



REDISCOVERING

JESUS



CONVERSATION
GUIDEBOOK:

January-March 2020



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We are delighted you have joined us for this session of community groups. In this booklet, we have compiled our conversation starters for this sermon series: *Rediscovering Jesus*. We hope it is a helpful resource for your group as we begin our journey through the Gospel of Luke.

Conversation Starters help us dig deeper, connecting Sunday's sermons with the rest of our week. These prompts have been designed to help Community Groups grow in their relationship with God, with one another, and with their neighbors.

JESUS IS NOT LIKE US



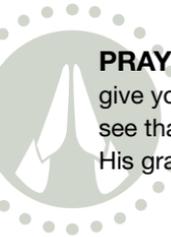
Date: Week of January 19

Text: Luke 4:1-13

In Luke 4:1-13 we read about the temptation of Jesus by the devil. It is easy to forget that Jesus, just like us, was tempted to sin. Unlike us, however, Jesus never gave in to sin. The ways in which Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness reveal strategies he will use to tempt all of us. Jesus gives us an example for how we can overcome the temptations in our life.

1. What did you like most about Sunday's sermon? What was most challenging?
2. The devil begins most of his temptations by saying to Jesus "If you are the Son of God..." (vv. 3, 9). The core of the devil's temptations is designed to throw doubt on Jesus' identity. What part of your identity (i.e. your value, purpose and worth) do you find attacked when you are tempted?
3. **READ LUKE 4:13** The devil looked for "an opportune time" to tempt Jesus. What do you find are your "opportune times" for temptation? When are you most vulnerable to temptation?
4. Jesus combatted the devil by quoting Scripture. How does Scripture help you in temptation?
5. What are some steps you could take to grow in your engagement of the Bible to help prepare you for moments of weakness?

PRAY that the Lord would make you aware of the strategies of the devil, and give you the grace to cling to the Word of God. Pray that God would help you see that because Jesus was victorious over sin and the devil, you too through His grace and power can find victory over sin.



GOOD, EXCLUDING NEWS



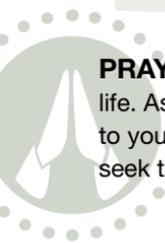
Date: Week of January 26

Text: Luke 4:16-30

In Luke 4:16-30 we read Jesus' ministry "manifesto." He has fulfilled the statements of Isaiah 61:1-2, and because of that fulfillment, liberty, healing, and freedom are available to anyone who turns to Him. Jesus' bold and exclusive proclamation challenges His audience and causes the crowd to reject Him.

1. What did you like most about Sunday's sermon? What was most challenging?
2. It was Jesus' "custom" (v. 16) to worship with God's people in the synagogue. How does this habit of Jesus impact the way you view the importance of gathering on Sunday for worship?
3. The people most "familiar" with Jesus (v. 22) often fail to see Him for who He truly is. How can we continue to discover Jesus in new ways?
4. **READ LUKE 4:17-20** Jesus quotes Isaiah 61:1-2, claiming for Himself the exclusive identity of Israel's savior. Jesus declares that the blessings of God are only found in Him. Based on Jesus' quotation of Isaiah 61 in Luke 4, how would you describe who Jesus is and what He has done for someone who does not follow Jesus?
5. After hearing Jesus' post-sermon rebuke, the people in the synagogue are "filled with wrath" (v. 28) and attempt to throw Him off a cliff! Jesus knew His words would anger His audience. When has Jesus confronted you with a hard truth about yourself?

PRAY that the Lord would give you a fresh experience of His grace in your life. Ask God's forgiveness for the times when Jesus has become "familiar" to you. Pray that, more and more, Jesus would become real to you as you seek to follow Him in all of life.



FOLLOW HIM



Date: Week of February 2

Text: Luke 5:1-11; 27-32

In Luke 5 Jesus finds Himself surrounded by a large crowd of eager listeners. Word has spread about the ministry of Jesus and people are taking notice. But Jesus isn't interested in drawing crowds; He is interested in enlisting apprentices. Starting with Simon, James, John, and finishing with tax collector Levi, Jesus enrolls these men into His school of discipleship. And there is only one requirement in order to be Jesus's apprentice: you must know that you are a sinner.

