

Lesson Three
Who is This?

Luke 6:17-8:21

Lesson 3 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 Two: Luke 4:1-6:16

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

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. Who, according to Luke 3:6 will see the salvation of God? Will everyone receive the salvation of God? Why or why not? (pg 47, #7 – not starred, but I wanted to add it anyway)
2. Does any part of the scene in Luke 3:7-10 strike you as odd or shocking? (pg 47, #9)
3. Why do you think JtB told them the specific things to do? (pg 48, #15)
4. Share your winnowing fork drawing! And please note that Jennifer's number is 562.755.4964 Oooops! Who proof-reads this stuff? She needs a better editor! (pg 49, #18)
5. JtB gets put in jail even though he was a chosen prophet bringing the Good News. What are your thoughts on that? (pg 49, #19)
6. How is God revealed at the baptism of Jesus? What does this reveal to us about the nature of God? (pg 51, #5)
7. How would you address what Satan has done with Scripture? (pg 54, #4)
8. If Satan can use Scripture to tempt and trick, what does this imply for us who are trying to obey God's Word? (pg 54, #5)
9. What does Hebrews 2:14-18 remind us of in regards to what Jesus went through? (pg 54, #8)
10. From Luke 4:24-27 (Share from all your answers) (pg 58, #6)
11. Share your scale and why you rated the way you did. Also share your thoughts on Isaiah 55:8 (pg 61, #12-13)
12. After the astounding haul of fish, Peter now calls Jesus not Master but by what name... (pg 64, #13 also go back to page 63, #s 11-12 for context.
13. Faith...Forgiveness...Share your answers (pg 67, #14-15)
14. Share your verse from Psalm 19 (pg 71)
15. Share any other observations you have from this lesson.

General questions:

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> I completed every single day! | <input type="radio"/> I had a spiritual ah-ha moment! |
| <input type="radio"/> I'm actually understanding the Bible better! | <input type="radio"/> I made more time than usual for my study |
| <input type="radio"/> I memorized a verse! | <input type="radio"/> I used colored highlighters/pencils |
| <input type="radio"/> I didn't compare my progress with anyone! | <input type="radio"/> I reached out to share or ask for help |
| <input type="radio"/> I took home left-overs and actually remembered to enjoy them instead of leaving them in the fridge to get old and moldy next to last week's left-overs | |

...Notes...

Teaching Notes - Review of Lesson Two

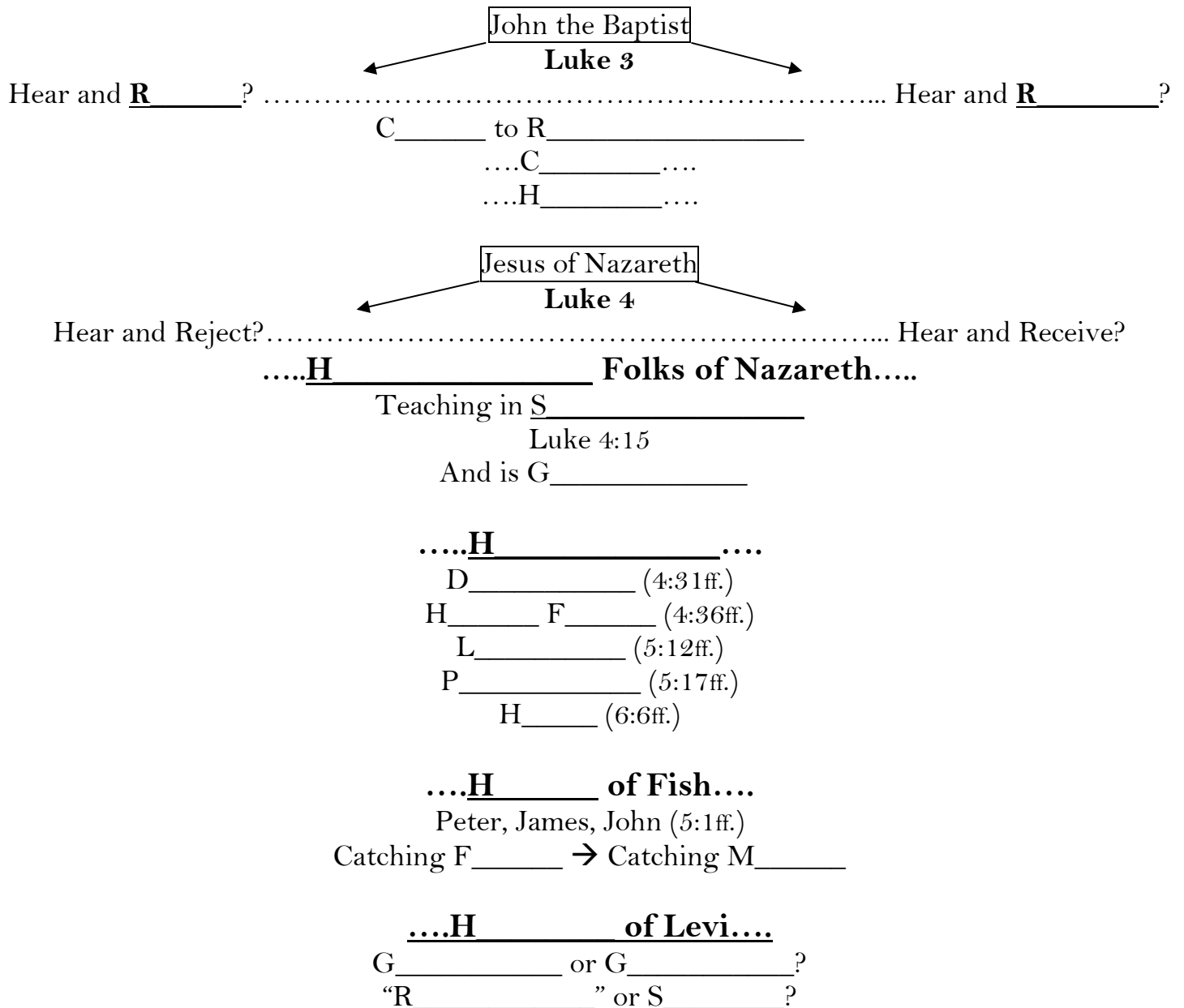
Luke chapters 4:1-6:16

Simeon's Prophecy - Luke 2:34-35

- F_____ and R_____ of many in I_____
- S_____ that is O_____
- S_____ will P_____ Mary's Soul
- T_____ from many H_____ may be R_____

...Amazed by Hope...

"...and all who heard Him were **amazed** and... **astonished**." Luke 2:47-48



Amazed by Hope

Don't stop there.
Next move matters...

A _____
Physically Spiritually

A _____
Physically Spiritually

A _____
Physically Spiritually
Embrace Jesus' words: " _____ ."

— Day One —

Read and take notes through Luke 6:17-49

Today is an Active Reading Day

... Open with Prayer ...

