



# LUKE

LIFE GROUP GUIDE  
UNIT FOUR

**JULY - AUGUST 2024**

## Luke 9:46-62 | July 14, 2024

This passage is a perfect example of the pride of man and the humility of Christ. We have Jesus informing his disciples of his impending death, where he would give himself up as a ransom for humanity. Then immediately after we find the disciples arguing about which of them is the greatest.

### Read Luke 9:46-50.

How did Jesus address their dispute, and what lesson did He teach by using a child as an example?

Why did John want to stop someone casting out demons in Jesus' name and how did Jesus respond to John's concern?

### Read Luke 9:51-56

Jesus sends messengers to a village in Samaria to essentially inform them that a large group was coming to town. And the village rejects Jesus and his followers. James and John want instant judgement on the Samaritans, where Jesus desires to withhold his judgment. How did Jesus respond to the disciples' suggestion to call down fire from heaven, and what does this tell us about His mission and character?

### Read Luke 9:57-62

When Jesus told the man to "let the dead bury their own dead," He highlighted the urgency and priority of His call. In what ways might we be tempted to prioritize other responsibilities or concerns over our commitment to following Jesus?

Jesus' analogy of not looking back after putting a hand to the plow emphasizes the dedication required for His disciples. Can you think of an experience where you had to make a difficult choice to stay focused on the ministry set before you over other obligations?

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus Christ is the epitome of greatness. His greatness is revealed to us in his humility and willingness to go to the cross.
- Following Christ means making your allegiance to Christ priority over any other relationship in your life.

### PRAYER PROMPTS

- Seek the Lord for greater humility in your life. Take some time thinking of Jesus' journey to the cross and the mission that He was on. Thank Him for going to the cross and dying in your place. Offer to the Lord the areas of your life that you have held to a higher priority than your commitment to Him.

## **Luke 10:1-24 | July 21, 2024**

Our text today gives us great insight on our evangelism as Christ followers. Jesus sends out a larger group of His followers to evangelize and in His instructions, we find the purpose, urgency, risk, and reward of bringing the good news of the kingdom of God to a lost world.

### **Read Luke 10:1-20**

Why do you think Jesus sent out seventy-two disciples in pairs? What might be the significance of this number and strategy?

Jesus describes the disciples as lambs among wolves. What do you think this metaphor means in the context of their mission?

What does Jesus say the disciples should do if a town welcomes them versus if it rejects them? How does this passage highlight the seriousness of accepting or rejecting the message of the Kingdom of God?

What was the reaction of the seventy-two when they returned from their mission? How does Jesus' response in verses 18-20 shift their focus from their accomplishments to a greater truth?

### **Read Luke 10:21-24**

What does this passage show us about the relationship between the believer and God? What is it that Jesus says the disciples have seen that many prophets and kings long to see? Why is what they have seen so wonderful?

### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- Every Christ follower is on a mission to bring the gospel to the world.
- If we are rejected by the world, it is not us they are rejecting it is Christ.
- Evangelism is best done with others.

### **PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Spend some time thinking about the harvest of the world. Pray for the Lord to give your eyes to see the need for laborers and start asking Him for more laborers in the church. Ask the Lord how He wants to use you to bring his good news to the people in your life.

## Luke 10:25-42 | July 28, 2024

A lawyer, an expert in Jewish law, approaches Jesus with a question: "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" This question sets the stage for the entire discussion. It's a fundamental query about the requirements for salvation and living a life pleasing to God. His question, in the lawyer's eyes, will easily put Jesus into a corner and get Him to speak something blasphemous.

### Read Luke 10:25-28

Notice how the lawyer starts with asking what must you "DO" to be saved. What does this tell us about his understanding of works-based righteousness versus grace-based righteousness? Why is it impossible for us to work for our salvation?

How is it then that we are able to fulfill the greatest commandments and inherit eternal life?

Look at verse 29. It says that the lawyer then tries to justify himself. Ultimately, he is digging his heels deeper into the dirt and trying to prove that his works-based religion is correct. Striving for a works-based righteousness will always leave you trying to justify yourself. How is it then that we are justified when we place our faith in the Lord Jesus?

The lawyer's desire is to limit the definition of "neighbor" to those within his own ethnic and religious community. Read verses 30-37. How does Jesus challenge the lawyers understanding of what loving your neighbor looks like?

The choice of a Samaritan as the example of the story is highly significant. Jews and Samaritans had a long history of animosity. Samaritans were descendants of Israelites who had intermarried with foreigners and were despised by the purely ethnic Jews. Why would this have been such a radical example to those who were listening to Jesus?

How can we apply the lessons from the Parable of the Good Samaritan to our own lives today?

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus' answers to the lawyer's questions reveals that without faith in Him, we neither love God properly nor love our neighbor properly.
- The self-righteous person will always look to their own self-interest. They will justify themselves and will see people in need as a burden.

### PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray against any inclination you might have to think that you are saved based on any works you have done. Thank the Lord for the salvation that was given to you by the work that Jesus Christ did on the cross in your place. Pray for the ability to love God and to love you neighbor in ways that flow out of the grace given salvation that you have obtained.

## Luke 11:1-13 | August 4, 2024

Prayer is absolutely necessary for the Christian. It is vital to how we communicate with God. Charles Hodge said that “prayer is the converse of our soul with God.” Some of Jesus’ most profound teachings on prayer come from his disciples simply watching him pray. They would see the rhythms, content, tone, and reverence of Jesus’s prayers to his Father. What we find in the Lord’s prayer is not only a framework for how we can form our prayers, but a deeper knowledge of the God to whom we are praying.

### Read Luke 11:1-4

What are the things that Jesus teaches his disciples to pray for? Discuss how we should understand each one.

