

NORTH RIDGE FELLOWSHIP

Small Group Guide Passages from the book of Luke

January – April 2010

The Gospel of Luke Small Group Plan - 2010

Week 1: Meet prior to January 10

Read Luke 1-3 prior to Small Group Meeting

Small Group Passage: Luke 3:1-20 John the Baptist's Message

January 10th Sermon: Luke 5:1-11 Fisher's of Men

Week 2: Meet prior to January 17

Read Luke 4-5 prior to Small Group Meeting

Small Group Passage: Luke 4:1-14 Jesus is Tempted

January 17th Sermon: Luke 5:17-26 Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

Week 3: Meet prior to January 24

Read Luke 6 prior to Small Group Meeting

Small Group Passage: Luke 6:1-11 Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath

January 24th Sermon: Luke 6:17-36 Jesus Teaches Us to Love Our Enemies

Week 4: Meet prior to January 31

Read Luke 7 prior to Small Group Meeting

Small Group Passage: Luke - 7:1-17 Jesus Shows Compassion

January 31st Sermon: The Sinful Woman is Forgiven Much - Luke 7:36-50

Week 5: Meet prior to February 7

Read Luke 8 prior to Small Group Meeting

Small Group Passage: Luke 8:26-39 Jesus Heals a Demon Possessed Man

February 7th Sermon: Luke 8:1-15 The Parable of the Farmer

Week 6: Meet prior to February 14

Read Luke 9 prior to Small Group Meeting

Small Group Passage: Luke 9:51-62 The Cost of Following Jesus

February 14th Sermon: Luke 9:18-36 Jesus is God the Son

Week 7: Meet prior to February 21

Read Luke 10 prior to Small Group Meeting

Small Group Passage: Luke 10:1-24 Jesus Sends His Messengers

February 21st Sermon: Luke 10:25-37 The Parable of the Good Neighbor

Week 8: Meet prior to February 28
Read Luke 11 prior to Small Group Meeting
Small Group Passage: Luke 11:37-53 Jesus Confronts Hypocrisy

February 28th Sermon: Luke 11:1-13 Jesus Teaches about Prayer

Week 9: Meet prior to March 7
Read Luke 12&13 prior to Small Group Meeting
Small Group Passage: Luke 12:35-48 Be Watchful

March 7th Sermon: Luke 12:15-34 Do Not Worry

Week 10: Meet prior to March 14
Read Luke 14-16 prior to Small Group Meeting
Small Group Passage: Luke 14:1-25 The Great Banquet

March 14th Sermon: Luke 15:1-32 God Loves the Lost

Week 11: Meet prior to March 21
Read Luke 17-19 prior to Small Group Meeting
Small Group Passage: Luke 17:1-10 Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness

March 21st Sermon: Luke 19:1-10 Jesus Forgives Zacchaeus

Week 12: Meet prior to March 28
Read Luke 20-21 prior to Small Group Meeting
Small Group Passage: The Parable of the Tenants – Luke 20:9-19

March 28th Sermon: Luke 21 Jesus Says He Will Return

April 2nd Sermon: Luke 22-23 Good Friday - Jesus Death

April 4th Sermon: Luke 24 Easter Jesus Resurrection

Week 13: Meet prior to April 11
Read Luke 22-24 prior to Small Group Meeting
Small Group Passage: Luke 24:13-48. Jesus Appears to the Disciples

April 11th Sermon: Luke 24 Appearances of Jesus

Week 1: Meet prior to January 10 Read Luke 1-3 prior to Small Group Meeting
Small Group Passage: Luke 3:1-20 John the Baptist's Message

Getting Started:

Tell about a person who "prepared the way" for you; who helped you get where you are today. What did they do?

John's Message:

Read Luke 3:1-6.

- From the chapters you read earlier this week, who was Zechariah? (Luke 1:5-7)
- From the chapters you read earlier this week, what had been prophesied about John when he was born? (Luke 1:14-17; 76-77)

Read Luke 3:7-9.

- What did John warn the people to do?

Read Luke 3:10-14.