— Day Two —

Luke 6:17-36

... Open with Prayer ...

Ask God to grow a tender heart in you and to help you become more like Him today.

→ **Read Luke 6:17-36 before beginning today's study.** (Reminder: I'm using the ESV translation for this study.)

Luke 6:17

1. Two groups of people are listed as in attendance in this passage. Who were they?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
2. Why do you think Luke differentiates between the crowd of disciples and the multitude of people that were there to listen to Jesus?
|
3. Check a map to get a sense of how far and wide these people had come. What's your best estimate of the distance people had traveled to hear Jesus?
|

Luke 6:18

4. What two reasons does Luke give for why the people were there?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

Luke 6:19

5. Why did the crowd seek to "touch Him?" _____
Make a note of this incident in your Bible. Look for other mentions to come of when "power came out" of Jesus.
STTA → Has this (Jesus touching/power coming out) happened before in our study?

Luke 6:20a

6. Luke takes time to note Jesus' eyes in the opening phrase of this verse. Take a moment to picture that in your mind. Jesus does what with His eyes? _____
Upon whom does He lift up His eyes? _____

Why do you think this is important? (Consider who was listed earlier as being there. Luke 6:17)

The next half of verse 20 begins Jesus' famous series of "Blessed are you..." statements. Let's walk through these familiar words and look anew at the concepts.

Luke 6:20b-21

7. **vs 20b** _____ are you who are _____

for yours is the _____

By definition, if you're poor what do you have?

By definition, if you have the kingdom of God, what do you have?

Has Jesus mentioned the "kingdom of God" before in Luke's gospel? (Hint: Yes!) Skim back and see if you can find where in our earlier reading. Write what you find along with any comments or thoughts you have about this...

8. **vs 21a** _____ are you who _____

for you... _____

By definition, if you're hungry, what do you have a need for? _____

When you're satisfied, what do you need? _____

Read Isaiah 55:1-3 and Read Psalm 107:9

9. ***What does the Lord say to those who have need?

In Isaiah 55...

In Psalm 107...

10. **vs 21b** _____ are you who _____

for you... _____

By definition, if you're weeping, what is going on?

What kind of people can laugh? _____

11. **vs 22** _____ are you when people...

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

On account of/because of: _____

12. **vs 23** ***What are we to do in response to this persecution?

Let me tell you a true story: A gal came to me for prayer and counsel distressed by what she called "persecution" in her workplace. She described how her coworkers mocked her and shunned her and spoke badly of her. When I asked why she thought they did this, she described how she wore Christian "statement t-shirts" ("Turn-Or-Burn", God Hates Sin, Repent!, etc. type sayings) to work, read her Bible aloud in the breakroom, and how she felt she was kind but "honest and bold" about calling people out for their behavior (cussing, gossip, tardiness, etc.) "Now they are all 'persecuting' me! What should

I do?" she asked with an indignant and hurt look on her face. I took a deep breath and prayed quickly for tact and boldness to honestly tell her that I didn't think she was being persecuted. I thought she was being ridiculous. We had a good talk about it all and she was able to see how her behavior had not been Christ-like and how she was missing the point of the gospel message as well as the meaning of persecution.

Be mindful, that you might feel that people hate you, exclude you, revile you or spurn your name but this does NOT necessarily mean that you are being persecuted. Re-read the last phrase of verse 22. If it's not for the cause of Christ, consider the possibilities: people are simply mean and ugly for no good reason or you might have a personality problem that is driving people to respond in this way. Don't use this verse to become a martyr or to justify your bad behavior when people are mean to you. Keep your attitude in check, and pray Psalm 139:23-24.

Read Luke 6:24-26

Reading through the "woes" draw a connection between each woe (v 24-26) and each blessing (v 20-23)

13. What do you notice? Do you see direct connections between each blessing/woe? Write them here:

14. Of special note is Jesus' mentioning of how people treated the **false prophets**. What does Jesus say about them in verse 26?

Read Isaiah 30:9-11

How are God's rebellious people described? What do they want the prophets to do/not to do?

There are a handful of key life lessons I learned growing up that have stayed with me to this day. One was the time that I learned the heart of what my parents expected as acceptable behavior. After school my mom asked how my day went. I must have been a little nervous about a test result or something because instead of just saying, "Fine." or "I had a good day." I answered with, "I didn't get any D's or F's today."

(Queue the "mom look.")

Mom looked down at me over her glasses, making sure to catch my eyes straight on with hers and said, "Well, I didn't rob any banks today, but that's not our standard of an acceptable day."

Gulp.

Mom then proceeded to remind me of my capabilities as an "A" or "B" student, quiz me on my current assignments and tests, and admonish me to raise my personal standards.

Like the younger me, I still have the tendency to justify my behavior even if I'm barely meeting the minimum to stay on the right side of the law – or parental rule in my case. Jesus is always pressing on His audience to go beyond the law and to the spirit of the law, to live a life that doesn't just meet the minimum behavior standards "not robbing any banks" but to be proactive in goodness toward mankind.

Read Luke 6:27-36

15. Luke 6:31 became known as the "Golden Rule" back in the 16th century. Other sages from different cultures had similar maxims, but Christ's was distinct and in the positive form and is rooted in the most ancient command found in **Leviticus 19:18**. **Write it here:**

16. ***How do these verses challenge you to live a more loving, generous, and merciful life? Be specific.

17. Think of the people God has placed in your life today. While they might not literally be an "enemy", you may have extremely challenging relationships to deal with. How will you apply these verses in those relationships?

18. If you've struggled with co-dependent tendencies or enabling people's bad behavior, be cautious here. Christ's teaching is not that we become abused. What does He say our response should be to abusive people?

...In Closing...

Think through these verses and select the word or phrases that you could specifically pray that God would develop in your heart today. Perhaps love for your enemies, or generosity over stinginess, or maybe mercy...whatever it is, write out here the key words or verse you will pray and seek to become more like Jesus:

— Day Three —

Today's passage: Luke 6:37-42

... Open with Prayer ...

Write your prayer here as you prepare your heart and mind for today's study.

Remember waaaaaay back to the introduction to this study when we learned the importance of context and the difference between "eisegesis" and "exegesis?" Well, if not, before you read any further, go to www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com and listen the "How to Study the Bible" podcast. Super important.

I don't think there is a more quoted Bible verse today than Luke 6:37...at least the first half of that verse. It's quoted as a slap to anyone - especially a Christian - who dares to make a judgment call on anyone else's behavior. And interestingly, of aaaaaall the hundreds of verses for people to be able to recite, this is the one they love? "Don't you judge me!" I've heard the religious and secular alike swing that verse out when it suits them. Why don't people recite Luke 3:7? That's a doozy! We'll dig into these verses and clear things up, ok? Let's tighten up our understanding of this verse and avoid error!

Read Luke 6:37-38

1. Jesus admonishes the listener against two behaviors and for two:

- J _____ not
- C _____ not
- F _____
- G _____

2. Draw a measuring cup. →

I know, I know you're "a horrible artist."

