

LEARNING CURVE

WITHOUT QUESTIONS
THERE ARE NO ANSWERS



Small Group Study Guide

Scan this code for weekly questions
to discuss with your small group.



You can also download this study guide and
access the weekly questions on our website
Northviewchristian.org/groupresources

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LEARNING CURVE

Small Group Study Guide

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12 WEEK READING PLAN IN LUKE

10 Minutes a Day

This reading plan is designed to help you slow down and encounter the life, ministry and resurrection of Jesus. Immerse yourself in the text and use your imagination to picture yourself in each scene as you follow Jesus through the gospel of Luke and explore the greatest story ever.

Forget about skimming the passage or reading quickly. Slowly read each verse out loud. Pause to let the words sink in. As a particular verse or phrase catches your attention, repeat it several times and consider how God might be speaking to you through His Word. If you get to the end of the passage and feel unsure about what just you read, go back and re-read the entire passage. Look for key words or details that stand out and ask the Lord to speak to you.

5 Ways to Dig Deeper

Below are five simple ways to dig deeper into God's Word. These practices are intended to help you slow down and grasp the meaning of the text while listening to Scripture.

1. Imagine you were a disciple who followed, watched and listened to Jesus. What stands out in each passage? Underline, circle or highlight any key words or phrases.
2. Immerse yourself in the text. What details does Luke include in this scene or passage? Why does this matter?
3. What does this passage teach you about Jesus?
4. What does this passage show you about yourself?
5. Look for any words that convey an action or command. How does this truth connect to your life right now?

WEEK 1

- Luke 1:1–25
- Luke 1:26–38
- Luke 1:39–66
- Luke 1:67–80
- Luke 2:1–20

WEEK 2

- Luke 2:21–40
- Luke 2:41–3:20
- Luke 3:21–38
- Luke 4:1–13
- Luke 4:14–30

WEEK 3

- Luke 4:31–44
- Luke 5:1–16
- Luke 5:17–39
- Luke 6:1–16
- Luke 6:17–36

WEEK 4

- Luke 6:37–7:10
- Luke 7:11–35
- Luke 7:36–50
- Luke 8:1–15
- Luke 8:16–39

WEEK 5

- Luke 8:40–56
- Luke 9:1–17
- Luke 9:18–36
- Luke 9:37–56
- Luke 9:57–10:24

WEEK 6

- Luke 10:25–37
- Luke 10:38–42
- Luke 11:1–13
- Luke 11:14–54
- Luke 12:1–12

WEEK 7

- Luke 12:13–34
- Luke 12:35–48
- Luke 12:49–13:9
- Luke 13:10–35
- Luke 14:1–14

WEEK 8

- Luke 14:15–35
- Luke 15:1–32
- Luke 16:1–15
- Luke 16:16–31
- Luke 17:1–10

WEEK 9

- Luke 17:11–37
- Luke 18:1–14
- Luke 18:15–30
- Luke 18:31–43
- Luke 19:1–27

WEEK 10

- Luke 19:28–48
- Luke 20:1–19
- Luke 20:20–47
- Luke 21:1–38
- Luke 22:1–6

WEEK 11

- Luke 22:7–38
- Luke 22:39–46
- Luke 22:47–53
- Luke 22:54–65
- Luke 22:66–23:25

WEEK 12

- Luke 23:26–43
- Luke 23:44–56
- Luke 24:1–35
- Luke 24:36–53
- Acts 1:1–11

A NOTE FROM PASTOR ERIC

Jesus was a master storyteller who taught profound truths through simple parables and stories. But more than stories, Jesus also asked questions—307 questions to be exact. Asking questions was Jesus' preferred way of teaching because questions have the power to focus our attention. Using thought-provoking, heart-revealing and pointed questions, Jesus invites us to think deeply about our faith.

While Jesus asked over three hundred questions, He was also asked 183 questions by the crowds, Pharisees and His followers. Yet, Jesus only directly answered three of the 183 questions that He was asked. Clearly, the gospels are more concerned with remembering the questions Jesus asked, rather than the answers He provided. Why is this?

Questions build a connection. Questions lead to closeness. Questions are an invitation to deeper reflection. Questions can comfort or challenge our motives and deepest desires. By asking questions, Jesus wants to stir up interest, prick our conscience and invoke a new level of curiosity as He invites us to search for answers found only in Him. Rather than giving quick tips or a checklist with ten easy steps, Jesus wants to take us on a journey that is beyond the obvious and help us encounter something much deeper.