- Look at the three responses John gave to those who asked "What should we do?" How are John's responses relevant for us as Christ followers?
- Of these three responses, what stands out to you personally and why?
- What do you think John means by contentment in verse 14?
- Why do you think contentment is an important issue for a Christ follower?

Read Luke 3:15-18.

- How did John position himself in relation to Jesus?
- Why is this important?

Read Luke 3:19-20.

- Did John fulfill his God given mission? Was he successful? What did it cost him?
- How does that affect your definition of success?

Application

- What do you think John's basic message was?
- What stands out to you about his message?
- How did John's teaching prepare the way for Christ?
- Why do you think Luke felt it was important to give so much time to the story of John, in a biography about Jesus?
- What is one thing from John's message that encourages or challenges you for your own life this week?

Other Related Bible Verses:

- What did Jesus think about John? Luke 7:18-35
- How does the Holy Spirit prepare us to follow Jesus today? John 16:7-14

Suggestions for Prayer Time:

- John preached a message of repentance that prepared the people for Jesus. As we prepare for this study of Jesus' life, we all need to ask the Holy Spirit to convict us of areas in our lives where we are out of synch with him. Before breaking into groups to pray, give one minute for silent prayer to ask the Holy Spirit to convict and prepare us for Jesus' leadership.
- Encourage prayer partners to ask the Holy Spirit to lead them to repentance for the sin we each have in our own lives.

Week 2: Meet prior to January 17 Read Luke 4-5 prior to Small Group Meeting
Small Group Passage: Luke 4:1-14 Jesus is Tempted

Getting Started:

- Did you ever buy something you wish you hadn't? What made it so irresistible?

The Temptation:

Read Luke 4:1-2.

- Where had Jesus been? Where was he led by the Holy Spirit?
- How long was he there? Who was with him? (*Holy Spirit and the Devil*)
- What did he do during this time? How did he feel?

Read Luke 4:3-12.

Answer the following questions for each of the three temptations:

- What was the temptation really about? (Think about who Jesus is and what he came to do.)
- How does the verse Jesus quoted answer the temptation?
- How is this temptation similar to a temptation we might face?
- What can we learn from Jesus' answer?

Read Luke 4:13-14.

- What happened after Jesus resisted the temptations? Why is that significant?

Application:

- Why does it matter if we resist temptation?
- Why is denial and rationalization so easy?
- Jesus had two allies he relied on in resisting temptation. He had the Holy Spirit and he had scripture. How can the Holy Spirit and scripture help you resist temptation in your life?
- What are other things that can help us resist temptation?
- How does being involved in a Small Group help us to resist the temptations in our lives?

Other Related Bible Verses:

The following scriptures deal with the subject of temptation in more detail. If you have time, read them together and invite people to share how they help us resist temptation.

- James 1:1-18
- Hebrews 2:18
- 1 Corinthians 10:11-12
- Romans 8:1-15
- Titus 2:11-14

Suggestions for Prayer Time:

- Before breaking into groups to pray, allow time for silent prayer of personal reflection.
- Encourage prayer partners to ask the Holy Spirit for help to be honest with ourselves and with God so we can receive his resources to face temptation.

Week 3: Meet prior to January 24 Read Luke 6 prior to Small Group Meeting
Small Group Passage: Luke 6:1-11 Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath

Getting Started:

- Describe the most restful, relaxing day you can imagine.

Background: (Do not skip!)

Read Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Isaiah 58:13-14

- What is the Sabbath?
- What was God's purpose in creating the Sabbath?
- Why is rest an important part of Loving God?
- Why is worship an important part of Loving God?

Readings:

Read Luke 6:1-5

- Where was Jesus? What was he doing? Who was with him? (*Disciples and Pharisees*)
- What was Jesus correction in the Pharisees understanding of the Sabbath?

Read Luke 6:6-11

- Where was Jesus? What was he doing? Who was with him?
- What was Jesus correction in the Pharisees understanding of the Sabbath?
- What was the fact that Jesus was in the synagogue teaching on the Sabbath tell us about the priority he placed on corporate worship? Is this relevant to us today?

