as “hate” your family and even your own life, to illustrate that a disciple must prioritize Him above all else.
- Just as salt is valuable for its flavor and preserving qualities, disciples are meant to be a physical demonstration of the love of Christ on this earth. However, if salt loses its saltiness, it becomes worthless and is discarded. In the same way, if disciples lose their distinctiveness or commitment, they lose their ability to be ambassadors for Christ on earth.

Prayer Prompt:

- Take a moment and consider the cost of following Christ. Spend some time reflecting on the cost that Jesus paid to ensure your salvation. Ask the Lord to create in you a joyful passion to follow him because of the incredible debt he paid on the cross for your sins.

Luke 15:1-32 | October 6, 2024

Our passage for today has multiple parables that all have to do with redemption. More specifically, redemption of precious items that were once lost.

Read Luke 15:1-10, Ezekiel 34:11-16

In the Parable of the Lost Sheep, why does the shepherd leave the ninety-nine sheep to go after the one that is lost? What does this teach us about the value God places on each of his sheep?

Both the parable of the lost sheep and the parable of the lost coin highlight the joy in heaven over one sinner who repents. Read 2 Peter 3:9 and Acts 3:19. Why is repentance such a joyous event in heaven?

In the parable of the lost coin, the woman searches diligently until she finds the lost coin. What does this teach us about God's character and His pursuit of those who are lost?

Read Luke 15:11-32

What are the key elements of the younger son's repentance in the parable of the prodigal son? How does his journey back to his father illustrate true repentance?

How does the father's response to the prodigal son's return illustrate God's attitude towards repentant sinners? What does this teach us about God's grace?

Why is the elder brother angry, and how does his reaction contrast with the father's? What does this tell us about self-righteousness and the importance of rejoicing over the repentance of others?

Key Takeaways:

- The parables emphasize the joy and celebration in heaven over one sinner who repents, highlighting that God actively seeks out and rejoices over those who come to faith in Him through repentance.
- Legalism and self-righteousness will see sinners who repent and scoff at the lack of justice against their sins committed. They do not understand grace, and they certainly do not understand God and his ability to save sinners by His grace alone.

Prayer Prompt:

- Rejoice in the Lord for the grace he has given to you. Spend some time thanking the Lord for setting you free from the bondage of sin (specific sins). Bring to him any sin you are struggling with and know that he is a gracious God who is quick to forgive. Pray for ongoing repentance and genuine faith for your days ahead.