How does the Lord's Prayer guide us in addressing God and presenting our requests?

What do the different parts of the Lord's Prayer (praise, provision, forgiveness, guidance) teach us about our relationship with God?

### Read Luke 11:5-13

What does the parable of the friend at midnight teach us about persistence in prayer?

How can we apply the lesson of this parable to our personal prayer life?

What do the commands to ask, seek, and knock suggest about our approach to prayer and God's response?

What has the practice of persistent prayer resulted in in your Christian life?

How does Jesus use the analogy of a parent providing for their child to explain God's nature in responding to our prayers?

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Lord’s prayer is not only a framework for how we can form our prayers, but a deeper knowledge of the God to whom we are praying.
- Like the persistent friend in the parable, bringing your requests to God with faith and determination will yield immeasurable blessing and guidance in your life.
- God’s character as a loving Father shows that his desire is to give good gifts to His children. Trust in His goodness and faithfulness even when the answers to prayers seem delayed.

### PRAYER PROMPTS

- Use the Lord’s Prayer as a model for structuring your prayers, ensuring they include praise, requests for provision, confession, and seeking guidance. Commit to bringing the things in your life persistently to the Lord.

## Luke 11:29-54 | August 11, 2024

Our passage for today encourages believers to focus on genuine faith, repentance, and living in the light of Christ.

### Read Luke 11:29-32

What does Jesus mean when He says, "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah"? How does the sign of Jonah compare to the ministry and mission of Jesus?

### Read Luke 11:33-36

What does Jesus mean by describing the eye as the lamp of the body? How does this metaphor relate to spiritual insight and perception?

In a contrast of emanating God's righteousness versus a self-righteousness, Jesus expresses woes upon the pharisees and lawyers.

### Read Luke 11: 37-52

Ultimately, Jesus is criticizing the hypocrisy of these men. How do Jesus' warnings to the Pharisees and experts in the law apply to believers today?

Jesus informs us how to identify the hypocrites.

- They major on the minors (vv. 41-42)
- They must be noticed (v. 43)
- They pretend to be spiritually alive. (v. 44)
- They believe themselves better than others. (v. 46)
- They oppose the people of God (vv. 47-51)
- They distort the truth (v. 52)

If these "hypocrisy indicators" are not the goal of our Christian witness, what might we replace them with?

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Ensure that your actions are sincere and reflect your faith. Avoid performing religious duties for the sake of appearance or human approval.
- Regularly examine your motives, attitudes, and actions to ensure they align with the teachings of Jesus. Seek accountability and be open to correction and growth.

### PRAYER PROMPTS

- Seek the Lord for inner transformation. That His glorious light would emanate from your life so that others would draw their eyes to him. Repent of any attempt at yourself righteousness and cling to the finished work of Christ on the cross.

## **Luke 12:1-21 | August 18, 2024**

Even a small amount of leaven will radically change an entire batch of dough. In the same way, even a little amount of the hypocrisy of the pharisees will at some point permeate and transform the entire fabric of one's life. It is that destructive. Are we living for ourselves or are we living for Christ? We can only choose one.

### **Read Luke 12:1-12**

What does Jesus' warning about the leaven of the Pharisees teach us about hypocrisy? How does this relate to last week's study?

What does Jesus mean when He tells His followers to fear God rather than those who can only kill the body? How does fearing God alleviate any fears we could have of anyone ever harming us?

What does it mean to acknowledge Jesus before others, and what are the consequences of denying Him?

How can the promise of the Holy Spirit's guidance encourage us when we face opposition or challenges in professing our faith?

### **Read Luke 12:13-21**

What is the main lesson of the parable, and how can it influence our attitudes towards wealth and possessions?

How does Jesus' teaching in these verses challenge us to shift our focus from earthly concerns to eternal priorities?

### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- If we are Christ followers then we follow Christ, not ourselves. We become hypocrites when we claim to follow Christ but our lives say otherwise.
- Be sure to examine your actions and what you say to ensure they align with your faith.
- A healthy fear of God respects His power and authority. Your reverence for the Lord should guide your actions and decisions.

### **PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and instruct on how to be a witness of Christ in the world. Pray for boldness to acknowledge Christ in your workplace, in your family, and in the community. Bring to God all the ways that you fall into hypocritical tendencies.

## Luke 12:22-48 | August 25, 2024

Our passage today gives us two reasons to have rock solid trust in our living God. The first is that we have nothing to worry about because of his providential hand. The second is that he is coming back soon. Jesus begins with encouraging his disciples to not have any anxiety.

### Read Luke 12:22-34

Why does Jesus instruct His disciples not to worry about their lives? What examples does He give to illustrate God's provision?

How can we apply Jesus' teaching on anxiety to our own lives and trust God more fully with our needs?

What does it mean to seek God's kingdom first, according to Jesus?

How does prioritizing God's kingdom affect our attitudes towards material possessions and worldly concerns?

How can we store up treasure in heaven, and what does this involve practically in our daily lives?

### Read Luke 12:35-48

What does Jesus mean by encouraging His disciples to be dressed and ready for service, with lamps burning?

How can we apply the principle of readiness in our lives, anticipating Christ's return or our eventual death?

How does this parable challenge us to live faithfully with the resources and responsibilities God has entrusted to us?

### KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- We need to spend less time worrying about the kingdom of this world and spend more time considering the Kingdom to come.
- We should have great peace today knowing that Christ will return.
- God will provide for us all that we need to glorify His name and for us to have fullness of joy.

### PRAYER PROMPT:

- Thank the Lord for taking perfect care of you as His child. Take some time thinking about all of the promises of God to you and how you can be certain of His return and eternal life with Him. Ask God to give you the disciplines and faithful conduct for you to be ready when He returns.