Application:

The commandment to "Keep the Sabbath Holy" is a gift from God. It is the provision for a habit of regular rest for each person in society; the rich and the poor, the slave, the animals, and even the land. It is also an invitation to come close to God in worship. The Sabbath is God's standing date night with us. The Pharisees in Jesus' day had turned the Sabbath into a list of rules and regulations that needed to be kept in order to be considered righteous. They had made it impossible for regular people to measure up.

- What do you think our current culture has done with God's plan for the Sabbath?
- What do you think Jesus might say to us regarding keeping the Sabbath today?
- What does Jesus mean in verse 5 – the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath?
- How do we show Jesus is Lord over our Sabbath?

Other Related Bible Verses:

- Hebrew 10:24,25
- Acts 2:42-47
- Romans 14

Possible Question:

The question may come up as to why we worship on Sunday instead of on Saturday which was the Jewish Sabbath. (*This is a point often brought up by Jehovah's witnesses and by the Seventh Day Adventists.*) We worship on Sunday because Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday morning. The Sabbath concept is not just about worship, it is also about rest. The important issue is not whether we worship or rest on Saturday or on Sunday. God requires us to set aside time for rest and for worship in our weekly schedules.

Suggestions for Prayer Time:

- Encourage prayer partners to pray for God's guidance as you each seek to keep the Sabbath Holy in your own lives and the life of your family.

Week 4: Meet prior to January 31 Read Luke 7 prior to Small Group Meeting
Small Group Passage: Luke - 7:1-17 Jesus Shows Compassion

Getting Started:

- What was the most significant thing you said or did this week? What made it so?

The Centurion's Servant

Read Luke 7:1-5.

- What is a Centurion?
- How does the Centurion feel about his servant?
- How do the Jewish elders feel about the Centurion? Why?

Read Luke 7:6-10.

- What do the Centurion's words tell us about his understanding of who Jesus is?
- What do you think Jesus admired about the Centurion's faith?
- What does Jesus' response to the Centurion's faith tell us about Jesus?

The Widow's Son

Read Luke 7:11-13.

- Why is this woman in a desperate situation? *(The people lived in a very different economy and time from us. As a sonless widow she faced absolute poverty. She would most likely die of hunger or the result of homelessness. At best she would experience the humiliation of complete dependency on someone outside her family.)*
- What does Jesus' response to her situation in verse 13 tell us about Jesus?

Read Luke 7:14-17.

- What did Jesus do?
- What did the people do?

Application:

- What motivated Jesus to heal in each situation?
- Jesus praised the faith of the Centurion and modeled compassion for the widow. How are faith and compassion related in our lives as Christ-followers?

Faith

- Jesus marveled at the Centurion's faith. Where is faith called for in your life this week?
- Are you willing to put yourself under Jesus' authority in the way the Centurion did? How is submission to Jesus' authority a way we show our faith?

Compassion

- Jesus cared for both the rich Centurion and the poor widow in this story. Who do you personally know who is in need of compassion?
- How can we offer Jesus' compassion to the people in our lives this week?

Suggestions for Prayer Time:

- Pray for faith in a specific situation where you need it this week.
- Pray for compassion in a specific relationship where you need it this week.

Week 5: Meet prior to February 7

Read Luke 8 prior to Small Group Meeting

Small Group Passage: Luke 8:26-39 Jesus Heals a Demon Possessed Man

Getting Started:

- If you could go anywhere you wanted this week, where would you want to go?

Readings:

Read Luke 8:26-29.

- Take a few minutes to picture the life of this man before he met Jesus. Describe the suffering he has gone through.
- Do the people seem to care about the man? Why do you think this is true?
- Why did the Demon respond so strongly to Jesus' presence?
- What does this tell us about Jesus?

Read Luke 8:30-39.

- What was the response of the people to this man's healing?
- Why aren't the people happy for the man's deliverance?
- What do they seem more concerned with?
- Why do you think they are afraid of Jesus?
- Why do they ask him to leave?
- When the people rejected Jesus, why did he leave the healed man behind?
- How did the man respond to staying back?