Just draw a cup, lady. It doesn't have to be Rembrandt's cup. And yes, please send me photo of your cup! 562.755.4964 or jennifer@lamiradachurch.com or tag me in it on Facebook or Instagram!

== My Measuring Cup ==

3. **Read Matthew 7:1-6** This is the parallel passage Matthew offers

of the same message recorded by Luke. Where Luke mentions judging, condemning, and forgiving, Matthew mentions only what: _____ not.

4. After the "judge not" portion, Matthew continues with Jesus' words calling anyone who judges a "hypocrite" if he or she doesn't do what first? (v5)

5. Complete this verse from Matthew 7:6 (ESV)

Do not give _____ what is _____ and

do not throw your _____ before _____

lest they _____ them underfoot and turn to _____ you.

6. What would someone have to do in order to discern who was a "dog" or who was a "pig?"
_____ (Hint: begins with "j" ends with "e")

7. **Read Luke 3:7** In order for John the Baptist to have called them "vipers" he would have had to have made a judgment. Was he in the wrong to call them out in this way? Why or why not?

8. **Read 2 Samuel 12:1-15** Background: King David has committed adultery with the wife (Bathsheba) of his top warrior (Uriah) and has set up Uriah to be murdered on the battlefield. He is now being confronted by the prophet Nathan.
- When David heard the story about the rich and poor men what was his reaction?
 - What judgment does David insist should happen to the “rich man?” (v5-6)
 - What happens instead?

9. ***So, are we or are we not supposed to “judge?” Explain:

10. **Solve this problem:** $6+6\div 3\times 4-2=$ ____ Did you get 14? A lot of people do. That’s incorrect. In order to get the correct answer you need to know the math rule for “order of operations.” Remember “P.E.M.D.A.S.” Parenthesis, Exponents, Multiply/Divide, Add/Subtract from left to right? There are rules that govern the order in which math problems are solved. When you follow the rules, you get the correct answer. The answer is 12. Did you get that? Yay! You can still pass 6th grade math! Is it mean, harsh, or close-minded to insist math be done in a particular order? Does your opinion of the rule or how feel about math matter? Why or why not? Explain:

Read Luke 6:39-42

11. What does Jesus tell His disciples to do/not do in these verses?

Jesus sets up a funny and even absurd picture for us to imagine. I mean, really, can you see it? A person with a big log sticking out of their eye who is pointing to out to another person that they have a speck in theirs? Don’t worry, I’m not going to ask you to draw this...but really, I’d love to see it!! Go ahead! Why don’t you try it? It’ll be way more interesting than a measuring cup... Ooooh look, just enough space at the bottom the next page! ☺

12. What does the “speck/log” a metaphor represent? _____
13. In order for us to recognize an issue in someone else we must first do what? (end of vs 42)
14. In order for us to take care of our own log, we must first do what? (vs 40)
15. In order for us to be a better “fully trained” disciple of Jesus? (Hint, read the last two words of Luke 5:27)

Do you see that there’s an order here? You can’t get the right answer if you do out of order. You can’t solve the problem if you don’t do it God’s way. Like the math order of operations, Jesus is laying out the order of operations for His disciples as well.

Should we help someone with a speck in their eye? I'm going to go ahead and give you the answer: Yes! How silly to "not judge" or not help point out a speck in someone's eye! But, let's be mindful to approach "speck removal" after we've taken care of our own speck – or log!

16. Beginning back with Luke 6:27, go back and list all the proactive commands Jesus gives:

6:27 _____

6:28 _____

6:30 _____
6:36 _____
6:37 _____
6:38 _____

(repeated from v30)

...In Closing...

If I yelled at my son, "You're killin' it!!!!" Would you think I was proud or horrified? What if I told you I was at his concert and he was shredding on a drum solo and the crowd was going wild at his killer skills? Proud or horrified? What changed in your mind's view of my words? Context. Context matters, my friend. Reading God's Word and wielding an isolated verse at someone is a huge mistake. From our study today I pray that you have seen clearly that our default position is one of love, goodness, generosity, mercy, forgiveness and a submission to the teachings of Jesus. I pray that you will avoid the error of quoting a verse out of context ("Don't judge!") and will be willing – once you've taken care of your log - to graciously point out the speck others may have. You might find yourself in a situation where you'll observe someone misusing this famous verse. I trust that you'll be better equipped to come alongside that person and show them exactly what Jesus does teach. That's what we can do when we are true disciples.

— Day Four —

Today's passage: Luke 6:43-49

... Open with Prayer ...

Write your prayer here as you prepare your heart and mind for today's study.

Is there any type of person more annoying than someone who is "all talk?" I can't think of one. If you've ever been trapped listening to someone exaggerate and yammer on about their life and experiences and exploits you might relate to feeling like you deserve a medal for your sheer ability not to roll your eyes and guffah loudly as they continue blabbering on. Any advice they dole out is met with a tolerant nod as you try to contain your annoyance. On the contrary, when someone who has actually lived and overcome and succeeded in a real way you find yourself in rapt attention to their tales, right? My friend is one of those. She's been a missionary to the most challenging regions, seen desperate people delivered from demons and healed from disease. She's been down to her last penny and experienced God's miraculous provision as unexpected funds were amazingly delivered. I could listen to her for hours. She's not just talk, oh no! She has truly walked the walk! She says she believes in Jesus and her life is a total testimony to that reality. Even now that she is home from the mission field, she lives with boldness and by a life defined by her relationship with Jesus Christ. It is this kind of life Jesus has for you today! You may not be called to leave for a distant mission field, but if you are a disciple of Jesus, then you must live like you are and that life must be characterized by the behaviors Jesus has been describing up to this point in our reading. Let's continue on and see more today what Jesus meant when He said, "Follow Me."

Read Luke 6:43-45

1. Like the humorous "log & speck" visual of yesterday's passage, Jesus gives another visual that would have caused His listeners to nod and snicker as they looked at one another. Any child would know the answer:
You don't get figs from thornbushes...where do figs grow? _____
You don't get grapes from bramble bushes, grapes grow on _____
As obvious as these facts of nature are, so is the fact of the nature of people. What does Jesus say of the heart of good and evil people?

The visual of a tree is not new. The gateway to the entire book of Psalms begins with comparing a righteous person to a healthy tree.

Read Psalm 1:1-6

2. From verses 1-3, list several characteristics of one who is righteous:

3. From verse 4, what are the wicked compared to? _____
4. Remember back to John the Baptist's words of warning? What did he say Jesus would do? (Luke 3:17)

5. Who truly knows if a tree is good or bad? _____

6. What can people use to discern if someone is good or evil? (Luke 6:45)

7. ***What does this say to you about the words that come out of your mouth today?

