

Lesson Two

Amazed by Hope

~ Luke chapters 3:1 ~ 6:16

Lesson 2 of 8

Through the Gospel of Luke

La Mirada Christian Church

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Podcast of Lessons available at www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com

Small Group Discussion Time

Review of Lesson One: Luke 1:1-2:52

Group Guidelines

- ♥ We come from varying faith backgrounds, so please be thoughtful of denominational and religious differences.
- 📖 God's Word is our standard. We'll use the Bible - not personal opinion, popular teachers, or church tradition - as our guide for everything.
- 👉 We're all learning. Be gracious and patient with yourself and with others. No one has it all figured out.
- 🗣️ You don't have to share, but if you did the reading and the study this week, why not chime in? We all benefit from one another's thoughts and even questions. I bet you have something great to share! 😊
- 👂 Didn't finish the study this week? That's ok. Life gets busy. You're here! Yay you! This will be a good week for you to listen and perhaps jot down answers as others share.
- ⌚ Be considerate of your "slice of the pie" and how much time you are taking to talk. Share your thoughts, and allow time for others to do the same.
- 🕒 Keep an eye on the clock so you can return to our teaching session on time.
(7:40pm for the evening group or 10:40am for the morning group)

1. Open in Prayer
2. Welcome new members 😊 *We're Glad You're Here!*
3. Circulate the Attendance Page & Prayer Journal
4. Review and Discuss Luke 1:1-2:52

To discuss and review...Do as many as time allows.

Discussion questions are marked with "****" throughout the lesson. (See note on page 2 in the introduction pages.)

- 1) Share your paraphrase of the opening of Luke's gospel and the closing of John's (pg 13)
- 2) What images came to mind from Luke 1:6-7? What distinctives do you see? (pg. 16)
- 3) What do you think Zechariah had been praying for? (pg. 18)
- 4) What does Jeremiah 17:10 say to you about God's power and prerogative? How do you feel about that? (pg. 19)
- 5) Optional sharing (pg. 21)
- 6) How often should praise be at our lips? Is that easy for you or hard? Why? (pg. 23)
- 7) What "mighty deeds" did you list from Mary's praise? (pg. 24)
- 8) It was wonderful for me (Jennifer speaking) to receive so many texts in response to the prompt on page 29.
Thank you for connecting with me in that way! I found myself blessed and uplifted as your verses came through.
Share your verse with the group now...and make sure everyone has one another's cell phones so you all can text each other also!
- 9) How does the peace that Jesus brings differ from the world's "peace?" (pg. 32)
- 10) Why is it important that God's Son kept the Law? (pg. 35)
- 11) For what should the righteous pray? (pg. 37)
- 12) How does Proverbs 3:1-6 draw us to imitate Jesus? (pg. 40)

General questions:

- What was the most eye-opening portion of this past study?
- Share and mark a success you had this past couple weeks:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ I completed every single day!○ I'm actually understanding the Bible better!○ I memorized a verse!○ I didn't compare my progress with anyone! | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ I had a spiritual ah-ha moment!○ I made more time than usual for my study○ I remembered to bring in my tote bag to the grocery store! Woot!! |
|---|--|

Teaching Notes - Review of Lesson One

Luke chapters 1-2
Hope Breaks Through

Listen and follow along at www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com

"Luke Lesson One (Feb. 14)"

Get the Podbean App on your phone or go directly to the Podbean website

What does "Hope in the Lord" mean to you?

Who are you like today?

Like L _____

Like T _____

Like Z _____

Like E _____

Like M _____

Like the S _____

Like S _____

Like A _____

God might be s _____ but God is not a _____

Hope does b _____ t _____

Might not be _____

Setting the Stage....

The Prophet M _____ – Israel is...

- in the land of P _____
- after the B _____ captivity
 - Persia and the Medio-Persian empire
- In Jerusalem, the T _____ had been r _____
 - smaller than the one that S _____
 - carrying the L _____ of M _____
 - line of descendency traced back to A _____
- No k _____ on the throne of I _____

Open the New Testament

- R _____ is _____
- Power has s _____
- King on the throne – But...
 - king is the descendant of E _____ instead of J _____
 - H _____ the G _____
 - high priests no longer from the line of A _____

People of Israel in _____ major parties:

- E _____
 - hardly _____
John the Baptist _____

400 S _____ Y _____

"When the time had f _____ c _____,
God sent forth his S _____,
born of w _____,
born under the l _____." (Galatians 4:4)

- B _____ had been the major world power
- Then the M _____ -P _____ empire
- Shift is prophesied by D _____
- Philip of M _____
- A _____ the G _____
 - high priest J _____ (the book of Nehemiah)
- Empire Divided
- A split into two major parties:
 - P _____

 - S _____

As the Lord Jesus himself said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall never pass away."

— Day One —

Read and take notes through Luke 3:1-4:44

Please note: Day Two of this lesson is a bit longer than the other days.

You might want to begin after you do your Active Reading today.

... Open with Prayer ...

Go to the “ACTS Prayer” page if you need to review a helpful pattern of prayer

Write your prayer here:

IMPORTANT: Before you begin this lesson, please take a moment to review your notes from the introduction lesson I gave “How to Read Your Bible.” If you missed that lesson, it was recorded and is available to listen to at www.dwellingrichly.podbean.com. You can listen and take notes. The notes outline is provided on page 10 or you can download the outline on the Women’s Ministry Bible study page at www.lamiradachurch.com. Also, questions in this study are best answered using the English Standard Version of the Bible.

... Active Reading — Luke 3:1-4:44 ...

Read this passage and take notes in your journal or pages inserted here using the “Active Reading” example at the beginning of the study. As you do your Active Reading days throughout this lesson, make special note of the occurrence of any forms of the following words:

- | | | |
|---------------|----------|--------------|
| ✓ Holy Spirit | ✓ marvel | ✓ astonished |
| ✓ immediately | ✓ amaze | ✓ awe |



BIBLE STUDY TIP – Use colored pencils to mark key ideas in your Bible. Here’s what I use:

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| BROWN | – People |
| Dk BLUE | – <u>God</u> or points to God |
| Lt BLUE | – <u>Holy Spirit</u> or points to HS |
| RED | – <u>Jesus†</u> or points to Jesus |
| GREEN | – Places |
| YELLOW | – Key Verse |
| ORANGE | – Prophecy/Old Testament in the New |
| PINK | – Prayer/Praise/Pleading |

Sometimes a Key Verse has people, places, God, etc. in it, so I draw a box around it in YELLOW then underline the key ideas within the verse. Give it a try!

— Day Two —

Luke 3:1-20

... Open with Prayer ...

As always, begin your study time with prayer. Go to the "ACTS Prayer" page if you need to review a helpful pattern of prayer.

→ Read Luke 3:1-20 before beginning today's study.

Read Luke 3:1-2

For all the bold break-throughs we read about in Luke chapters one and two – birth announcements and births, angels bursting through the rooms and the skies, shepherds bounding for Bethlehem - we move now to a hopeful anticipation. It's been about 30 years since John and Jesus were born. It's been 30 years of waiting and training and "increasing in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man." (Luke 2:52)

1. In these opening two verses, on what does Luke focus to help paint the scene so his readers have a sense of what's going on?