Application:

- It seems that Jesus took a detour just to rescue this man. (*In verse 22 they set out across the lake and encounter a storm which Jesus calms. When they reach the shore they meet this man. Jesus heals him. They get back in the boat and by verse 40 they are back where they had started.*) What does this show us about Jesus?
- List the things in life that can hold us captive besides demons?
- What can we learn about ourselves and people in general from the people's reaction to Jesus in this story?
 - Can you think of any situations in your life where you see what Jesus has done for others, you get a glimpse of who he really is, and your reaction is to push him away in fear?
 - Do you have any situation where other people have seen God work in your life and have responded by pushing him (and you) away?
- If Jesus were to look you in the eye and say, "Tell this small group how much God has done for you." What would you say to them?

Suggestions for Prayer Time:

- Pray for willingness to allow God to lead you on detours this week.

Week 6: Meet prior to February 14

Read Luke 9 prior to Small Group Meeting

Small Group Passage: Luke 9:51-62 The Cost of Following Jesus

Getting Started:

- Share a favorite hobby or activity? What is an approximate cost in time and money for that activity?

Readings:

Read Luke 9:51-53.

- Where was Jesus going?
- What is the significance of the words “Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem”?

Read Luke 9:54-56

- Why did the Samaritans not welcome Jesus? (*The Jews and the Samaritans did not get along. Each thought the other was wrong in the way they worship God. The fact that he was on his way to Jerusalem caused the Samaritans to feel he was their enemy.*)
- Why do you think James and John think it was a good idea to call fire down to destroy the Samaritan village?
 - Why did Jesus rebuke them?
 - How do we sometimes react similarly to James and John today?

Read Luke 9:57-58

- What excuse is given for not following Jesus?
- What do we learn about the cost of following Jesus?
- How do people do this today?

Read Luke 9:59-60.

- What excuse is given for not following Jesus?
- What do we learn about the cost of following Jesus?
- How do people do this today?

Read Luke 9:61-62.

- What excuse is given for not following Jesus?
- What do we learn about the cost of following Jesus?
- How do people do this today?

Related Passages:

- Hebrews 12:1-3
- Philippians 1:27-29
- John 21:20-22

Application:

- What has been costly for you in following Jesus so far?
- Have each person write one sentence on what it takes to live as a Christ Follower. Then go around the circle and have everyone read their sentence.
- Is there anything in this lesson that you believe Jesus is challenging you with personally?
- How do Jesus’ words earlier in this chapter (Luke 9:23-24) relate to this passage?

Suggestions for Prayer Time:

- Encourage prayer partners to share their areas of struggle in following Christ with each other and to pray for courage for each other as they make the decision to follow Christ this week.

Week 7: Meet prior to February 21

Read Luke 10 prior to Small Group Meeting

Small Group Passage: Luke 10:1-24 Jesus Sends His Messengers

Getting Started:

- Tell us about one of the first people who told you about Jesus. What do you remember about them or their message?

Readings:

Read Luke 10:1-4.

- Who did Jesus send?
- Where did he send them?
- Why do you think he sent them?
- What do you think verse 2 means? Notice it is followed by “Go! I am sending you.”
- Why do you think he told them not to take anything with them?
- Why do you think it is significant that these people were other than the twelve apostles whom Jesus had sent out back in Luke 9?
- Why do you think Jesus sent them in pairs?

Read Luke 10:5-9

- What did he tell them to do?
- What are they to tell the people?
- When Jesus summarizes his message he says, “The kingdom of God is near.” What do you think he means by this? Is this message, “The kingdom of God is near”, the message we share?

Read Luke 10:10-16.

- Would everyone welcome them?
- What were they to do when people did not welcome them?
- Why do you think Jesus says this?
- What do you think Jesus was trying to accomplish with this training mission?
- Make a list of Jesus’ expectations for those he was sending. (verses 1-12)
- How do these expectations apply to us today?
- How does verse 16 encourage us to share our faith?

Read Luke 10:17-22.

- The disciples returned with joy. Why do you think this is?
- Notice Jesus is also filled with joy in verse 21. Why do you think this is?
- What does Jesus tell them they should rejoice about? Why do you think he says this? Why is it important for us today?

Application:

- What does this passage teach us about evangelism?
- If you are a Christ follower, what can you personally take from this passage into your mission to share your faith with others?