Read Luke 6:46-49

8. What were people calling Jesus? “ _____ , _____ ” (vs 46)

9. This wasn't a problem. What was? (vs 46) _____

10. This wasn't a new problem! **Read Isaiah 29:13** What was the Lord's word here:

Perhaps you've heard the saying, "Giving someone 'lip service'"? Now you know the origin of that saying! Is there anything more irritating than someone who says they'll do "such and such" and they never do? It's infuriating, isn't it? If you feel the irritation, how much more must God feel it when people claim His name but don't live their lives according to His ways? Caution: Don't let Luke 6:37 be true of you and your heart in this! It's one thing to identify inconsistency in your own heart. Don't be guilty of doing that to other people's hearts. With love and mercy, help people see their "speck" AFTER you've taken care of your own and acknowledged your own inconsistencies.

Read James 1:22-27

11. When people only hear, and don't "do" what are they actually doing?
_____ (vs 22)

12. Where might someone (nowadays or back then in Jesus' time) be or what might someone be doing where they'd "hear" the Word? Check all that apply:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible study | <input type="checkbox"/> religious conference |
| <input type="checkbox"/> church | <input type="checkbox"/> small group (home study, life group, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian school | <input type="checkbox"/> on the beach listening to Jesus teach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> religious radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> synagogue | |

13. What kind of people are blessed? _____

14. What does Jesus' metaphor of a **house** relate to? House is like my _____

15. What does the **foundation** metaphor relate to? Foundation is like my _____

16. ***What should you be doing if you are truly a "doer of the word?" Use Luke 6:46-49 AND James 1:22-27 to support your answer:

17. How do you know for sure if you have house built on a sure foundation? Use any Scripture to support your answer:

...In Closing...

In Psalm 139, David writes, "Search me, O God, and know my heart. Test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting." My friend, this should be our prayer Every. Single. Day. Scratch that....it should be our prayer every **moment** of every day!!

How my *heart* tends to hold to the Word I've heard and read and yet, my life is inconsistent in truly living it out! Ugh. When Jesus called Simon to leave his fishing nets to follow Him, what did He say? No more catching fish...follow me and catch men! Here's one more saying you may have heard before: "Fish or cut bait." It means, either do what you came here to do (fish) or cut the bait and stop fishing.

Sister, I'd like you to consider this for yourself today. Perhaps you've been acting like you're fishing. You have the gear (a Bible), you're at the right place (church or Bible study), but you're not really doing the work of fishing. If Jesus were standing before you on the shore would you be one to identify Him as "Lord" like those Jesus was speaking to did? And yet, like these people, are you calling His name in, well, name only?

It's time today to search your heart.

If He's truly Lord, then do His will. If you want to call Him Lord, stop treating Him like the president of the "Get Out of Jail Free" club where you pay your dues by reading the Bible, going to church and being kind. Dig a deeper foundation and really do what He says. Live your life in such a way as to leave no question at all as to your loyalties. Fish or cut bait.

I'd love to hear from you today. Are you ready to live, really live for Jesus? Text me or email me and let me know! Do you have questions still about what this life lived for Jesus looks like? Let me know. I hope to hear from you!

Until then, know that you are loved and prayed for,

Jennifer

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— Day Five —

Read and take notes through Luke 7:1-50

Today is an Active Reading Day

... Open with Prayer ...

— Day Six —

Today's passage: Luke 7:1-17

Say the word.

... Open with Prayer ...

Write your prayer here as you prepare your heart and mind for today's study.

What were the people coming to hear? Jesus' words. Over and over again throughout Luke's gospel we read that those who heard Him were "amazed" and "astonished." When He spoke they "marveled." Simon, while reluctant and tired from a long day of fishing, nonetheless put his boat back out "at His word." It was Jesus' words of forgiveness – not the miracle of healing – that the Pharisees were fuming. At His words, "Follow me." Levi left everything. So did Peter, James, and John. In our study today we'll meet two men: one live man who gets the power of Jesus' word and one dead man who gets up at the power of Jesus' words.

Read Luke 7:1-10

1. What is a centurion? Do a little digging and see what you find. Write some notes here:

Mentioned elsewhere in the Bible: (use your concordance, study notes, etc.)

Mentioned in history:

2. The centurion was well-known, even respected amongst the Jews. (Luke 7:4)
 - He had done what for them? _____
 - To the Jews this showed he had _____ (feeling) toward their nation
 - Ultimately, to the Jews this qualified him as _____ of having his servant healed.
3. Where was this synagogue located? The city of _____
4. What happened the last time Jesus was near this synagogue? (Hint: Luke 4:33)

Maybe this centurion was among those who had heard of the authority and power of Jesus mentioned in Luke 3:36-37.

5. Instead of coming to greet Jesus himself, what does the centurion do?
6. His exact words are in contrast to what the Jews have already said of him.
The Jews said, "He is _____."
The centurion said, "I'm not _____."
7. Sound familiar? It should. Who else earlier in Luke's account says the same thing of his unworthiness? (Hint: Luke 3:16) _____
8. What do the centurion's words and actions say about his character to you?

...Consider this...

The Jews were impressed with his power and the money he must have had to build their synagogue. They were willing to plead his case on the facts of his deeds and perhaps also, motivated by their need to keep in good graces with the soldiers like him who marched through and lived in the region. But something stands out about this centurion. This gentile is clearly more concerned with weightier things. Instead of hoping in his position or deeds he acknowledged his innate unworthiness! *Don't come here on account of my worth! You can heal on the power and authority of Your Word, Jesus!*

9. What impressed Jesus? (vs 9)

10. Where else has Jesus been impressed with faith? (Hint: Luke 5:20)

Read Luke 7:11-17

11. Two crowds meet...

Describe the two crowds: (where they've been, where they're going, what they're expecting, etc.)

Jesus and His crowd:

The widow and her crowd:

12. Had the young man *just* died or had he been dead *for a while*? _____

13. How do you know? (Hint: Luke 7:12)

If he had just died, they wouldn't have been carrying him out of town. They'd have been in the home preparing his body still.

14. What is unique about this healing...it's more than a mere 'healing' isn't it? (A first of its kind in Jesus' ministry!)

15. What words did Jesus speak to the dead young man? " _____ "

Consider this...He spoke to a dead person. Do dead people have functioning ears? No! The voice of Jesus can reach beyond this life!

16. What is unique about the crowd's reaction to the son being raised from the dead? (Think about the crowd's reactions to the healing of the demon possessed, the fever stricken, the leper, the paralytic, etc.) What did they say?

At all the other miracles, the crowds reacted with amazement and awe, but in the raising of a man from the dead they reacted with: _____ *Please Note: The NIV reads that they were "filled with awe" but the Greek word is clearly the word translated earlier for "fear" (phobos). The ESV more literally renders the word as fear, and I'm in favor of this translation as well. An astounding miracle has been performed. One not seen since the days of Elijah 500 years earlier!*

17. This is also unique because we see here the first time Jesus' tender heart described. How did He react when He saw her? _____ and what did He say to her, " _____."