As we enter this study and explore 13 questions in the gospel of Luke and book of Acts, I want to challenge you to go deeper in your small group. To minimize awkward silence or conversations that fall flat, come prepared and be ready to participate. Like the original context when Jesus asked these same questions, some questions are hard to process on the spot—that's the point. Please complete this study guide prior to attending small group and be ready to participate. Don't settle for shallow answers. Let's go deeper as we unpack the timeless questions that Jesus asked.

Eric Carlson

HOW DOES THIS STUDY WORK?

Whether you've studied the Bible for years or are new in your faith, this study is designed to help you read, understand and apply God's Word as you examine the weekly passage from three perspectives:

PERSONAL STUDY: What does this passage say? What do I see?

The first part of this study is to read the passage for yourself. Our desire is for you to study the passage on your own before hearing the sermon on Sunday because this simple practice will change the way you come to church. Read carefully and look for details. Use this study guide to make observations, write down notes, look for connections in the text and discern what's happening in the passage.

SUNDAY SERMON: What does this passage mean? What stands out?

Now that you have spent time observing the passage by yourself, the second part of this study is based on the sermon. Rather than introducing the passage for the first time, the sermon will clarify the author's intent and move your study from observation to interpretation. Working through the same passage as a reader and listener, will help you engage God's Word in deeper levels and prepare you to respond. If you miss the sermon, we encourage you to listen to it or watch it online prior to attending your small group. Use the sermon notes page in this study guide to write down questions and takeaways to share with your group.

SMALL GROUP: How does this passage relate to us? What should I do?

The final part of this study will combine your personal study with the sermon as you discuss the weekly passage with your group. The goal of small group isn't to rehash the sermon but to press the truth of God's Word into our lives. Through personal application, group discussion and responding to the message, we want to be doers of the Word and have Scripture shape how we live.

THE BACKGROUND OF LUKE

Unlike Matthew, Mark or John who were eyewitnesses and spent three years following Jesus, Luke was a second-generation disciple who never personally met Jesus. But you wouldn't know that by reading Luke's gospel. Unlike the first-generation believers who had vivid memories, personal conversations and firsthand experiences with Jesus, Luke was a private investigator who interviewed those who spent time with Jesus. As a researcher and historian, Luke spent years compiling careful records and comparing the eyewitness testimonies of first-generation believers.

This research project led Luke to write two books in the Bible—Luke and Acts. These two books make up 27% of the New Testament and include a biography of Jesus and the history of the early church as the gospel spread from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. Like any true historian, Luke wrote with accuracy as he assembled detailed records.

Knowing the context and background of how the gospel of Luke was recorded, it shouldn't be a surprise that Luke placed special attention on the influence of questions. Questions are all Luke had. Asking questions was the only way Luke could write a biography and truly understand this man named Jesus. With precision and clarity, Luke interviewed the apostles, disciples and anyone who knew Jesus. From these conversations, Luke checked and double-checked the reliability of his sources and recorded the most orderly and historical account of the life of Jesus.

From the pen of a private investigator, researcher and historian, Luke reveals that questions having staying power as the questions that Jesus asked are still embedded in the minds of those who followed Him years later.

A lot has changed in 2,000 years, but the answers to Jesus' questions remain the same. The purpose of these questions is to challenge your thinking, reveal your true motives and guide you to a deeper understanding of your faith in Jesus.



PERSONAL STUDY: What does this passage say? What do I see?

Luke 5:17-26

¹⁷ One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. ¹⁸ Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. ¹⁹ When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

²¹ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

²² Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? ²³ **Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?** ²⁴ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ²⁵ Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. ²⁶ Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

QUESTION

What is Jesus trying to reveal or teach through His question?

OBSERVATION

Imagine you were a disciple who followed, watched and listened to Jesus as the events unfolded. What stands out in this passage?

RESPONSE

How does this passage encourage, challenge or convict you today?
What is one truth you can apply?

DISCUSSION

What is one takeaway that you want to share with your group?

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RESPONSE: How does today's sermon impact the way you live?

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SMALL GROUP GATHERING

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PERSONAL STUDY: What does this passage say? What do I see?