1. What did you like most about Sunday's sermon? What was most challenging?
2. After teaching the crowd, Jesus inserts Himself into Simon Peter's vocation and uses it as an object lesson for discipleship. Discipleship for Jesus occurs in our Monday world (all of life). What opportunities throughout your week may Jesus want to use for discipleship?
3. Simon was a competent fisherman. He knew how to fish and where to fish. And yet it is often the areas in our life where we feel most competent that we are most reluctant to trust God. Simon shares his frustrations with Jesus, but then obeys His word anyway (Luke 5:5). Where does your "competency" make it difficult to trust God?
4. With the miraculous catch of fish, it dawns on Simon that he is in the presence of no ordinary man. The result of this encounter makes Simon aware of his sinfulness and humbles him. When has encountering God humbled you?
5. **READ LUKE 5:9-11, 27-28** Both of these passages record Jesus' radical summons to people to be His followers. To be a disciple of Jesus involves "leaving everything" else behind and following Him. What things in your life have been, or continue to be, challenging to leave behind?

REST FROM OUR ANXIETY



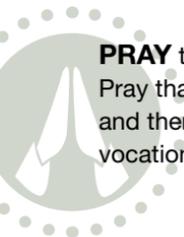
Date: Week of February 9

Text: Luke 6:1-11

In Luke 6, Jesus makes it clear He is Lord of all, including the rhythms that God instituted for His people (i.e. Sabbath). Not only does Jesus critique the super-religious for missing the purpose of the Sabbath, He demonstrates His supremacy over all through healing, and directs His followers back to himself as the giver and sustainer of Sabbath rest.

1. What did you like most about Sunday's sermon? What was most challenging?
2. **READ LUKE 6:1-11** It seems nonsensical that the Pharisees wouldn't want Jesus to heal a man in need. The issue for these people (i.e. the super religious) was not that they doubted Jesus' ability to heal, rather, whether Jesus would break their man-made religious rules and traditions. How can religion and misguided tradition get in the way of Jesus?
3. What's your history with practicing the Sabbath?
4. **READ EXODUS 20:8-11** Of all 10 commandments, why do you think "Remember the Sabbath" is the one we most easily disregard?
5. Sabbath is countercultural. Our culture teaches escape instead of rest. What would it look like for you and your family to incorporate a real Sabbath into your week? What are, or would be, sacrifices to make that possible?

PRAY that the Lord would give rest to weary souls through Sabbath. Pray that instead of living into our cultural rhythm of driven achievement and then escape, as Jesus-followers we would learn the rhythm of work/vocation and then Sabbath rest.



A JESUS COMMUNITY (PART 1)



Date: Week of February 16

Text: Luke 6:12-26

In Luke 6:12-26, Jesus begins to lay out His founding vision of a community that will follow in His way. First, this is a community of prayer (vv. 12-16), and second, it is a community of healing (vv. 17-19). Third, this community is a community of reversal (vv.20-26). Jesus' kingdom does not abide by the rules of our world...in Jesus' kingdom, the way up is down, the way to fulfillment is to be emptied, and the way to be free is to chain yourself to Jesus.

1. What did you like most about Sunday's sermon? What was most challenging?
2. **READ LUKE 6:12-16** Throughout Luke, Jesus constantly retreats to private places to pray (sometimes alone, and sometimes with those closest to Him). In the same way, as people following in Jesus' way, we are to be people characterized by prayer. Take some time for an audit—how is prayer going in your life?
3. **READ LUKE 6:20-26** The church is supposed to be a community of reversal, where people who are poor, hungry, and weep, are blessed. How can we ensure that we are a community like this?
4. In what ways has the church been a community of healing for you?
5. How can we as a community group better be a place of prayer and healing?

PRAY that the Lord would prick our hearts to hunger and pursue Him through prayer in new ways. Pray that the Holy Spirit would come in power to bring life to dry bones, and to nourish those hearts thirsty for more of Him. Ask God to empower us to live into a greater and more abundant awareness of His kingdom now.