Surely this poor mother's tears of deepest grief were now tears of highest joy! What a day! Someday, my friend, every ear will respond to the voice of Jesus! Every. Single. Ear will hear His voice! Every eye will see...every knee will bow! Everyone will respond to the call of the Lord.

Read Revelation 21:1-4

18. Write verse four here:

|

...In Closing...

My friend, I think you're in one of two crowds today.

You're either in the crowd leaving Capernaum or the crowd leaving Nain.

Leaving Capernaum are the people rejoicing and remarking at the wonders they've seen and experienced through Jesus...excited and ready for more...hopeful for what Jesus will do next and amazed at what He's done. Ready to see what's next and enjoy the

Leaving Nain is the funeral procession...burdened with the heaviness of what they've experienced. Feeling the weight of "this present darkness" around them: death. Either they are unaware of the power of Jesus or doubtful that He would touch their lives in a significant way.

But Jesus wants to meet you where you are today! Jesus is as willing and powerful today as He was when He healed the centurion's servant at His word. Jesus is as compassionate and powerful today as He was when at His word the young man was called back from death!

He sees. He hears. He heals. He restores...call to Him today. Take Him at His word.

— Day Seven —

Today's passage: Luke 7:18-35

... Open with Prayer ...

Write your prayer here as you prepare your heart and mind for today's study.

→ Read today's entire passage in Luke 7:18-35 BEFORE moving on.

Read Luke 7:18-19 AND Matthew 11:1-3

1. At what event did we last read about John the Baptist? _____
2. Where has John the Baptist been since then? _____
3. Why? (Luke 3:19)
|
4. What question does John the Baptist tell his disciples to ask of Jesus?
|
5. ***Why do you think John even asked this question? Hadn't he already identified Jesus as the Messiah? Share your thoughts. List any verses from earlier in Luke to support your answer.
|
6. What events had happened that prompted John's question?
|

Read Luke 7:20-23

As kids, before going out to play we had to have our homework done and our rooms clean. You too? And if Mom asked if our room was clean we better be able to show her - showing her not only the bed made, but closet and drawers and even under the bed. No doubts left...room is definitely clean!! Don't take my word for it, Mom...let me show you! It's clean, reeeeeally clean! And off we'd go out to play, her implied question answered.

7. How soon after John's disciples asked did they get Jesus' answer? _____
8. What did Jesus do BEFORE He answered?
|
9. Why do you think Jesus did that?
|
10. What then was His answer?
|
11. ***Read Jesus' closing remark Luke 7:23 "And blessed is the one who is not offended by Me." in several translations (www.Biblegateway.com). What do you think Jesus is saying here?
|

The Greek word translated “offended” (ESV) or “stumble on” (NIV) is the word from which we get “scandalized.” [σκανδαλισθῆ] (skan-da-lis-thē)] This would have been a vivid word picture to Luke’s readers. It would have brought the image of a trap to mind (the bait and stick kind perhaps you’ve seen in cartoons...think coyote and roadrunner). John was in danger, as any honest doubter is, of being entrapped or stumbled by his own expectation of Jesus personhood and mission. But Jesus confirms His identity, His mission, and John’s hopes that He was indeed the Messiah. In fact, the very miraculous signs He performs would have pointed back to the reality that Jesus was the fulfillment of messianic prophecy.

Read Isaiah 35:5-6 and Isaiah 61:1

12. What signs are listed here and how do they correlate to the miracles Jesus did in Luke 7:20-22?

Read Luke 7:24-30

13. When did Jesus start talking to the crowds about John the Baptist? _____

14. Why do you think He waited until John’s disciples had gone before He started to talk to them about John?

15. Jesus asks three rhetorical questions about why the people had been coming to see John.

- Did you expect to see a _____? (v24)
 - Which would imply they might have thought John was like...

...think of the characteristics of a reed in the wind

- Did you expect to see a _____? (v25)
 - Which would imply they might have thought John was like...

...think of the kind of man who would wear “soft” (luxurious) clothing

- Did you expect to see a _____? (v26)
 - Which would imply they might have thought John was like...

...think of a historical figure they would have been familiar with (Old Testament)

Bingo!

16. Jesus clarifies that not only was John a prophet but he was _____ (v26)

Read Malachi 3:1 and highlight this prophecy in your Bible.

As great as John was – and he is declared by Jesus to be the greatest – he was the prophet announcing the Messiah of the Kingdom. And now the Messiah is here! Time to shift from following the prophet (John) to the one being prophesied about: Jesus!

➔ Jesus makes a strong case for the greatness of John. Then He goes on to say: “*Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.*” As great as John was, his ministry was earthly. John was announcing the ministry of Jesus who would bring the kingdom of God. Anyone who is a member of that kingdom – even the least – is greater than even the greatest (John) of this earth.

17. Who, after hearing all this acknowledged God?

_____ and the _____ (v29)

18. Who rejected God?

_____ and the _____ (v30)

Read Luke 7:31-35

When I was in grade school I made good money babysitting. I worked for big families and small families, quiet families and loud families, respectful families and incorrigible families, but the family I remember the most was Tabitha’s. Tabitha was 15 months old and was the most disagreeable child I’d ever encountered. If I gave her Cheerios she wanted

a banana. If I gave her a banana she wanted Cheerios again. When it came to playtime if we played with blocks she wanted dolls...then she wanted blocks again. There was nothing pleasing Tabitha. She was miserable and demanding no matter what I did. When I read Jesus' comments here I can't help but relate to the exasperation and frustration He must have been feeling...

19. Who does Jesus compare "the people of this generation" to? _____ How are they like children? *(Highlight this moment in your Bible. You may already be thinking ahead to another time when Jesus makes a more favorable remark about children and their nature.)*

|

20. **Read Luke 5:33** – Remember this scene? Who was questioning Jesus here? _____ How did they characterize John the Baptist's and his disciples' behavior?

|

How did they characterize Jesus' and his disciples' behavior?

21. In fact, John was quite heavy and intense in his approach compared to Jesus, wasn't he? Read Luke
 22. Fast-forward to Jesus in **Luke 7:32-33** Use this chart to help organize the comparison between the approaches of John and Jesus and include Jesus' own words. I included some verses to help, but don't let that limit you!

John the Baptist ☹️	Jesus The Son of Man 😊
Matthew 3:4	Luke 5:33
Luke 3:7	Luke 5:34
Luke 3:18	Luke 7:32a
Luke 5:33	Luke 7:34
Luke 7:32b	
Luke 7:33	

...In Closing...