2. List the names and their corresponding places here:

NAMES

PLACES

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

- Circle or highlight the two names that were the current the religious leaders.
- *Make note of these names! They'll come up again later in the Gospel and in this Lesson on Day Ten – so be sure to take good notes.*
- *From your Active Reading you know already that today's passage begins and ends with the mention of a notoriously evil ruler. Who? _____*

Read Luke 3:3

3. What kind of baptism did John preach? _____
4. For what purpose was this baptism? _____ of _____

Write the definition of: (use a Bible Dictionary – online or from your Bible reference section)

- Baptism –
- Repentance –
- Forgiveness –
- Sins –

Something to think about... How did we get the Bible? Why are certain writings considered God's Word and others are not included? There are many ways that Scripture has been evaluated to be included in the Bible. One of those ways is if that document refers back to the Old Testament. What Christians refer to as the "Old Testament" was the Bible of the Jews. It was originally written in Hebrew.

In the 3rd century BC it was translated from Hebrew into Greek and referred to as “the Septuagint” (meaning 70 because there were about 70 translators.) The next several verses are a direct quote from the Old Testament by Luke and substantiate why Luke is included in the canon of Scriptures (the Bible.)

Read Luke 3:4-6

5. From which Old Testament book is this passage quoted? _____
Use the cross reference (the tiny superscript ^b letters) to help you go back and mark the verses in Isaiah. Here’s another chance to use your colored pencils!
6. Luke uses the prophecy from Isaiah to announce that John the Baptist was doing what?
|
7. Who, according to verse six, shall see the salvation of God? _____
Flesh, humanity, people...everyone. Everyone will see the salvation of God.
➤ Will everyone receive the salvation of God? _____ Why or why not? Explain and support with Scripture if possible:
|
8. This prophecy points to the salvation coming through whom? (hint, go back to the end of vs. 4)

When I was in 9th grade, my mom taught algebra and Spanish at our high school. Yep. I had my own mom as a teacher. While most kids would probably have hated that, I loved it. My mom was (and is) a fabulous teacher - probably top five among all the teachers I’ve ever had. Having my mom as a teacher brought advantages like getting perfect help on homework questions and having a spot to crash in between classes if hanging with friends was “grody to the max” (yes, I was a teen in the 80’s).

I wasn’t the only one who thought she was fabulous, everyone loved Mrs. Garrett. She was tough but compassionate. She had high expectations, but she helped you achieve your best. She made everyone strive for more and we all really did. She was wonderful. In fact, that was her nickname: “Mrs. Wonderful.”

But having my mom as my teacher didn’t mean an automatic “A” for me. I had my own studies to do. I couldn’t ride on her coattails, and I unfortunately did not even inherit her amazing capacity for mathematical thinking. Ugh. Algebra. So, when test time came, guess what? I had to study and study hard. Just because Mom was my teacher didn’t mean I’d be getting any favors. I still had to do the actual work it took to learn and pass those tests.

Listen as John speaks (read: yells) when people come out to hear him. Remember, where he was speaking (refer to your notes) and who these folks were who were coming out to hear him.

Read Luke 3:7-10

9. ***Does any part of this scene strike you as funny or shocking or odd? Take a moment to grasp and imagine the scenario. What’s the emotional tone of the scene? What’s the look on John’s face? On the people’s faces? Who is coming to whom...for what reason...how are they received? Jot some thoughts here and be prepared to share:
|
10. Like me not relying on my mom’s brains or even her role as my own teacher, John warns the people who come to him of what?
|
Have you ever worked with a boss’s son? Maybe the niece of the CEO? Perhaps you can imagine the strong warning then that John has for these folks.
11. John calls them what _____ (animal)? List some characteristics of the animal and what emotion they generally strike (pardon the pun) in people:
|
12. Specifically, what does he warn them to do and not to “even think” of doing in verse 8?
|

13. What happens to trees that don't produce fruit?

14. Paraphrase verses 8-9

Read Luke 3:10-14

15. ***Three specific groups of people are mentioned in these verses. List the group and what they each asked:

GROUP and their relative Social Standing	WHAT THEY ASKED	WHAT JOHN the BAPTIST TOLD THEM TO DO	***WHY DO YOU THINK JtB TOLD THEM THIS SPECIFIC THING TO DO? <i>Consider any back-story that this implies. No right or wrong answer here. Just try to think about what was going on socially, politically, and religiously at the time.</i>

Read Luke 3:15-17

➤ **Note** Luke's word choice at the beginning of verse 15 "As the people were in expectation..." Again, as I've asked before in the previous lesson, make a note of Luke's wording and how it connects their internal thought process to what John says in verse 16. This will come up again in Luke's gospel. We'll have several "ah-ha" moments as these scenes add up to the culmination of Jesus' life in chapter 24.

16. What comparison to Jesus does John make in verse 16?

➤ I baptize with _____

The crowds were wondering if John was the "Christ" (or "Messiah" - depending on your translation – Christ is simply the Greek translation for the Hebrew word *mashiach* or "messiah.")

John said he would:

➤ Baptize with the _____ and with _____

➤ Jesus baptism will indeed be with fire...a good fire and a horrible fire.

Read Acts 2:1-4 ...Which fire is this? _____

Read Revelation 21:8....Which fire is this? _____

17. John further clarifies two ways in which he was not the Messiah by saying what in verse 16:

1. _____

2. _____

18. Do an image search (online, in your bible dictionary, or an encyclopedia) for a "winnowing fork."

Seeing the image, describe what Jesus is coming to do?

Hey, all you Artistic folks: Why not draw a little sketch of this verse to help you remember it.

Non-Artistic folks: You do a drawing too. C'mon. It'll be fun! ☺

Now both of you take a picture of your amazing or hysterical drawing and send it to me! 567-755-4964.

Read Luke 3:18-20

19. Summarize what happens to John here:

John did what? _____

To whom? _____

In what way? _____

...And he was blessed with wealth and the best tunics and highest quality sandals and a new camel? Choose

One: ___ Yep. ___ Um, no.

Well, what does happen to John? _____

Why does Herod do this? (vs 19) _____

***So, John preaches the good news – the BEST NEWS – and he gets put in jail? Offer your thoughts on this. Use Scripture to support your view and be prepared to share with your group.

... Closing ...

A woman shouts up to heaven, "God? If you're up there, tell me what I should do!"

"Feed the hungry, share your goods, be fair and just!"

She looks around, a bit shocked... "Just testing!" she says.

"Me too," Replies God.

Imagine you have gone out to see this John the Baptist. You hear his message of repentance and baptism. You hear his responses to how God wants us to live. Are you feeling resistant or are you fully willing today, my friend? Is there any part of you unwilling to totally follow the call of the one "crying in the wilderness"? Take a moment to pray and surrender fully to God's call and answer His test.

~ Day Three ~

Luke 3:21-38

The Fulfillment of All Hopes — yes, all of them.

... Open with Prayer ...