Luke 6:39-49

³⁹ He also told them this parable: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰ The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.

⁴¹ "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴² How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

⁴³ "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴ Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars.

⁴⁵ A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

⁴⁶ "**Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?** ⁴⁷ As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. ⁴⁸ They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

QUESTION

What is Jesus trying to reveal or teach through His question?

OBSERVATION

Imagine you were a disciple who followed, watched and listened to Jesus as the events unfolded. What stands out in this passage?

RESPONSE

How does this passage encourage, challenge or convict you today?
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PERSONAL STUDY: What does this passage say? What do I see?

Luke 6:27-36

²⁷ "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

QUESTION

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WEEK 4

WHERE IS YOUR
FAITH?

Luke 8:22-25

PERSONAL STUDY: What does this passage say? What do I see?

Luke 8:22-25

²² One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out.

²³ As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

²⁴ The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!"

He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. ²⁵ "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples.

In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

QUESTION

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WEEK 5

ARE YOU EXPECTING
US TO BUY THIS?

Luke 9:10-17

PERSONAL STUDY: What does this passage say? What do I see?

Luke 9:10-17 (NLT)

¹⁰ When the apostles returned, they told Jesus everything they had done. Then he slipped quietly away with them toward the town of Bethsaida. ¹¹ But the crowds found out where he was going, and they followed him. He welcomed them and taught them about the Kingdom of God, and he healed those who were sick.

¹² Late in the afternoon the twelve disciples came to him and said, "Send the crowds away to the nearby villages and farms, so they can find food and lodging for the night. There is nothing to eat here in this remote place."

¹³ But Jesus said, "You feed them."

"But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Or are you expecting us to go and buy enough food for this whole crowd?" ¹⁴ For there were about 5,000 men there.

Jesus replied, "Tell them to sit down in groups of about fifty each." ¹⁵ So the people all sat down. ¹⁶ Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread and fish to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. ¹⁷ They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers!

QUESTION

In this passage, the disciples ask Jesus the obvious question. What is Jesus trying to do in this moment with His disciples?

OBSERVATION

Imagine you were a disciple who followed, watched and listened to Jesus as the events unfolded. What stands out in this passage?

RESPONSE

How does this passage encourage, challenge or convict you today? What is one truth you can apply?

DISCUSSION

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PERSONAL STUDY: What does this passage say? What do I see?

Luke 9:18-27

¹⁸ Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?"

¹⁹ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."

²⁰ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "God's Messiah."

²¹ Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone.

²² And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

²³ Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? ²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

²⁷ "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

QUESTION

What is Jesus trying to reveal or teach through His question?

OBSERVATION

Imagine you were a disciple who followed, watched and listened to Jesus as the events unfolded. What stands out in this passage?

RESPONSE

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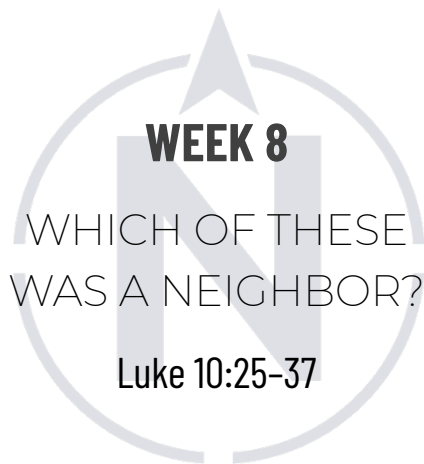
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WEEK 8

WHICH OF THESE
WAS A NEIGHBOR?

Luke 10:25-37

PERSONAL STUDY: What does this passage say? What do I see?

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" ²⁷ He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." ²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" ³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

QUESTION

What is Jesus trying to reveal or teach through His question?

OBSERVATION

Imagine you were a disciple who followed, watched and listened to Jesus as the events unfolded. What stands out in this passage?

RESPONSE

How does this passage encourage, challenge or convict you today?
What is one truth you can apply?

DISCUSSION

What is one takeaway that you want to share with your group?

SUNDAY SERMON: What does this passage mean? What stands out?

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RESPONSE: How does today's sermon impact the way you live?

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SMALL GROUP GATHERING

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Check In: Take 30 minutes to reconnect and encourage each other.