Suggestions for Prayer Time:

- Encourage each person to share the name of someone they would like to share Christ with.
- Ask prayer partners to pray with them for this person’s salvation.

Week 8: Meet prior to February 28

Read Luke 11 prior to Small Group Meeting

Small Group Passage: Luke 11:37-53 Jesus Confronts Hypocrisy

Getting Started:

- Name two values you hold dear and plan to teach your family.

Readings:

In this passage Jesus is confronting hypocrisy. Before you read the passage take a moment and define hypocrisy.

Read each section listed below and answer the following questions about it:

- What did the Pharisee value?
- What did Jesus value?
- What does this mean for us?

Sections:

1. Luke 11:37-41
2. Luke 11:42
3. Luke 11:43
4. Luke 11:44
5. Luke 11:45-46
6. Luke 11:47-51 (You may want to read Matthew 27:24-25 related to this passage)
7. Luke 11:52

Application:

- From this passage how would you describe Jesus?
- Is this different than how you might have described him before we began this study on Luke?
- Make a list of Jesus' values as shown in this passage.
- Pick one of Jesus' values, shown in Luke 11 that you personally resonate with. Why do you feel this way about it?
- Is there one value from this list that you struggle with? Why?

- In this passage, Jesus is calling a group of people to task for values they hold as a group. What do you think Jesus might say to the American church as a whole?

- What do you think Jesus might say to those of us in this room?

Suggestions for Prayer Time:

- Ask each person to choose one of Jesus' values which they would like to value more in their own life. Encourage prayer partners to pray this for each other.

Week 9: Meet prior to March 7 Read Luke 12&13 prior to Small Group Meeting
Small Group Passage: Luke 12:35-48 Be Watchful

Getting Started:

- Share about a time you were distracted at the wrong moment. (For example: by a kid or a cell phone?)

Readings:

Read through Luke 12:35-46 aloud together before discussing. Once you have read it through go back and discuss each section.

Read Luke 12:35-36.

- What does Jesus tell the people to do?
- What do you think we should personally do to be dressed, ready to serve when Jesus returns?

Read Luke 12:37-38.

- What is the reward for the one who is ready? Why is this a reward? Does it relate to us?

Read Luke 12:39-40.

- What does Jesus tell us about his return?
- Why do you think God has chosen not to let us know when it will happen?
- What would you say to someone who is sure they know when Jesus will return?

Read Luke 12:41-42.

- Who does Jesus say he is talking to? (*Those whom the master has given responsibility in his household/kingdom.*)
- How would you describe the responsibility they have been given?
- In what ways does this apply to us today?

Read Luke 12:43-44.

- What is the reward given to the good servant? Why is this a reward? Does it relate to us?

Read Luke 12:45-46.

- What did the servant do that was wrong?
- Why do you think the master is so angry about this? How is this a warning to us today?
- What is the punishment for the unfaithful servant?
- Why do you think Jesus is so graphic about the punishment?

Application:

- Is the thought of Jesus return a motivating factor for you? Why or why not?
- This parable seems to be a warning about how Jesus feels about what happens in a church. What are you, as a group or individually, currently doing to make sure we, as a church, are ready for Christ's return? Are there things you can do to improve our readiness for Christ's return?
- Look back over Luke 12. Why do you think Jesus told this parable right after the story of The Rich Fool and his commandment that we should not worry?
- Read verses 32-34 aloud together. How does this relate to the passage we just discussed?
- If you have time read 2 Peter 3 to go deeper on this topic.

Suggestions for Prayer Time:

- Encourage prayer partners to pray for each other, for the group as a whole, and for us as a church, that we will act rightly and be ready for Christ's return.

Week 10: Meet prior to March 14 Read: Luke 14-16 prior to Small Group Meeting
Small Group Passage: Luke 14:1-25 The Great Banquet

Getting Started: What do you think is the secret to throwing a great party?

Jesus at the Pharisee's Party:

Read Luke 14:1-6.

- Where was Jesus? Why did the Pharisees and Teachers invite him?
- What game are they playing? (verse 1) What was their attitude?

Read Luke 14:7-11.