Pray for wisdom to understand God's Word today. Pray also for the others doing their study, that God would move in their heart and mind to understand deeply what His Word means:

Our reading today will focus two sections: a dramatic event that you'll be able to picture - even hear and smell - as you imagine the the crowds, the water, the voice of God; and a historical record that you might find less visually accessible but which spans all of history and reminds us that God's plan for redeeming all people began at the Garden.

Read Luke 3:21-22, Mark 1:9-11, Matthew 3:13-17, and John 1:29-34

Luke backs up in the timeline of John the Baptist's life by including the baptism of Jesus. We left off in verse 20 with John locked up by the evil and vindictive Herod. Did John escape and go off to baptize Jesus? No. Luke simply wrote out of chronology. As noted in the introduction to this study, the Gospel of Luke is one of four gospels. Written by a follower of Christ, each gospel records details of His life and ministry.

1. Compare the four accounts of Jesus' baptism:

	MATTHEW ____:____-____	MARK ____:____-____	LUKE 3:1-22	JOHN ____:____-____
Where?				
Who is there?				
What happens before the baptism?				
What does John say?				
What does Jesus say?				
	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN

What does God say?				
What happens at the baptism?				
What happens after the baptism?				
Interesting details?				

2. Luke is the only one of the gospel writers to note what Jesus was doing when the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Him. What was Jesus doing?

(Hint: 3:21) _____

Luke places special emphasis throughout his gospel on the prayers of Jesus. This is the first of eleven prayers of Jesus or time He prayed recorded. Use your colored pencil to make a note of this first prayer of Jesus and mark it to help you find each one later on.

3. ***Why do you think Luke places a special significance on Jesus being in prayer during the baptism?

|

4. "Like a dove"... Did the Holy Spirit take the **form** of a dove or was His appearance **like** a dove?

|

Go back through chapters one and two and mark any references to the Holy Spirit. How many did you find?

In regards to the people who encountered the Holy Spirit:


Gabriel prophesied that John would be: _____

Gabriel prophesied that Mary would be: _____

Elizabeth, when she heard Mary's greeting: _____

Zechariah at John's birth was: _____

Simeon: _____

 → Keep noting as you read and study through Luke's gospel when the Holy Spirit is mentioned.

5. ***How is God revealed at the baptism of Jesus?

Who is seen as a person - _____

Who is seen as an image - _____

Who is heard speaking - _____

* What does this reveal to us about the nature of God?

|

Read Luke 3:23

6. How old was Jesus when He began His ministry? _____ If you can, list any other men of faith mentioned in the Bible that also began their ministry at 30:

(Hint: there are at least two and one is listed in Jesus' genealogy)

Be sure to share your answer here at our next study time. Ask me for the answer if you get stumped!

Read Leviticus 4:3 – at age 30, what are men allowed/expected to do?

Why do you think Luke includes the parenthetical phrase: “(as was supposed)” or “so it was thought”?

NOTE: Your translation might not have the parenthesis, but commas instead. Remember, I'm using the ESV translation for this Bible study.

What potential objection to the birth heritage of Jesus might Luke be trying to address?

Read Romans 5:19

7. What did Adam's disobedience cause? _____
8. What did Jesus' obedience cause? _____

Read Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38

Highlight any names the two genealogies have in common.

9. Matthew's genealogy traces back to whom? _____
 - Why might this be significant? (Think of who Abraham was, his role in the line of Christ, who his descendants were, etc.) What point do you think Matthew was making to his readers?

Luke's genealogy traces back to whom? _____

- Why might this be significant? (Think of who Adam was, his role in the line of Christ, who his descendants were, etc.) What point do you think Luke was making to his readers?

...In Closing...

In Psalm 139 it says that “all the days ordained for me were written in His book before one of them came to be.” In Philippians 4 it says that fellow workers in the gospel have their names recorded in “the book of life.” Psalm 69 asks that God not record the wicked along with the righteous in the “book of the living.” There are references throughout the Old and New Testament to the reality that God takes note and records the names of those who serve Him. Once again, we see God's tender love for His own. He not only sees and cares, He knows our names and writes them in His Book. Close in thanksgiving for this attention to detail and what it says about our God that He takes the time to record names and that yours along with the name of His own Son is recorded. This brings me great confidence and hope.

You might find it interesting to read further on this. You can do a word study on the “Lamb's Book of Life.” I'd love to hear from you if you do. Please share with me at: Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com

Day Four

Luke 4:1-13

Hope in His Word

NOTE: Remember back on Day One when I asked you to please review your notes from the opening lesson? If you haven't done that yet, it's especially important to today's lesson that you have. Take a moment to do that before you continue.

www.dwellingrichly.podomatic.com (to listen) www.lamiradachurch.com (to print the outline)

... Open with Prayer ...

With all you're facing today, take this moment to ask God to give you hope and wisdom from His Word:

Read Luke 4:1-13

1. Complete this chart:

VERSE	"If" statement (Satan)	What it challenges/How it tempts	"It is written/said" statement (Jesus)	What it asserts

2. Using the cross references in your Bible (the superscript letters) write down the bible reference for each "it is written" that Jesus cites in response to Satan. Include the context of the OT verse:

(Hint: they're all from the Old Testament and from the same book!)

➤ Luke 4:4 from _____ In a time when the Israelites were...

➤ Luke 4:8 from _____ In a time when the Israelites were...

➤ Luke 4:12 from _____ In a time when the Israelites were...

3. Read Luke 4:1-2 Before Jesus began His ministry He did what and for how long?

_____ for _____

Why do you think Jesus spent this time not only in seclusion but in prayer and fasting?

(Make note of this first instance that Jesus went away and look for other instances of Him going away. Also, note what happens after these times of seclusion.)

Fasting and praying in seclusion - Is that something you have ever done? As we continue our study in the life of Christ I would like us to see Jesus as not only our testimony of what we could not have done for ourselves (His atoning sacrifice on the cross), but also our model of what we should imitate. Make notes as you read in Luke of any examples the Jesus provides for how we too should live our lives as His followers. Mark these with "Me Too!" as a way to remind yourself to become more like Jesus in this way. Fasting and

praying is certainly something you and I could and should at some point do. Do a word study on "fasting" in the Bible. Consider when you might fast this year. For further reading I recommend the books:

"Habits of Grace" by David Mathis; "Celebration of Discipline" by Richard Foster; "The Spirit of the Disciplines" by Dallas Willard

4. **Read Luke 4:10-11** Satan quoted from the Bible too! Does this surprise you? From what book of the Bible did Satan quote? Write the reference here. (Again, use the cross reference notes in your Bible to help you.)

- Luke 4:10-11 from _____
- Does this give you reason to pause when you consider that teachers, preachers, motivational speakers and even politicians can quote from the Bible? How so?
|
- What implications does this have as you weigh the value of the words from the Bible people can quote?
|
- ***In the opening session of our Bible study we learned the two approaches to reading and applying Scripture: *Eisegesis* and *Exegesis*. From your notes and understanding of these two approaches, how would you address what Satan has done with Scripture? Was Satan using Scripture properly? Why or why not?
|

If you missed that lesson, please go to www.dwellingrichly.podbean.com today to listen to it as it is foundational to your understanding of the rest of our Bible study. You can find the outline for that lesson on page 10 of this study or as a separate handout available to download on the Women's Ministry Bible study page at www.lamiradachurch.com.