A JESUS COMMUNITY (PART 2)



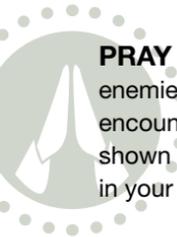
Date: Week of February 23

Text: Luke 6:27-49

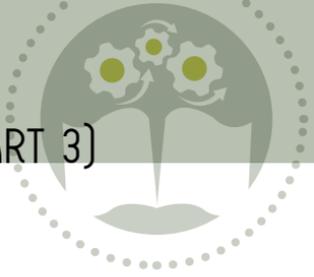
In Luke 6, Jesus preaches the sermon on the plain to His disciples and a large gathering. A multitude of people gathered to hear Jesus' teaching and to be healed of their sickness. This ancient sermon from Jesus summarizes His ethical teachings for a Gentile audience and it has huge implications on how we live the Christian life today. It shows us how we ought to live in community with one another.

1. What did you like most about Sunday's sermon? What was most challenging?
2. **READ LUKE 6:27-28** In this passage, Jesus calls us to love, bless, do good, and pray for our enemies and those who hate us. This is very counter-intuitive! Why do you think Jesus calls us not just to tolerate, but to love our enemy?
3. Think of a person at your place of work, in your community, or in your family that you struggle to love. Why is it hard for you?
4. What is one action step you could take to show love toward a difficult person in your life this week?
5. **READ ROMANS 5:6-8** How does knowing that Jesus died for us while we were His enemies impact the way we love our enemies?

PRAY that the Lord would empower you by the Holy Spirit to love your enemies. Pray for the strength to persevere in the difficult relationships you encounter in your family, work, and neighborhood. Pray that the love of God shown through the gospel would compel you to show love toward people in your life that are difficult for you to love.



A JESUS COMMUNITY (PART 3)

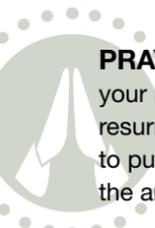


Date: Week of March 1

Text: Luke 46-49

In Luke 6, Jesus preaches the sermon on the plain to His disciples and a large gathering. A multitude of people gathered to hear Jesus' teaching and be healed of their sickness. This ancient sermon from Jesus summarizes His ethical teachings for a Gentile audience and it has significant implications on how we live the Christian life today. It shows us how we ought to live in community.

1. What did you like most about Sunday's sermon? What was most challenging?
2. Share a time when you ignored the advice of a parent, mentor, spouse, or close family member and it led to a negative outcome for you?
3. **READ LUKE 6:46-49** What do you think Jesus is trying to convey through this parable about two different houses?
4. Why do you think Jesus is upset with people calling Him "Lord" while ignoring His words? Why do you think Jesus emphasizes being a hearer and doer of His word and not just a hearer?
5. What is an area of your life where you struggle to be a hearer and doer of Jesus' words? And what are some practical steps you could take to apply Jesus' words to this area of life?



PRAY for forgiveness for not following Jesus' teaching in all areas of your life, knowing you are completely forgiven through Jesus' death and resurrection. Then pray that the Lord would empower you by the Holy Spirit to put His words into practice in all areas of your life. Pray He would show the areas of your life where you need to put His teachings into practice.

CONFIDENT APPRENTICES

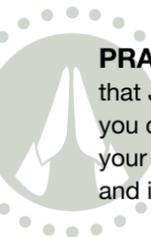


Date: Week of March 8

Text: Luke 7:1-10

In Luke 7, Jesus reveals more of His identity by showing His power and authority to Jews and Gentiles. He shows His power in Luke 7 by miraculously healing the servant of a centurion, a wealthy military official. In this story we see that the proper response to Jesus' power and authority is a confident faith in Him. Thus, this passage calls us to have a deeper and more confident faith in Jesus and His power.

1. What did you like most about Sunday's sermon? What was most challenging?
2. **READ LUKE 7:1-10** Why do you think Jesus was so surprised and pleased with the centurion's faith in Him?
3. What are some circumstances in your life right now that lead you to question Jesus' power and authority?
4. Share about a time in your life that led you to have a deeper confidence in Jesus.
5. How do we know that we can have confidence in Jesus for every area of our lives? What are some steps you can take to deepen your confidence and faith in Jesus?



PRAY that the Lord would deepen your trust and dependence on Him. Pray that Jesus would show you His authority and power so that you would know you can have a confident faith in Him despite the difficult circumstances in your life. Also, pray Jesus will help you hold on to the stories in His Word and in your life that remind you that you can truly have confidence in Him.



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