- What did Jesus point out about their behavior?
- What do you think Jesus is really getting at here?
- What is the bigger point he is making?

Read Luke 14:12-14.

- What does Jesus teach us about generosity in this statement?
- In verse 14, Jesus is asking us to wait for a future reward in heaven. Does that motivate you enough to humble yourself in your current lifestyle? Why or why not? Do you think it should?

Read Philippians 2:5-11. How did Jesus exemplify true humility?

The Parable of the Great Banquet:

Read Luke 14:15-18 What was this man's excuse about?

Read Luke 14:19. What was this man's excuse about?

Read Luke 14:20. What was this man's excuse about?

- When Jesus invites us into his presence today what excuses do we give that seem legitimate to us but really aren't?

Read Luke 14:21-23.

- How does the master feel when the people reject his invitation?
- Why does Jesus have the man in his story leave the rich and seek the poor instead?
- Is the problem, with the first group, really that they are rich? What is the problem?

Look ahead to Luke 18:22-30. How does this relate to Jesus words in Luke 14?

Look back to 14:15.

- Who did the man say was blessed?
- Jesus answered him with this story. In the story, who did Jesus say was blessed? (*We are invited to the banquet. Blessed are those who come.*) How does this relate to us?

Application:

- What do you think we should take away from Jesus' teaching in Luke 14? As a church? As a small group? As individuals?
- Have you accepted the seat God has for you at his banquet?
- Is there anything preventing you from being fully engaged in God's kingdom? Is this an excuse?
- How does this teaching affect our personal lifestyles & budget? Our church budget? Our church ministries?
- How can we do a better job of inviting "the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame" to the banquet? Into our church? Into our home?

Suggestions for Prayer Time:

- Ask God to speak to you about who you should be inviting into your life.
- Ask God to show you there is a place for you at his Banquet.

Week 11: Meet prior to March 21 Read Luke 17-19 prior to Small Group Meeting
Small Group Passage: Luke 17:1-10 Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness

Getting Started:

- What's the best prank you have ever played on someone or had played on you?

Transition: if it was a truly good prank you didn't need to apologize. Today we are going to talk about when an apology is required.

Jesus' Teaching:

Read Luke 17:1-10 aloud together before discussion.

Read Luke 17:1-4.

- Is Jesus surprised by our sin?
- Who is he condemning in this passage?
- Why do you think he is more upset about the person who causes someone else to sin than about the person who sins or about the sin itself?
- This passage implies refusing to forgive someone who sins against us can cause the other person to stumble. How do you think this is connected?
- When someone else sins, (to be expected) what does Jesus tell us to do?
- What does Jesus mean when he says:
 - To rebuke?
 - To repent?
 - To forgive?
 - To forgive repeatedly?

Read Luke 17:5-6. What does faith have to do with forgiveness?

Read Luke 17:7-10. How does this story relate to Jesus' command to forgive? What's the point?

Application:

- The Apostles were obviously challenged by Jesus' teaching. Do you share their discomfort?
- Why is it so hard to forgive repeatedly?
- What is different if the person who sinned does not repent?
- Does forgiving someone mean you deny the pain or consequence caused by their sin against you? *Often it is hard for someone to forgive because they think it means they need to say what happened was okay, or to act from here on out as if nothing had ever happened. How is this true or untrue?*
- How is forgiving different from reconciling? *We can forgive someone who does not repent, but we often will not be able to be reconciled to them. Discuss when you think this is true and how it might be relevant in situations in your life. Forgiveness is letting go of your anger and of your right to punish. It is being willing to go through the process of reconciliation with a person.*
- How is forgiving different from trusting? *Even when someone repents, especially for a repeated sin, they may still need to prove their trustworthiness before we should make ourselves or someone else vulnerable or dependant upon them. Discuss when you think this is true and how it might be relevant in situations in your life. (Ex: a child abuser, habitual liar, alcoholic, etc.)*

Suggestions for Prayer Time:

- Encourage prayer partners to share a specific person they are having a hard time forgiving and to pray for each other to have the faith to follow Jesus' teaching on forgiveness.