5. ***If Satan can use Scripture to tempt and trick, what does this imply for us who are trying to obey God's Word?

- From these verses, what can you see as a pattern from Jesus that might be helpful to you as you encounter temptation in your life?
|

Every world religion has a position on "evil" and "sin" and "temptation", etc. An interesting study is to compare Christianity, Judaism, Islam, (the big three) as well as other religions like Hinduism, Baha'i, and Buddhism. If you have time, let me know what you find. I'd be happy to discuss this with you.

6. **Read Luke 4:1-2** Does it seem odd to you that Jesus was both "led by the Holy Spirit" and to a place where He was then "tempted by the Devil?" Why or why not?
|

7. **Read James 1:12-15** What does this say about temptation, testing/trials, God's role and ours?
|

8. *****Read Hebrews 2:14-18** This passage is talking about Jesus and the need we have for a human Savior. What do these verses remind us of in regards to what Jesus went through?

- What do verses 14-15 say were the reasons Jesus did what He did?
"That He might..."
1) _____ and
2) _____

If you can, read these verses in the English Standard Version (ESV) www.BibleGateway.com or the YouVersion app

9. Compare Hebrews 2:16 and Luke 2:34

Heb. 2:16 We are _____ of _____

Luke 2:4 Jesus is _____ of _____

10. Read Luke 4:13 When Satan was done tempting Jesus, Luke remarks that he (Satan) was not totally done. What does Luke say about the timing of the next temptation?

At what point in Jesus' life do you *think* this time might come up? Support your thought with Scripture if possible:

...In Closing...

This is one of those passages I think we could have spent our entire study – all 8 lessons! – digging deeper into. We could have dug further into the Scripture Jesus used to refute Satan. We could pursue the pattern of Jesus' behavior and see how it might impact our own behavior. We could ponder the improper use of Scripture by Satan and how that might affect the way we use Bible verses in our own lives....so much we could study more. My prayer for you, dear sister, as you wrap up today has been that you, first of all, would have had a sincere time in the Word. Secondly, that you would be willing to go back and prayerfully consider the testimony of Jesus' temptation and what it says to you about how to confront Satan schemes in your own life. And finally, that you would never forget the power of the Word of God to respond to temptation, stomp on sin, and send Satan – your real enemy – packing!

— Day Five —

Luke 4:14-37

Prophecy fulfilled...Hope is Here — Will We Receive it?

... Open with Prayer ...

What insights does God want to reveal to you today? Read Psalm 119:18 and pray the same for yourself:

Maybe you've heard the expression, "mic drop"? It's when nothing else needs to be said and the person everyone was listening to boldly just wraps it up, extends their arm, and "drops the mic" so to say – leaves the stage – usually leaving the audience either cheering with stunned appreciation or silenced by the bold assertion.

Without a trace of conceit or self-importance, Jesus begins to reveal Himself, His mission, His example to all those who come to hear. Baptized and anointed by the Spirit, blessed by the Father, His ministry begins, and it's basically one mic drop after another. #micdrop #LetsDoThis...

➔ Read Luke 4:14-37 before beginning today's study.

1. Read Luke 4:14-15

- Use the map in your Bible to locate Galilee, Nazareth, Capernaum, the Jordan River, etc. Become familiar with where Jesus spent His ministry years.

2. Read Luke 4:16

- What was special about Nazareth? _____
- What was Jesus' custom on the Sabbath day? _____

3. Read Luke 4:17-21

- From what Old Testament scripture does Jesus read? _____
- Go to Isaiah 61:1-2 (the passage Jesus reads) and mark that in your Bible. Does Jesus read the entire passage? _____
- What phrase does he leave out from verse 2?

NOTE: When the books of the Bible were originally written, they weren't marked by chapter or verse. In AD 1448 a rabbi by the name of Nathan divided the Tanakh (the Hebrew Old Testament) into the verses we use today. The New Testament was later divided by Robert Estienne (aka Stephanus) who relied on Rabbi Nathan's divisions, and we still use these chapter and verses to this day.

- After closing the scroll, what does He announce to those listening? (vs 21) Write His words boldly here:

Have you ever been somewhere where you realize you have just witnessed history in the making? In 1988 my hubby and I had tickets to game one of the World Series. We also had an invitation to attend a banquet in honor of my grandmother who had provided for Point Loma Nazarine University's new track field. Choices-Choices... We gave the tickets to Glen's brother and wife and we went to Grandma's special dinner. Alas, while we were leaving the banquet, the parking lot was literally abuzz with the news that not only had the Dodgers won that game but Kirk Gibson had hit what would be known forever as the most memorable home-run in baseball history – ever. Go ahead. Look it up. It's easy to find on YouTube. History. In. The Making. Everyone who was in the stadium that night will forever be able to recount with bragging rights that amazing night. And Glen and I will forever be able to recount listening to the replay of that moment on scratchy AM radio the entire drive home. I'm sure glad we really do love our grandma!

Those "I was there when..." moments are truly unforgettable. Jesus is announcing it to His hearers that this would be just one of those moments for all who were there to witness it. But this moment is so much more! It is not merely an historic moment...it's prophecy being fulfilled! God's word is "living and active" (Heb 4:12) What Isaiah had prophesied 800 years earlier has been fulfilled and right in front of their eyes!

- Go back to the Isaiah verses and list exactly what Jesus was proclaiming is His purpose:
 1. Spirit of the Lord is u _____
 2. He has a _____
 - a. to proclaim _____
 3. He has s _____
 - a. to proclaim _____
and _____
 - b. to set at L _____ those who are o _____
 - c. to proclaim _____
- Jesus is making a statement about who He is and what His purpose is. Based on the passage He reads aloud who is He claiming to be?

Based on the phrase in Isaiah 61:2 that He **leaves out**, what does this say about what His current mission **is not**?

Is there a “day of vengeance” yet to come? _____

- **Read Acts 17:30-31.** What does this say about the judgment to come?

And what word or phrase in these verses indicate that it’s Jesus who’ll be judging?

4. Read Luke 4:22 compare it with Jesus first recorded time in the Temple (Luke 2:46-47)

- What did Jesus do/say and how did the people respond?

Maybe some of them had been at the temple in Jerusalem back on that day?

- Based on this verse, how would you characterize their response?

- Is there any indication that they took Jesus’ words to heart? Explain....

5. Read Luke 4:22-23 What does this say about Jesus’...

- Reputation among the people?

- Abilities?

- What does this encounter say about the state of their hearts? Humble and accepting? Skeptical and demanding? Ready? Willing? Mature? Immature? ...

What about you? What is your heart like when it comes to Jesus? Do you expect Him to do things for you? Perform miracles? Go back to the Isaiah 61 passage that Jesus read. Recall what His mission was. Keep this in mind as you align your thoughts and expectations about Jesus with His stated mission and plan. Keep your heart and mind in check if you have any tendencies to behave like these folks from Jesus' hometown.

6. ***Read Luke 4:24-27 What did they want and what did Jesus give them instead?

