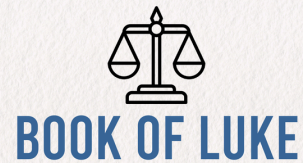


## CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week #4 - Where's God When Life's a Mess?



### GETTING STARTED

Spend some time checking in with each other. Any highs and lows since the last time you met?

Share about a time when you got physically “stuck” (in mud, snow, traffic, a line at the DMV) and what you had to do to get out. How does it feel to be stuck with no quick fix?

### THIS WEEK'S THEME

Angie described getting stuck thigh-deep in mud with a canoe on her shoulders. What's a “mud pit” you've been stuck in—something you didn't ask for or expect? Why do you think unexpected messes often feel harder to handle than challenges we see coming?

The disciples expected Jesus to overthrow Rome and “fix” their immediate problem. How do our expectations of God sometimes limit our trust in Him?

How does knowing Jesus chose to enter into our pain, grief, and mess change the way you see your own struggles?

The sermon listed examples: diagnosis, loss, broken relationships, job struggles. Which ones have you seen God meet you in—or which ones still feel unresolved?

Read Luke 24:1-12. The women went to the tomb expecting to find death, but instead heard, “He is not here; He has risen.” How might we still “look for the living among the dead” in our own lives—seeking hope in places that can't give it?

Angie's brother-in-law Joel physically pulled her out of the mud. Who has been a “Joel” in your life—someone who climbed into your mess to help?

The sermon said: “The mess doesn't win.” What's one practical way you can remind yourself of that truth this week?

### DIGGING DEEPER

Visit [www.calvaryalex.org/luke](http://www.calvaryalex.org/luke) for additional study resources during this series

### TAKING IT HOME

*Every day this week, take one minute to thank God for being with you in your mess, and one minute to ask how you can step into someone else's mess with love and hope.*

### PRAY

Lord, you see the messes we didn't ask for and the pits we can't climb out of on our own. When life feels heavy and hopeless, remind us that the mess doesn't win. Help us trust Your presence and Your power to pull us through. Amen.