There was a season in my life that I suffered from C.C.S. It's not a rare condition, but it's very infectious. Maybe you've heard of it? Chronic Critical Spirit. At church the music was too loud or too mellow. The songs were a little too old or the choruses were too repetitive. The preaching – too long or too wordy or not wordy enough. Too many Bible verses...too few. I couldn't listen to a sermon or Bible speaker without evaluating every word against my personal theology-o-meter. I found the cure, though! It came in doses of Scripture. Reading God's Word was like a scalpel to my diseased spirit. I read the Word and it sliced open my harsh heart and helped me see that my heart was like the Pharisees'. Rather than embracing the refreshing newness of Jesus, I held on to the way things were as if they were the Right way. I held on to my preferences as if they were the divinely ordained method. When Jesus explained how the Pharisees were like children impossible to please whether a sad dirge or a happy flute song was played, I considered myself and how difficult to please I had become. I was missing the point of Jesus' mission – to invite all to His party, His delightful dance. I confessed my critical, Pharisaical spirit and prayed for a new heart – a heart of flesh, softened to His Words. Jesus restored my heart and He continues to renew in me a right spirit as I continue to submit to Him. He'll renew your heart today as well. Confess any tendencies you have toward a critical, resistant spirit and ask the Father to give you a spirit that is fresh and willing and open today!

The Lord of the Dance

I danced in the morning When the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon And the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven And I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

I danced for the scribe And the Pharisee,
But they would not dance And they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, For James and John
They came with me And the Dance went on.

I danced on the Sabbath And I cured the lame:
The holy people Said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped And they hung me on high,
And they left me there On a Cross to die.

I danced on a Friday When the sky turned black
It's hard to dance With the devil on your back.
They buried my body And they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance, And I still go on.

They cut me down And I leapt up high:
I am the life That'll never, never die:
I'll live in you If you'll live in me -
I am the Lord Of the Dance, said he.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he*

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- Day Eight -

Today's passage: Luke 7:36-50

... Open with Prayer ...

Write your prayer here as you prepare your heart and mind for today's study.

Read Luke 7:36

1. This isn't the first time Jesus has been to dinner at someone's home.
Who else has He eaten with? _____ (Luke 5:27)
2. In this earlier dinner, what had happened BEFORE Jesus came to eat?
|
3. How is this Luke chapter 7 different so far?
|

Be mindful that this is eating dinner in the middle east...not in America. As you imagine this scene, don't think of a room like your dining room with a table and chairs. Think of lounging on pillows low on the floor, leaning on one side around a low couch with your head toward the table and your body stretched away from it. If you were seated in a chair your feet would be below you. Lounging to the side and eating would position your feet behind you – accessible for someone to come and wash them.

Read Luke 7:37-38

4. How is this woman described?
➤ _____
➤ _____
5. Why do you think Luke makes mention of her occupation?
|
6. What did she bring with her? _____
It was customary for Jewish women to wear flasks of perfume as a necklace. The ESV renders the Greek word [μύρου (myrou)] as "ointment" which connotes a thick cream. However, it's better if you think of fluid, perfumed oil.
7. She is first _____ behind him
Then she is _____ and her tears fall upon His _____
So she bends down and _____ His feet with her _____
And then she _____ His feet
And then she _____ His feet with the ointment.
8. Does this passage indicate if she had met Jesus before? No. How then do you account for her powerful emotion?
|

Read Luke 7:39-40

9. Jesus' host responds in a way that indicates he thinks Jesus...
➤ Must NOT be a _____
➤ Must NOT know who _____
10. But Jesus corrects both thoughts demonstrating that He is indeed a _____!

Read Luke 7:41-43

11. Summarize the story Jesus tells:
|
| *A story with a point so simple that a child could grasp it, right? And like a bratty child...*
12. ...Simon answers with a grudging tone when he prefaces his answer with, " _____..."
| *Can you see an eye-roll in his tone? Jesus ignores the tone and affirms the right answer, and then...*

Read Luke 7:44-46

13. ...What question does Jesus ask of Simon when He turns to her? "Simon, do you _____ this woman?"
Did he? Did he truly see her?
By now the room would have been filled not only with the sight of her but...
 ...the sound of her weeping
 ...the aroma of her perfume.
 ...and Jesus pauses to take Simon's eyes off himself and onto her...a woman who up to this moment of her life may have been seen only as a "woman of the city" – marginalized, scorned, hated – but would from this point forward for all time and eternity be seen as the woman who let it all go so she could be with Jesus in the most tender, honest, and surrendered manner possible.
14. When Jesus affirms Simon's response He acknowledged that Simon had: " _____"
He had the answer right but he was still missing the point.
His mind was engaged. He understood the words Jesus spoke...but his heart was distant.
15. What do you think was keeping Simon so resistant? Consider his position in society, his gender, his education...
|
16. Jesus calls out Simon by pointing out the contrast between his treatment of Jesus and the woman's. Compare the two here:
|
| Which of these contrasts stand out the most to you? Why?
17. Once again, the crowd is stunned not so much by Jesus' actions but by His words. What words did He speak that caused the greatest stir? (v48)
|
| Why do you think this is such a big deal?
18. Jesus concludes the encounter with a statement: " _____";"
and a gentle command: " _____."

What did He say had saved her? _____ (not her love, not her devotion, not her perfumed anointing, etc.)

Read Ephesians 2:8 and write it here:

|

...In Closing...

When I saw the face of my newborn son I wept.

When I saw the Grand Canyon...moved by its beauty and grandness I wept.

When I saw the Vietnam War Memorial...overcome by the sacrifice represented by each name I wept.

I didn't think about it. I hadn't planned on it. It was just a raw, honest moment ... each one of these moments brought me to me knees emotionally, touching the deepest parts of my heart.

I'm not sure it is possible to read this account and *not* cry. If it is, I have yet to do it.

I see this broken and used woman breaking down and using her most personal possessions – her hair, her tears, her perfume – to anoint the One who would ultimately be broken for her.

She hadn't planned on it. She was overcome. If ever there was someone who loved Jesus with heart, soul, mind and body – this woman did.

Who do you relate to today? The woman - softened and surrendered and swept away by the truth of who Jesus is? Or, like Simon keeping Jesus at a safe distance - acknowledging the truth of Jesus' words with your mind but still keeping Him away from your heart?

Only you can answer that.

My prayer for you today is that you would find that recognize your need for Jesus and have the faith to give Him your life.

— Day Nine —

Read and take notes through Luke 8:1-39

Today is an Active Reading Day

... Open with Prayer ...

|

Go, read, write...have fun in God's word! ☺

— Day Ten —
Today's Passage: Luke 8:1-15

... Open with Prayer ...

Read today's passage through before beginning.

Read Luke 8:1-3

On the heels of the dramatic scene with the woman at Simon's house, is it any wonder that the word is out not to just the men but to the women? If anyone ever suggests that Jesus didn't have a heart for women or that Jesus didn't elevate and respect women, I pray that your understanding through this study gives you the facts you need to set the record straight. Jesus loved women, honored women, respected women and disciplined women!

1. List the names of "the twelve" (Luke 6:12-16) and the names of the women mentioned by name in Luke 8:1-3 along with any brief details about who they were. You can return to this page and add to it as we study more.