➤ They wanted:

|

➤ Jesus gave them:

|

➤ List the prophets Jesus named:

➤ Why do you think Jesus gave them this history lesson instead of giving them a miracle?

|

7. I've had skeptics and even just honest believers ask, "If Jesus was real, why didn't He go heal everyone?" Is that what God's prophets and healers do – heal everyone? Based on how Jesus responded to the people in Nazareth what would your response be to a question like this?

|

8. Read Luke 4:28-30

➤ What was their response to Jesus' words? Why do you think they responded this way?

|

9. Read Luke 4:31-37 Here's the first of the 21 miracles of Jesus that Luke records.

➤ Why were they astonished at His teaching? What might that imply about the teaching they were accustomed to hearing?

|

➤ How does the miracle to come back up what He must have been teaching?

|

➤ What do we learn about demons from this passage?

Their understanding of Jesus:

Specifically, how did the demons address Jesus? _____

➤ Compare their response with **James 2:19**. Is belief in Jesus enough? Why or why not? What must be the correct response to Jesus?

|

...In Closing...

To all those whom Jesus encountered – from those in the synagogue to the demons – none took to heart His message. Demons believed – even identified rightly – who Jesus was. Those in the synagogue were “astonished” and “marveled” but were ultimately “filled with wrath” at His words and actions. Are you like me? Prone to compare their response to what I think I'd have done: “I would never have done that! If I would have been there to hear Him, I'd have listened and

received!" Sister, wherever on the spectrum from skeptic to believer you find yourself today, I pray that you would recognize your own tendency to be astonished at God, to marvel at Jesus, and yet to not fully embrace the mission He came to fulfill and the mandate He modeled for us to follow: "to proclaim good news to the poor...proclaim liberty to the captives...recover the sight to the blind...free the oppressed..." and that none of this is possible without the same power that rested upon and indwelt Jesus himself, the Holy Spirit. Pray in closing that you would embrace the calling of Jesus today in every way by the power of the Holy Spirit.

— Day Six —

Read Luke 4:38-44

Diseases and Demons...Departing and Detaining

... Open with Prayer ...

How willing are you to submit to God today? Pray as you begin that God would show you areas you need to bring to Him in submission.

→ Read Luke 4:38-44 before beginning today's study.

Read Luke 4:38-39

1. Whose house is Jesus in? _____ Yes, this is Simon also called Peter. Luke hasn't gotten to the call of the disciples yet (Coming soon!) so perhaps this is why he doesn't mention (like Mark's gospel) that Andrew, James and John were there as well.
2. What kind of fever is it? _____ Perhaps this is a medical term. Thank you, Dr. Luke.
3. What does Jesus do to the "high fever?" _____ Does this seem odd to you? Why or why not?

The word "rebuke" is the same that is used in Luke 4:35 when Jesus commands the demon out. What does this potentially mean about the origin/cause of the fever that was plaguing Simon's mother-in-law?

Can we make the assumption then that all fever is of demonic origin? Why or why not?

4. The order of this miracle is as follows:
 - What Jesus does _____
 - What the fever did _____
 - What she does _____ and _____Bing. Bang. Boom. Just that directly. When Jesus speaks, His words are obeyed.

Demons flee and now disease! He shows His authority over the spiritual world. God's Word is clear about who our enemy is – who we battle against.

Read Luke 4:40-41

5. Summarize what Jesus does in these two verses:

6. Who did Jesus heal? _____ Did any go away unhealed? _____
7. By what title did the outcast demons call Jesus? _____
8. What was Jesus' response to the demons?

9. Why, according to the latter part of verse 41, did Jesus rebuke demons from identifying Him?

Why do **you** think Jesus did this?

By whom does Jesus want to be acknowledged?

10. Read Ephesians 6:12 – Write it here:

Read Luke 4:42-44

11. What do the people do in verse 42?

Once again, people attempt to get Jesus to do their will. Is there anything inherently wrong with wanting Jesus to stay with you? Can you relate to how these folks must have been wanting? How so?

Jesus states His mission again for them. Write it here:

12. ***On a scale of 1-10, (1 being not at all – 10 totally confident in your understanding) to what degree to you think you understand Jesus' actions in these few verses?

1-10 This makes sense/doesn't make sense to me because:
Healing Simon's mother-in-law: _____ : _____
Healing various sick people: _____ : _____
Casting out demons: _____ : _____
Not allowing demons to speak: _____ : _____

13. Read Isaiah 55:8 – Summarize or write it verbatim here:

...In Closing...

Jesus demonstrates His dominion over demons and disease in these verses. Further, He shows that "His ways are not ours – His thoughts are not our thoughts." I wonder how often we, like those who sought to detain Jesus, also detain Jesus. While it is not inherently wrong to desire to be with Jesus, as we'll see throughout Luke's gospel, Jesus must be about His Father's business. What did He say to His earthly parents back in Luke 2:49? I must be in my Father's house. Jesus' mission **must** supersede ours! We must allow Jesus to work in His way - in His time. This is why when, later in Luke He teaches us to pray, "Thy will be done." Always. Let this be your prayer as you close today. That you would acknowledge your need for Jesus and that you would further acknowledge your need to put His will first.

— Day Seven —

Active Reading Day

... Open with Prayer ...

Go to the “ACTS Prayer” page if you need to review a helpful pattern of prayer

Write your prayer here:

... Active Reading — Luke 5:1-39 ...

Read this passage and take notes in your journal or pages inserted here using the “Active Reading” example at the beginning of the study.

— Day Eight —

Luke 5:1-11

Fishers of Men

... Open with Prayer ...

Write your prayer here:

➔ Before you begin, it’s important to read today’s verses in one sitting. **Read Luke 5:1-11**, and review your Active Reading notes from yesterday.

See’s Candies generates over \$60 million in sales annually. They make \$50 million of that in the three weeks before Christmas! Those are three very important weeks! For those weeks they know exactly how many extra hours to staff, how many boxes to have ready, how many extra samples to have on hand and peak hours to run radio ads...they know how to sell chocolates. What if in the smack dab middle of July – one of the slowest months of the year for candy sales – See’s miraculously generated \$70 million in sales? Would that make the news? Ha! You betcha! Warren Buffet and his team would be all over the news lauding the little ladies in their white dresses. Scotchmallows and Bordeauxs would be flowing freely, crowds would be clamoring to witness the miracle, and experts would be crunching numbers to account for the anomaly. Now imagine the shores of the Sea of Galilee where burly fisherman push off their boats every day. They, like a See’s candy store owner, know exactly when it’s the most profitable time for their business. They know just how big their boats need to be to collect a typical haul and even have room for the occasional blessedly generous day on the sea. They know the rise and fall of the tides, the best time of the night, the strength of their nets - they know how to fish for fish....