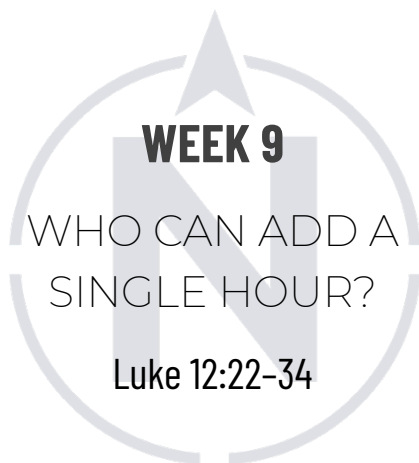
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- △ Use this time to be an encouragement to each other.
- △ Push your conversations deeper and beyond the surface.

Discuss: Take 45 minutes to discuss and apply God's Word.

- △ Read this week's passage out loud as a group and then discuss the four-box questions. Ask everyone to share one takeaway from their personal study.
- △ Talk about what stood out from Sunday's sermon.
- △ Pick one or two questions to discuss from the weekly questions and apply these questions a group.

Response: Take 15 minutes to respond to the Lord and pray together.

- △ Share what you sense God asking you to do based on what you read, the sermon or what you discussed.
- △ Close your group time praying for each other. Ask God to help you apply the truths you learned this week, and pray for any needs that come up in your discussion.
- △ Confirm the time and location for your next small group gathering and highlight what needs to be completed in this study guide so everyone is on the same page.



PERSONAL STUDY: What does this passage say? What do I see?

Luke 12:22-34

²² Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? ²⁶ Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

²⁷ "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you— you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

QUESTION

What is Jesus trying to reveal or teach through His question?

OBSERVATION

Imagine you were a disciple who followed, watched and listened to Jesus as the events unfolded. What stands out in this passage?

RESPONSE

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RESPONSE: How does today's sermon impact the way you live?

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WEEK 10

WILL YOU GO
AFTER THE LOST?

Luke 15:1-7

PERSONAL STUDY: What does this passage say? What do I see?

Luke 15:1-7

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus.² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

QUESTION

What is Jesus trying to reveal or teach through His question?

OBSERVATION

Imagine you were a disciple who followed, watched and listened to Jesus as the events unfolded. What stands out in this passage?

RESPONSE

How does this passage encourage, challenge or convict you today?
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PERSONAL STUDY: What does this passage say? What do I see?

Luke 16:1-15

¹ Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ² So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'

³ "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg— ⁴ I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'

⁵ "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

⁶ "'Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied.

"The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.'

⁷ "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?'

"A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied.

"He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'

⁸ "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹ I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

¹⁰ "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

¹³ "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

¹⁴ The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. ¹⁵ He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight.

QUESTION

What is Jesus trying to reveal or teach through His question?

OBSERVATION

Imagine you were a disciple who followed, watched and listened to Jesus as the events unfolded. What stands out in this passage?

RESPONSE

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PERSONAL STUDY: What does this passage say? What do I see?

Luke 22:66-71, 23:1-25

⁶⁶At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. ⁶⁷"If you are the Messiah," they said, "tell us." Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, ⁶⁸and if I asked you, you would not answer.

⁶⁹But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God."

⁷⁰They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied, "You say that I am." ⁷¹Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips."

¹Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate.

²And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king."

³So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "You have said so," Jesus replied. ⁴Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man."

⁵But they insisted, "He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here." ⁶On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort. ⁹ He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. ¹² That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

¹³ Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶ Therefore, I will punish him and then release him." ¹⁸ But the whole crowd shouted, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" ¹⁹ (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

²⁰ Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. ²¹ But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" ²² For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him." ²³ But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate decided to grant their demand. ²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

QUESTION

What are the religious leaders wanting to accuse Jesus of through their questions?

OBSERVATION

Imagine you were a disciple who followed, watched and listened to Jesus as the events unfolded. What stands out in this passage?

RESPONSE

How does this passage encourage, challenge or convict you today?
What is one truth you can apply?

DISCUSSION

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PERSONAL STUDY: What does this passage say? What do I see?

Luke 24:36-49

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

QUESTION

What is Jesus trying to reveal or teach through His question?

OBSERVATION

Imagine you were a disciple who followed, watched and listened to Jesus as the events unfolded. What stands out in this passage?

RESPONSE

How does this passage encourage, challenge or convict you today?
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DISCUSSION

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WEEK 13

WHY DO YOU
STAND HERE?