Week 12: Meet prior to March 28

Read Luke 20-21 prior to Small Group Meeting

Small Group Passage: Luke 19:47 - 20:20 The Parable of the Tenants

Getting Started: What's the best investment you ever made?

The Question:

Read Luke 19:47 – 20:2.

- What do the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders ask?
- Why is this question important?
- What would be the straightforward answer to this question?
- Why didn't Jesus answer this way?

Read Luke 20:3-8.

- How did Jesus play their game right back at them?
- Does this tell you anything about Jesus?

The Parable:

Read Luke 20:9-16.

- Why did the tenants ignore the servants sent by the owner?
- Why did they kill the son?
- How does the owner respond to their rejection?
- How is this parable a reference to God speaking to the people through his prophets?
- How is it a reference to Jesus' death?
- How does this story answer the Pharisees original question about Jesus authority?
- How serious is the consequence of rejecting Jesus?
- Did the people understand what Jesus was referring to?

The Response:

Read Luke 20:17-18.

- How were the leaders rejecting Jesus in the same way as the tenants in the story?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he quoted Psalm 118:22? How was this true of him?

Read Luke 20:19-20.

- The Pharisees knew he was speaking against them. What do you think they understood him to be saying?
- Why didn't they arrest him now?
- What did they do instead?

Application:

- Looking back over this entire biography of Jesus' life, who does Luke tell us Jesus is?
- Who do you personally believe Jesus is? Why is our response to this question important?
- Why do his teachings have authority over us?
- In what ways have you been challenged by Jesus' teachings?
- How are you allowing his teachings to change you?

Suggestions for Prayer Time:

- Share one personal challenge related to Jesus' teachings in Luke with your prayer partner. Pray for these areas of challenge.
 - Examples: conviction of personal sin; strength to fight temptation; observance of the Sabbath; having Jesus' compassion for the poor; willingness to follow Christ at whatever cost; sharing Jesus' message with others; living with Jesus' values; accepting God's invitation into the banquet; forgiving those who hurt me.

Week 13: Meet prior to April 11 Read Luke 22-24 prior to Small Group Meeting
Small Group Passage: Luke 24:13-48 Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Getting Started:

- Tell about someone you have not seen in a long time that you would really like to see again.

Jesus Appears:

Read Luke 24:13-24.

- When did this happen?
- How do you think the disciples are feeling?

Read Luke 24:25-32.

- What did Jesus tell them as they walked?
- When did they finally recognize him?
- How do you think they felt now?
- What is your reaction to this part of the story?

Read Luke 24:33-35.

- Where did they go?
- How far away was this?
- Why do you think they did this?

Read Luke 24:36-49.

- Does anything stand out to you in what Jesus says to the disciples?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 & 20-22.

- Why is it important to believe Christ rose from the dead?

Summarizing the Study:

- From the study, list words you could use to describe Jesus. Talk together about why you believe these words describe Jesus.
- Would anyone like to share one thing that struck you personally about Jesus over the past three months?
- Has your picture of who Jesus is changed in any way?
- How do you think this new understanding will affect your relationship with Jesus from now on?
- Have you been challenged related to how you live your life? Explain.
- How do you think our new understanding of Jesus will shape how we function as a Small Group? As a church?

Suggestions for Prayer Time:

- As a whole group, pray for us as a church as we seek to follow Jesus' teachings together.
- Encourage prayer partners to continue to pray for each other related to the areas in their personal lives that have been challenged by this study.

Feedback Form

(We appreciate your feedback. Answer the questions that seem relevant or meaningful to you.)

Did this study of the book of Luke affect your understanding of who Jesus is? Please share what you learned or how your picture of Jesus changed through this study.

Did the study have any effect on your personal relationship with Jesus? Please share.

Have you been challenged related to how you live your life? Please explain.

Do you have any thoughts to share related to how we as a church can seek to follow Jesus' teachings in Luke together?

What was the impact of the sermons for you personally?

What was the impact of the weekly Bible reading for you personally?

What was the impact on your family as the children and youth studied Luke alongside the adults?

What do you think is valuable in doing occasional studies together as a church?

What suggestions do you have to make future studies of this type work better or have more impact?

Please share any other thoughts you have on the back of this sheet.