Read Luke 5:1-3

1. What’s happening with the crowds? What did they want?

2. What recent encounter with Jesus might the crowds have witnessed? (Luke 4:31-37)

3. Where was Jesus standing? _____ Locate this on your map. Use your Bible's footnotes to help.
4. What were the fishermen doing? _____
5. Jesus asks who to do what? _____
6. What recent encounter with Jesus has Peter had? (Luke 4:38-39) _____
7. Peter complies and Jesus does what? _____

Read Luke 5:4-5

Jesus just finished being the expert at what He does – teaching. Peter had just finished being the expert at what he does – fishing. Now Jesus moves in on Peter's candy store. Open your store in the middle of July - after hours. Peter offers a reasonable, if mild, resistance. I mean, after all, he's the fishing expert – and yet, he realizes to Whom he's speaking. It's not that Jesus was yet to Peter what Jesus would become – we'll see Peter grow dramatically in this. But Peter, as big, burly and brusque as he was, was also either mindful of what he'd seen from Jesus or respectful of Him as a teacher or both. We all know that the words we speak don't necessarily convey what we're actually thinking, right? We don't speak our mind either out of respect or fear or politeness or a combination of these reasons.

8. Consider Peter's statements and what he might have actually been thinking:

(The first phrase is started for you. Add any thoughts you have.)

"Master we toiled all night..." – *we know what we're doing, we've done the work already, we're tired,*

"...and took nothing" - _____

"...But at Your word..." _____

"...I will let down the nets." _____

- Peter might have been dubious about Jesus' request, but he _____

9. By what title does Peter call Jesus? _____
The Greek word is "epistates" which means "one who stands over." This is a respectful and **external** acknowledgment of Jesus' authority.

Read Luke 5:6-7

10. What does Peter's obedience bring? _____
How soon did it come? _____
To what extent did it come? _____
Was it a surprise to those who received it? _____ How so? _____

Read Luke 5:8

11. Luke calls Peter: _____ This is the only time he does so. Through 6:14 he calls him Simon. Thereafter Luke refers to him as simply: Peter.
12. When Peter sees the astounding haul, how does he respond?
in deed: _____
in word: _____
➤ **Read Isaiah 6:1-8** How does Isaiah respond?
in word and/or deed: _____
➤ **Read Ezekiel 1:28** How does Ezekiel respond?
in word and/or deed: _____
➤ **Read Job 42:5-6** How does Job respond?
in word and/or deed: _____
➤ What's the common thread in these encounters?

-
13. ***Peter now calls Jesus not “Master” but by what name? “I am a sinful man, O _____.” The Greek word is “kurios” which means “a person showing ownership or absolute and full rights.” What does this shift in wording show you about Peter’s shift in his mindset?

Read Luke 5:9-11

14. What are the first words Jesus speaks to Peter?

These are the same words Gabriel spoke earlier in Luke to Zechariah and Mary!

In Greek: Μὴ φοβοῦ (mee phobo)

15. Then Jesus says:

From now on things will be different for Peter, James, and John. They’ll be “catching” men or will be “fishers of men.” The verb tense is ongoing, habitual. The Greek is: ζῶγγρῶν (zogreo) meaning “catch alive” or “catch for life” and “men” is the Greek word *anthropoi* (men and women). Fish are caught for death...people for **Life!**

16. They now leave what behind? _____
Total. Complete. Commitment. On the spot. Immediate...Wow.

17. Jesus has shown He has dominion over:

D _____ (Luke 4:35) – the spiritual kingdom and which battles against our spirit

D _____ (Luke 4:40) – the physical kingdom and which battles against our body

(the) **D** _____ (Luke 5:4) – the animal kingdom and that which battles for our time (our job and livelihood)

and now with Peter, James, and John, He will be the Lord and Master of His **D**isciples!

...In Closing...

Like me, perhaps you saw yourself in Peter? I see that I give Jesus rule over my “boat” but in my heart I think I’ve got things figured out. I’ll call Him master...but not follow Him as Lord – not really.

“I’ve already tried that, Jesus. I know what I’m doing here, Jesus. Ok, fine, Jesus, I’ll go out one more time.” ...like a child being obedient on the outside, but holding my internal heart and will back from His true Lordship.

Sound familiar? My prayer today is that I will be mindful of my humble state (like Mary) and be willing to follow fully - not just my boat, but my life, my ideas, my methods, my everything! Like Peter, I want to daily drop everything and just follow Him. I’m praying that for you as well. If you’re willing to truly follow Him, I’d love to hear from you today! Text me or email me and let me know what you’ve learned today and how you’re willing to let Jesus be your Lord! 562.755.4964 or Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com

— Day Nine —

Luke 5:12-26

... Open with Prayer ...

Write your prayer here:

My friend is a magician. He's not only a magician, he's an esteemed member of the famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, loved in show after show, and is sought after to his peers at magician conventions (yes, they have those!). He's pretty amazing. I love being baffled by his magic – by any magic really. I enjoy the amazement and thrill of wondering how a magician could be so clever and tricky! Amazement is one thing...faith is another. I'm amazed at my friend's skills, but I don't confuse that with faith that he could actually do something literally magical. I don't trust that he could really and truly change a ten into a hundred-dollar bill (no offense, Shawn) even though I wish he could!

→ Before you begin, read **Luke 5:12-26** straight through, and review your Active Reading notes from day seven.

1. What have we seen Jesus accomplish thus far? Summarize 3-4 key moments and after each one write what you think was the purpose: the immediate purpose (IP) and the ultimate purpose (UP)

KEY MOMENT	IP	UP
•		
•		
•		
•		

Read Luke 5:12-13

2. What did this man say to Jesus? Write his exact words here:

Was it a question or a statement? _____

Underline the word "clean" in your Bible and above in your answer. Note that the man didn't ask to be healed. In fact, the Greek word is the same word we use when we have a deeply cleansing experience: catharsis. The word is καθαρίσαι (katharisai).

Read Leviticus 14:2-32 for full details. Here is a summary:

Lepers were not only sick with disease, their disease caused them to be ritually unclean. There were detailed laws governing how leprosy was dealt with. Cleansing did not necessarily mean healing. One could get cleansed by a priest in the ritual prescribed by the law, but still remain leprous. What this man is asking speaks to his sense that he believed Jesus could ritually cleanse him in the way a priest could cleanse him. Healing? That would be another thing altogether.

3. What was Jesus' reply to this man's statement? Write His exact words here:

It reads short and sweet in the English just like it does in the Greek: Θέλω, καθαρίσθητι. (Thelo katharisthetai). Jesus' "I will" carries the meaning: wanting what is best (optimal) because someone is ready and willing to act.

4. What happens “immediately?” _____
 So, not only was he cleansed, but he was healed! He could rejoin life! No more isolation!
 Like Peter’s boat: not only did they get fish, they got a new life!

Read Luke 5:14-16

5. After the leprosy left him what does Jesus say to do...and NOT do?

DO: _____

Why? (Remember Leviticus 13-14)

Did he do it? ___yes ___no ___not sure

NOT DO: _____

Why? (Give your best thoughts here)

Did he do it? ___yes ___no ___not sure

Read Mark 1:40-45 for more details.

Who could blame him? Honestly, how do you think you would have responded?

6. Where does Jesus go? _____

The Greek wording here makes the sense clear: He made it a habit to go into seclusion. Review your notes and list the two other times in Luke (chapter and verse) when Jesus went into seclusion. List also the circumstances of that seclusion:

1) _____ Circumstances: _____

2) _____ Circumstances: _____

7. Why does Jesus go there? _____

Maybe this helps with your answer to question #6? Go back and change it if you need to.