1) _____ - _____
2) _____ - _____
3) _____ - _____
4) _____ - _____
5) _____ - _____
6) _____ - _____
7) _____ - _____
8) _____ - _____
9) _____ - _____
10) _____ - _____
11) _____ - _____
12) _____ - _____
13) _____ - _____
14) _____ - _____
15) _____ - _____

16) And many others who did what? _____

2. While Jesus came and ministered to the poor, He also had disciples from among the wealthy. What evidence of that do you read in this passage?

Read Luke 8:4-8

3. Who does the "sower" represent? _____
4. What does the "seed" represent? _____

5. What kind of soils (or really just places the seed lands) does Jesus describe for the seed? And what happens to each one?

<u>Landing Spot</u>	<u>What happens to the seed</u>
1) _____	- _____
2) _____	- _____
3) _____	- _____
4) _____	- _____

Read Luke 8:9-15

6. Explain what Jesus meant by “seed”, various landing spots, and who is represented also in aspects of the parable. (create a chart, table, drawing, write it out, etc. – whatever way makes it easiest for you to remember)

7. Why do you think Jesus “called out” (the Greek word is *phono* = sound): “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

8. The four types of landings apply to those who hear the truth about salvation through Jesus (the gospel)...that’s you! List at least three ways you have heard the gospel at this point in your life:

➤ _____

➤ _____

➤ _____

9. The four types of landings also apply to those who, after accepting Jesus as their Savior, *continue* to hear the message...is that you?

- **Are you saved? – You’ve said “Yes! I believe in Jesus as my Savior and have surrendered my life to Him.”**
 Yes. No. Not Sure.
- **Are you continuing to hear the word of God? If so, how do you hear it?**
 - Do you let Satan take God’s word and/or twist God’s word?
 Yes. No. Not Sure.
 - Do you listen but go ahead and ignore it, picking and choosing the parts you like and understand?
 Yes. No. Not Sure.
 - Do you allow influences and opinions of this world make your hearing of the word of no effect?
 Yes. No. Not Sure.
 - Do you obey the word and see it in the fruit your life bears?
 Yes. No. Not Sure.

Read Romans 1:19-20

10. What does this say about God’s nature and how it’s revealed?

Do you see the power of these words from Romans? Whether you've heard the word of God from the Bible or seen the evidence of God in nature *you are still accountable to respond to the word!*

STICKY QUESTION...

In Luke 8:10 Jesus says that He spoke in parables "so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.'" He is quoting from Isaiah 6:9. Did Jesus really intend to hide the kingdom from outsiders? Read more details of this conversation Jesus has with The Twelve in Mark 4:10-13. So, considering the context (where, when, to whom this is spoken) what do you think? Was Jesus keeping secrets? Is this in conflict with His statement "He who has ears let him hear." (Luke 8:8) Consider this and write any thoughts here along with Scripture to support it. Let me know if you'd like to dig deeper on this topic. Write your thoughts here:

My hope is that you would feel confident in your understanding of Scripture through this study. I keep that desire in tension with my willingness to be ok if we don't always fully understand. We should want to be good students of the Word. My mission is not to be an answer dispensing machine, but to help you seek and search the Scriptures and to do that together with you but not for you.

11. Go back to **Luke 8:15** and write the flow of action/behavior the "good soil" (hopefully that's you!) exhibits:
(from the ESV)

"As for that in the good soil, they are those who...

1) _____ the word

2) _____ (to the word)

How? in an _____ and _____ heart

3) _____ with _____

...In Closing...

Jesus still calls out today. He's calling us through the words recorded in the Bible; He's calling through the teaching we hear in from our pastors; He's calling us through the world around us! He's calling; are you listening? Are you seeing yourself in verse 15? Hearing the Word...holding fast to it...bearing fruit? Maybe you're at the "hearing" stage. But you're not holding fast or retaining it. Perhaps you are retaining the word but you're not bearing fruit? This is the day to take inventory of where you are and make the adjustments to your "soil."

— Day Eleven —

Today's Passage: Luke 8:16-21

... Open with Prayer ...

Read today's passage through before beginning.

Read Luke 8:16-18

1. What do we do after we light a lamp? (not a trick question.)

2. What does the lamp represent? _____

3. Read Psalm 119:105 and write it here:

An interesting word study is on "light", "lamp", and "fire" (all lamps would have been by fire in the Bible). I'd love to hear from you if you dig deeper on these words in the Bible.

4. After it's lit, what should you do with it?

5. Why? (last phrase in v16)

6. What will happen to "hidden things?" _____

7. **Read Deuteronomy 29:29** – What does this say about the...

"secret things" - _____

"revealed things" - _____

Who gets the revealed things? _____

Why? "that we _____ all the words of this law

The hidden things are revealed to those who are?? _____

8. Just like a person doesn't light a lamp in order to hide it, so a person isn't given secret things to...

9. What is Jesus' warning in verse 18?

What does this mean?

10. **Read Acts 13:44-47** – God's plan was always that His truth would come to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles. In fact, God had made the Jews a what? (Acts 13:47)

But what did the Jews do with the word of God? (Acts 13:46a)

How is a confirmation of Jesus' warning in Luke 8:18?

Read Luke 8:19-21 (also in Matthew 12:46-50 and Mark 3:31-35 for more details)

11. What were Jesus' mother and brothers trying to do?

12. What was Jesus' response?

13. Does Jesus' response seem odd to you? Why or why not?

Is Jesus saying that his mom isn't His mom? His brothers aren't His brothers? No. Jesus is placing priority on spiritual relationships *over* physical relationships.

14. What is implied in the request (recorded in Matthew's account) of His mother and brothers?

It's not that this is an unreasonable request, but Jesus uses the opportunity to make a point, one that He's made before. Highlight this verse and be on the lookout for others to come. Trust me, it's a key point!

...In Closing...

Have you ever audited a college class? When you audit a class you get to attend a class as a significantly lower cost, listen to the professor, hear all the teaching, and benefit from all the explanations, but you do not have to do any of the tests. You hear but you don't do. Are you auditing God's teaching today, my friend? Attending this study, reading the words, but there's a disconnect between your brain and your heart and from your heart to your mouth, your feet or hands? Be cautious. The wisdom of God is given to the one who hears *and* does God's word.

— Day Twelve —

Today's Passage: Luke 8:22-25

... Open with Prayer ...

→ Read today's passage through before beginning.

Knock Knock...

What's the reply? Even a child knows almost instinctively... "Who's there?"

Who's there?... the natural response to a silly joke, and the obvious question to ask before you let someone in...before you give someone access to your home. How much more important then is the answer to that question before we give someone access to our heart.

Read Luke 1:31-35 and Luke 2:11

1. Write down all the many ways that the identity of Jesus is named. I counted at least eleven.

- 1) 1:31 a son
- 2) 1:31 named "Jesus"

2. ***Where else in the chapters we've studied so far has someone identified who Jesus is? List a few examples:

Select one of your examples to share with your group. Also, share what event happened when Jesus was identified.