Acts 1:1-11

PERSONAL STUDY: What does this passage say? What do I see?

Acts 1:1-11

¹In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

QUESTION

When Jesus ascended to heaven, what are the two angels trying to reveal or teach the disciples through their question?

OBSERVATION

Imagine you were a disciple who followed, watched and listened to Jesus as the events unfolded. What stands out in this passage?

RESPONSE

How does this passage encourage, challenge or convict you today?
What is one truth you can apply?

DISCUSSION

What is one takeaway that you want to share with your group?

SMALL GROUP: How did this study in the gospel of Luke impact you?
What is one highlight you want to take away and remember?

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What did this study teach you or show you about Jesus?

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What did this study teach you or show you about yourself?

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SMALL GROUP GATHERING

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Discuss: Take 45 minutes to discuss and apply God's Word.

- △ Read this week's passage out loud as a group and then discuss the four-box questions.
- △ Ask everyone to share one takeaway from this series. Be specific. How did this series impact you the most?
- △ Pick one or two questions to discuss from the weekly questions and apply these questions a group.

Response: Take 15 minutes to respond to the Lord and pray together.

- △ Share what you sense God asking you to do based this study through the gospel of Luke.
- △ Close your group time praying for each other. Ask God to help you apply the truths you learned from this study, and pray for any needs that exist in your group.
- △ Confirm the time and location for your next small group gathering so everyone is on the same page. This next group meeting will be the last official gathering so groups can take a break in the summer. Relationships don't stop, but we will take a break in our study.



EIGHT COMMITMENTS

1. SPIRITUAL GROWTH

I will pursue spiritual growth and encourage my group members to take their next steps with Christ.

2. CULTIVATE RELATIONSHIPS

I will be present and make it a priority to know and stay connected with the people in my group.

3. ACCEPT OWNERSHIP

I will look for big and small ways to contribute and care for needs that come up in my group

4. BE AUTHENTIC

I will trust, be transparent and strive to be open while maintaining respect and confidentiality in my group.

5. EMBRACE ACCOUNTABILITY

I will invite my group to speak into my life while extending grace to my group.

6. CELEBRATE GROWTH

I will encourage and celebrate when God is working in the lives of my group.

7. SERVE TOGETHER

I will serve my group and look for ways to serve together and point others to the hope we have in Christ.

8. MULTIPLY MINISTRY

I will be open to adding new members and as we grow, we will work to multiply so more people can experience what we have experienced.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

WEEKLY GAUGE: What can I highlight from this week?

This week was great. My high was...

This week was rough. My low was...

This week was the same. I feel stuck in a rut...

VICTORY AND FAILURE: What can I share from this month?

What is one win from this past month?

What is one failure from this past month?

How are you being recharged?

What has been most draining?

MORAL GUARDRAILS: How can my small group keep me accountable?

Do I have anyone I need to forgive or ask for forgiveness?

Have I been jealous, lying, bitter or complaining?

Have I been with a man or woman in an inappropriate way?

Have I exposed myself to any explicit materials this week?

Have I looked for opportunities to point others to Christ?

How have I demonstrated love and respect to my spouse?

How have I sought to be a spiritual leader with my family?

What is one relationship I want to improve and focus on?

How can my group encourage me or hold me accountable?

CHARACTER QUALITIES

Boldness – not afraid to share your faith with gentleness and conviction

Compassion – empathy for someone and courage to act on their behalf

Contentment – at peace rather than worry, fear, anxiety, envy or jealousy

Even-Tempered – not reacting with sinful anger or a quick temper

Faith – unswerving confidence in God and His promise of good regardless of present circumstances

Forgiveness – releasing someone from a wrong that has been done and not dwelling on it

Honesty – truthful and above reproach with yourself and others

Initiative – inviting people into your life and taking an interest in others through hospitality and service

Joy – delight in the Lord that overflows into a sincere love for others

Kindness – putting the needs and well-being of others first

Patience – a spirit of mercy, humility and trusting God is in control

Peace – fulfillment and confidence that comes from being rightly related to God and others

Purity – thinking and acting in godly ways while fleeing from sexual immorality

Self-Controlled – bringing thoughts, emotions and actions under the control of the Holy Spirit

Truth in Love – willing to speak what's right while not being harsh

Wholesome Speech – build others up with words that edify; not vulgar, gossip, slander, lying or sarcasm