The demands on Jesus were never-ending, the crowds never-stopping and who else could do what He did? No one. And yet, Jesus got away. Jesus made time. The personal application here practically leaps from the page. This is another one of those “Me Too” moments when you should write in your margins and double underline your notes to imitate Jesus! (see notes on Day Four) Feeling overwhelmed? Get. Away. Find a way and go away for prayer and fasting and solitude. Make this a priority today. If you’re not sure how, in the busyness of your season of life you could possibly accomplish this, reach out. Call a friend, your small group leader, me...let’s come together as sisters in Christ to help one another model how Christ lived.

Read Luke 5:17 (Also in Matthew 9:1-8 and Mark 2:1-12)

8. There were Jewish sects and leaders with influence during Jesus’ ministry years. Name the two mentioned here:

_____ and _____

9. What does Luke include in describing Jesus in this verse? *(a sort of hint at what’s to come!)*

Read Luke 5:18-20

10. If you’re paralyzed and going to the extent to have your friends break through a roof to lower you down to the greatest healer anyone had ever heard of, what is implied in your expectations?

Problem: _____ Hoped for solution: _____

11. What does **Jesus** say when he sees the bold break-through?

Surely this surprised the paralytic but it reeeeeeeally surprises the Pharisees and Scribes! (*We'll get to that in a minute.*)

12. Luke notes that Jesus saw their... _____

I can see a roof. I can see a crowd. I can see a paralyzed man. But, can I really **see faith**?

Read James 2:14-26 – _____ without _____ is _____.

Read Hebrews 11:1 – Faith is the _____ of things _____ for, the _____ of things not _____

13. Jesus sees something invisible and offers something invisible as well.

He sees: _____ He offers: _____

14. ***Faith is invisible. Faith's evidence is not. How did these men evidence their faith?

15. ***Forgiveness is invisible. How is it evidenced?

Read Luke 5:21-26

16. Why are the scribes and Pharisees upset?

17. By announcing that his sins were forgiven, Jesus was announcing that He, the Son of Man, had what? (vs 24)

18. And once that is settled, Jesus gives the man what he had originally come for. What was that?

What had once carried him, he now carries! His bed of brokenness was now a testimony of his healing – physically and spiritually! He came for healing, he received so much more! What about you? Do you have a story to share about your encounter with Jesus? Were you healed from a physical issue, emotional, set free from spiritual bondage? Why not reach out today to your small group leader or to me and share your story. Maybe you are still dealing with physical, emotional or spiritual needs that you would like to have prayer for. Reach out today for prayer. That's what we're here for!

19. Both the healed man and the crowds respond in the same way. Describe their response noting any similarity in the words Luke uses to describe them:

...In Closing...

Like my amazement at my friend's magic tricks, it strikes me that I might be amazed at Jesus' power but that's not what God desires of me. Jesus didn't perform tricks to amaze the crowds (or tick off the local leaders). His miracles were designed to affirm His identity. He is the "Savior, Christ the Lord." He is the "Son of the Most High" who will "reign over the house of Jacob forever and of His kingdom there will be no end." Pray with me today that we will draw closer to God through our study, that we will not simply be amazed at His wonders but we will cling to Him and call Him Lord.

— Day Ten —

Luke 5:27-39

Feasting and Fasting...the Called and the Complaining

... Open with Prayer ...

Write your prayer here:

As I study through this passage and write this lesson, it's approaching tax season. For my friends who are accountants this means a boon in their business as folks bring their record and receipts, file folders and shoe boxes and hope for the best news or dread the worst. Some of us are already regretting that we didn't keep better records the previous year or rejoicing that we'll be getting refunds. As long as there have been civilized societies, there have been taxes – and that means tax collectors. Love 'em or hate 'em, we have to deal with 'em. In the years of Jesus' ministry, tax collectors weren't just a necessary evil. They were actually evil. To understand the utter contempt for tax collectors let's understand the social political and religious system at play...

The world as they (the Jews) knew it was under the political rule of the Romans and the religious rule of the Sadducees as well as the scrutiny and leadership of the scribes and Pharisees. We read about these leaders on Day Two of this study and again on Day Nine. Not only were taxes typical of living under the rule of Rome expected, but religious requirements brought observant Jews to the Temple at various times in the year to make offerings and sacrifices. Taxes from Rome were heavy and taxes from their own people through the requirements of the Law were outrageous. Later in Luke's gospel the religious leaders will attempt to entrap Jesus over a discussion about taxes. Jesus will soon go in and clear out the temple because it is where His people are being robbed. So, as we begin this study, let's keep in mind the highly divisive climate surrounding this event...

Read Luke 5:27-28 (Also in Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17)

It's helpful to read the accounts in Matthew and Mark so you'll see details not included by Luke in this account, not the least of which is that that Levi was Matthew – the author of the gospel of Matthew.

1. Jesus calls Levi/Matthew quite simply. What are His words?

2. Levi/Matthew responds and in similar fashion to how Simon/Peter, James and John responded. Describe his response:
|
|
|
3. After the paralytic man was healed, his response is described in similar words as Levi's. Compare their immediate actions:
Luke 5:25 the paralytic: _____

Luke 5:28 the tax collector: _____
4. If things hadn't worked out for the fishermen when they were called (Luke 5:1-11) they could have gone back to their jobs fairly easily. Not so for Matthew. As an employee of the state he literally abandoned his post and the consequences could have been severe. What does this tell you about Matthew's convictions and response to Jesus?
|
|
|

Read Luke 5:29-32

5. What does Levi do to honor Jesus? Who else was in attendance?

6. Who starts grumbling and to whom? _____

7. What was their complaint? _____

This isn't the last time the Pharisees grumble about who is eating with whom! Luke includes at least eight more dinner scenes in his gospel. Make note of these occurrences as you study.

8. These men complaining were the “experts” in the Scriptures. Surely they were aware of what it said the nature of all man:

Read Psalm 14:2-3 – who is good? _____

9. They complained to the disciples but it was Jesus who responds. What does He say?

Jesus is being ironic. He knows not only what they had been murmuring, but He knows their hearts. They see themselves as the “righteous” and everyone else as the “sinners.”

10. Blinded by their self-righteousness and smugness, do you think the Pharisees pick up on Jesus’ irony here? Share your thoughts:

Do you like confrontation? Controversy? Do you run toward it or away from it? When touchy subjects come up, is your first inclination to chill out and back off or to warm up and move in? Maybe it depends on the “controversy.” Maybe it depends on who you have to confront. At our church right now, we are getting new chairs in our sanctuary – finally! We have several sample chairs on hand to “test drive” before we make a decision. I feel like we’re all a little bit like Goldilocks as we try them out...too soft, too hard, just right! Ahhhhhh...you know what I mean? By the time we settle on the “just right” chair, there may be some who are thrilled with the choice and some who are not so happy. Is this a controversy? Is this worth confronting someone over? I think you’d agree, that mature people can acknowledge differences that are worth having a serious discussion over and differences that are better to simply let go without getting confrontational. Chairs – let it go. But weightier matters need to, well, be weighed and if necessary confronted. Jesus didn’t shy away from controversy and He used, as we’ll see, these incidences as opportunities to teach and touch hearts and minds.