Read Luke 8:22-23 (Matthew 8:23-27 and Mark 4:35-41 also have this incident and include some unique details)

3. Who is with Jesus? _____
4. Where does Jesus suggest they go? _____
5. What does He do as they sailed off (suggesting the initial weather condition on the lake)

Why do you think He fell asleep?

6. What details does Luke include that indicate the severity of the storm?

7. Have you ever been sailing during a storm? I haven't, but my friend told me about a time she was out on a lake when a storm came down out of nowhere. One minute everything is serene and lovely and the next she was fearing for her life as their little sailboat was tossed like a ragdoll in the mouth of an angry Pit Bull. Using sensory language describe what you imagine the disciples were experiencing in a storm of this severity. What were the disciples...

- Seeing?
- Smelling?
- Tasting?
- Hearing?
- Feeling? (*physically*)
- Feeling? (*emotionally*)

Read Luke 8:24

8. What is the cry of the disciples? Write their *exact* words here:

The Greek word "Master" is the same name Peter called Jesus back in Luke 5:5. The Greek word translated "perish" (ESV, KJV, NASB) or "drown" (NIV) or "die" (HCSB, NET) is the word "apollymi" and is the same word used by Jesus in John 3:16.

9. What does Jesus do?

10. What earlier incidents recorded in Luke has Jesus rebuked someone/something?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Read Luke 8:25a (Jesus' question)

11. What does Jesus ask of them?

12. What earlier incidents recorded in Luke has Jesus commended someone for having faith?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

13. What does Jesus' question about their lack of faith imply about His expectations of them at this point?

They have witnessed Jesus performing scores of miracles by now. And yet...faced with death because of a tremendous storm their faith is absent. In its place is the pounding reality of storm...the sight, sound, and sensation of a terrible force of nature. Can you blame them? And yet, Jesus calls them out. No record of "It's ok guys. I know this was reeeeeeeally scary for you. Let's huddle and pray through it." No. Nope. Jesus calls them out for their lack of faith. Period.

Recall that on the boat were the disciples and among the disciples were Jesus' own brothers: James and John. James goes on to write an epistle (letter) to believers and this letter is included in the Bible as the book of James.

Read James 1:2-8 and as you read think about James having been on this boat, in this storm, being called out by Jesus for his lack of faith.

14. ***What does James say about encountering trials and testing of faith?

15. ***What does James compare a lack of faith to?

Hmmmm....I wonder where he might have gotten this analogy??

Read Luke 8:25b (*the disciples' response*)

16. Jesus asked "Where is your faith?" Having made it through this fierce storm, hearing Jesus' rebuke (of the storm) how do they respond?

Shock and awe. Fear and trembling. Terror and amazement. All of the above! I'd like to think I'd be relaxed and ready and high-fiving Jesus for His awesomeness, but c'mon. I'd be a little freaked out too...ok, a lot freaked out!

And now we come to the question of the day...the week...the year...the most important question to answer (as we'll see in our next lesson).

17. Jesus asks rhetorically, "Where is your faith?" and they respond amongst themselves with a question of their own! What do the disciples ask?

Matthew records the essence of their question: "What kind of man is this?"
This is the question that you have to answer for yourself today. "Who is this man?"

18. At the root of their question is Jesus' authority over what?

Does it surprise you that at this point, having seen the miracles Jesus has perform, they'd still be in shock? Why or why not?

...In Closing...

At the opening of today's study I asked you to go back to the beginning of Luke and note who Jesus was identified as. In the first question you listed at least eleven distinct ways Jesus is identified. The disciples by this point have seen over and over again that Jesus is demonstrating who He is. Like the disciples in that storm-tossed boat with all of the scary realities of danger swirling and splashing around them, maybe you find yourself more focused on the storm than having faith in the Man who can rebuke that storm. Are you living by sight instead of by faith? Jesus is asking you today, "Where is your faith?" Instead of questioning who He is, instead of responding with echoes of fear, I pray that you will respond in a way that affirms your belief in exactly who He is.

— Day Thirteen —

Today's Passage: Luke 8:26-39

... Open with Prayer ...

Before beginning be sure to read the entire passage for the day. Then we'll go verse by verse back through it.

Read Luke 8:26-29

1. What means of travel is mentioned here? _____
Interesting. They juuuuust wrapped up that harrowing experience on the stormy lake and now they're sailing on.
2. Describe the demon possessed man:
(appearance, actions, demeanor, etc.)
3. By what name does the demoniac identify Jesus? _____
This answers the disciples' question from Luke 8:25
4. Then he begs Jesus to **not** do what?
5. What does this imply about the demon's knowledge of who Jesus was and what He had the authority and power to do?
6. What does Jesus' brother James say about demons in James 2:19?
James had seen this shuddering up close!! He was there on the shore that day witnessing this entire crazy scene!

Read Luke 8:30

7. Having been rightly named by the demoniac, Jesus asks what?
8. What answer does He get? _____
A Roman legion could have as many as 6,000 men!! This man was either literally possessed by thousands of demons, or the demon speaking is making a point – there's a lot of us in here!

Read Luke 8:31

9. What do they beg of Jesus? _____
10. Matthew's account gives an interesting extra detail here of what the demons understood about the abyss.

Read Matthew 8:29 and note what the demons were aware of:

For more information on the “abyss” read Revelation 20:1-3 and 2 Peter 2:4

Read Luke 8:32-33

11. Summarize the account of what happened to the demons:

Read Luke 8:34-36

12. Review your description from question #2. Describe what this man now looks and acts like:

Read Luke 37-39 Note as you read the two responses...the herdsmen and the healed man

13. How did the people/herdsmen of that region respond?

Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

14. How does the healed man respond?

15. What does Jesus say for him to do instead?

16. Does he? _____! And in so doing he becomes one of Jesus’ first evangelists! This man has quite a story to tell and he has eye-witnesses to back it up. No more crazy behavior. He is no longer chained – he’s been changed! In Mark’s record of this event you can read that this man’s story is received and the people marveled! (Mark 5:20)

Read Psalm 65:5-8

17. What does this passage speak to in special relation to today’s and yesterday’s accounts (v7)?

Both deal with the disorder of the natural and human world. Jesus stills both.

...In Closing...

Today is the 13th day of our study. We’ve met so many people over these past several chapters. I wonder, of all the people we’ve met, who did you find yourself most relating to? Which parable did you see yourself in? Wise or Foolish builder? The centurion? The widow’s son? Maybe you identify with the “sinful woman” who had much forgiven? Or maybe Simon the judgmental Pharisee? Perhaps you saw your tendencies in the types of “soil” that the seed landed upon? Did you see yourself in the disciples who after seeing so much still doubted Jesus? Maybe the demon possessed

man is someone with whom you relate or maybe the villagers who wanted Jesus to leave? Take time as you wrap up today's study and this final day of our time together to consider who you might relate most to. Write some thoughts here and be prepared to share with your group when we get together.

I relate most to _____ because:

You are loved
AND
prayed for.