CHARACTER QUALITIES

Accountability – to be honest with yourself, honest with others and honest before God

Bible study – desire for God's Word; regular time of reading, studying, meditating, applying and enjoying Scripture

Worship – engage with God and others by participating in weekend worship services

Fasting – take a break from food, media or activity to use this time to meet with the Lord through prayer, focus and dependence on Him

Giving – cheerfully and generously giving to the Lord and others through your time, talents and treasure

Solitude – spending some time alone and reflecting on how God is working in your life and discerning the next steps that God has for you

Prayer – a regular time of praise, confession and intercession for others

Rest – setting aside time to slow down and stop the busyness of life as a reminder that our final rest is in heaven

Scripture memory – hiding God's Word in your heart and reflecting on Scripture

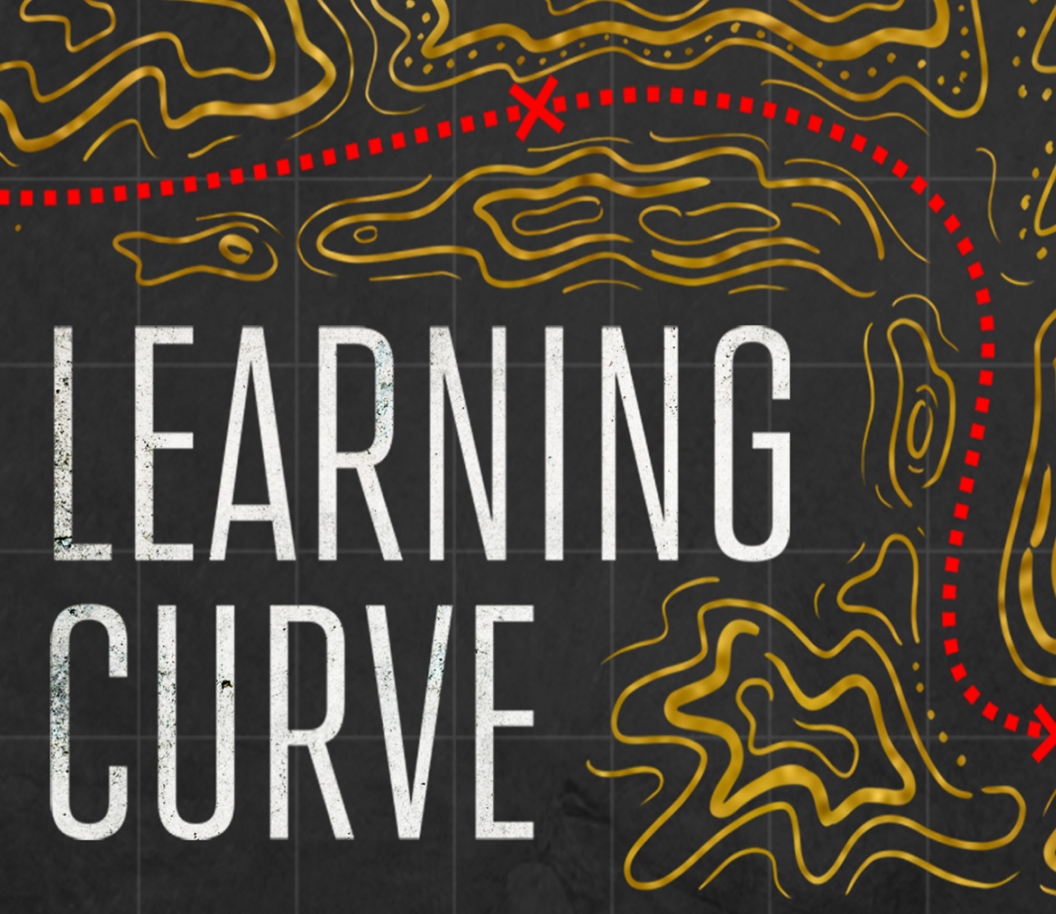
Serving – looking for big and small ways to care for the needs of others

Evangelism – sharing your life and faith with someone who does not know God or has questions about faith

Journaling – writing down the details of your day and recording how you see God working in your life

Celebration – thanking God for His goodness, faithfulness and all of His provision in your life





LEARNING CURVE

WITHOUT QUESTIONS
THERE ARE NO ANSWERS