Read Luke 5:33-35

11. What are the Pharisees questioning Jesus about? (vs 33)

It’s not just the activities they seem bothered by, it’s the demeanor of Jesus’ disciples. The Pharisees had their turn at questions for Jesus and His disciples. Jesus responds to their question with a question and a story (parable). The Pharisees not only expect Jesus’ disciples to fast but to be dour, solemn, serious. But Jesus has news - good news - not so! It’s party time! Check out what He says in verse 34...

12. Jesus compares His presence with that of a B _____ and so those in His company should act like: _____

13. Do guests at a wedding sit around fasting? _____!!! You’ve probably been to a wedding. How do wedding guests act? What’s the mood like?

Jesus compares Himself to a bridegroom (we usually just say “groom.”) While that might sound odd to our western and American ears, the Jews were very familiar with the symbolism in this type of language.

Read Isaiah 54:5-6

This would have been a passage very familiar to the Jews, especially the complaining Pharisees and Scribes since they were the “experts.” In fact, Isaiah, if you recall is the book from which Jesus read when they handed him the scroll back in chapter four.

14. What do these verses say about who God is and who Israel is?

God is: _____

Israel is: _____

15. When, according to Jesus’ words in Luke 5:35, will the “guests” fast?

When the bridegroom is _____

16. ...and who does Jesus are the “guests”

The guests are: _____

Read Luke 5:36-39

Jesus continues with the questions. This is the first parable recorded in Luke’s gospel. Let’s break it down. Jesus is comparing the new with the old. The commentator, John Phillips, describes Jesus as taking His listeners first to “*the workshop*” then to “*the wineshop.*”

Record what is new and old:

The New

The Old

1) _____ → _____ (The Workshop)
Jesus hasn’t come to repair the old...he’s come to bring the new!

2) _____ → _____ (The Wineshop)
Jesus hasn’t come to pour new teaching into old bags! He’s bringing new teaching full and vibrant not dead and ritual!

...In Closing...

The “old” is the legalism of the Pharisees. The “new” is the grace of God through Jesus. This is a picture that Jesus will return to often through the gospels and Paul will pick up in the epistles: “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. Behold the old is gone. The new has come.” Christ has come, not to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it. He’s calling those who like Simon and Levi could admit their sinfulness, the oldness of their ways, and forsaking all, come and follow Him. How often I am like the Pharisees. Not just content with the old, but indignantly holding on to it, entrenched in my own systems and judgmental heart toward those who don’t hold to my ways. The Pharisees hadn’t just held on to their ways, they had taken God’s beautiful law that was perfect, reviving of the soul, making one wise, rejoicing the heart, better than gold or silver and sweeter than honey...and they had made it a wearisome burden. Jesus was here to revive and renew not only lives but the love in our hearts for His holy and eternal Word!

*****Read Psalm 19:7-14** and make that your closing prayer today. Oh, that the Pharisees and Scribes had truly embraced these words...and Oh, that I would never forget them! Write a verse from this Psalm in the space below and commit it to memory. Why not get out your nice pens and make it especially pretty! Have fun...



— Day Eleven —

Active Reading Day

... Open with Prayer ...

... Active Reading — Luke 6:1-16 ...

Read this passage and take notes in your journal or pages inserted here using the “Active Reading” example at the beginning of the study.

— Day Twelve —

Luke 6:1-11

Lord of the Sabbath and so much more...

... Open with Prayer ...

Pray Psalm 19:14 as you begin today.

➔ Before you begin, it's important to read today's verses in one sitting. **Read Luke 6:1-11**, and review your Active Reading notes from yesterday.

Read Luke 6:1-2

1. The Pharisees are not happy...again. **What** the disciples were doing: _____
_____ was not the issue. **When** the disciples were doing it: _____ was the issue.

Read Deuteronomy 23:25

2. What did the law say about plucking grains?

Any mention of **not** doing it on the Sabbath? _____

There were laws that governed work on the Sabbath. No work was to be done. However, Pharisees had taken the prohibition against work and placed a “fence around the law.” This is a famous rabbinical maxim originally published in “Ethics of the Fathers” – a writing that added moralistic teachings (not all bad) to the Torah. The basic thinking is as follows: We do not want to violate the Torah. If we create extra laws to protect the Torah, and we obey those extra laws, then we will not come close to disobeying the Torah. So, here they are imposing those on Jesus and His disciples.

Read Luke 6:3-5

- 3. Jesus answers their question with a question that points them to recall what episode in their history?

|

The Pharisees held David in high regard. Appealing to this instance should have not only given them pause, but Jesus takes it up a notch. If David, the King of Israel, could do something that was “not lawful” how much more could Jesus who is the King of kings! Again, Jesus is letting them know who He was.

- 4. By what title does Jesus refer to Himself? (vs 5)

Read Luke 6:6-11

- 5. When and where does this healing take place?

On the S_____ in the S_____

- 6. Write down the exact wording in verse 7 that describes what the scribes and Pharisees were doing:

|

- 7. What does verse 7 say to you about the motivation of the scribes and Pharisees?

|

- 8. What was Jesus aware of (vs 8) _____

- 9. To sum up, what is Jesus seeking to do on the Sabbath in contrast to what the leaders are seeking to do? Use Jesus’ own words from the first part of verse 9:

Jesus: to do _____ Leaders: to do _____

- 10. What are Jesus’ words to the man with the withered hand in verse 10?

|

- 11. So, put yourself right there for a moment, ok? You’re in the synagogue witnessing all this take place. Jesus speaks; a man’s hand is healed. Contrast the leaders’ response with what you would think the natural response would be to seeing someone getting their hand healed:

LEADERS’ RESPONSE

MOST PEOPLE’S RESPONSE



- 12. What does the leaders’ response tell you about their heart?

|

13. What does Jesus' action tell you about His heart?

...In Closing...

Have you ever been in a heated argument and mid-way through you realized you're actually wrong. But by now, you're so committed to your position that you just keep insisting or yelling or storming around to maintain your "rightness?" We might find it too easy to sit outside history and view the Pharisees with disgust at their prideful resistance to Jesus, but if we're honest we should acknowledge that we can be just like them. Like the Pharisees who massively miss the point when the man's hand is healed, we too can be locked in to our views by our pride and stubbornness. Jesus has a message for all of today: My way is the way of love. Be honest and humble as you conclude today's lesson and ask God to reveal areas in your own life that you stubbornly hold to your ways over His.

Day Thirteen

Luke 6:12-16

The Disciples

. . . Open with Prayer . . .

All big decisions should begin with prayer...all small ones too. Begin today's time in prayer that God would give you wisdom and insight in your time of study.

Complete the chart on the following pages. List the names of each of the disciples Jesus selected and using your resources (concordance, internet search, reference book, etc.) write two or three details about their life. See what you can discover about their backgrounds, occupations, religion, personality, etc. Did they go on to write any books of the Bible? What other book of the Bible are they mentioned in – if any? How did they die – if that is known. Note anything that surprised you or left you curious for more.

	DISCIPLE	BIBLE VERSE(S)	DETAIL
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

	DISCIPLE	BIBLE VERSE(S)	DETAIL
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

You are loved
AND
prayed for.