



### **Small Group Discussion Guide- Day 21, Week 3 (Luke 9:51-13:35)**

Welcome again to our journey together through the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts this summer! Remember <http://christchurchsl.org/la70> is the learning resources center for pastor's videos, discussion guides, reading plans, and the link to the closed Facebook Group. Also, if you would like a pastor's insight to a question you have about your readings, please email them to [LA70@christchurchsl.org](mailto:LA70@christchurchsl.org) so that a reply may be emailed to you and posted to the Facebook Group.

This discussion guide is provided as a tool for small group discussions that center on the readings for week 3 (Luke 9:51-10:35) or for personal reflections for our independent readers. For the best small group discussion it will be helpful to have done the following prior to each meeting:

- 1- Watched the Pastor's video about the readings for the week
- 2- Completed the daily readings for the week
- 3- Noted at least 2-3 questions or insights from the readings to bring to the meeting to share with the group

#### **Possible Meeting Format for 1 Hour Small Group Meeting:**

1. Brief Opening Prayer (1-2 minutes)
2. Discussion of Predetermined Questions & New Questions & Insights from the Group (45 minutes).
  - a. Leader's discretion to be used on question and time management
  - b. You are intentionally provided with more questions than you need
  - c. If people have brought insights or questions from their readings during the week, they are encouraged to share them as the group moves through the verses in order.
3. Summarize Life Application Points From Conversation (5 minutes)
4. Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer (5 minutes)
5. Reminders for the Coming Week & Resources (2 minutes)

#### **Predetermined Questions & New Questions & Insights from the Group:**

1. In the Pastor's video for week 3, Pastor Temple mentioned 9:51 signaled the beginning of the long journey of Jesus to the cross and further training of the disciples that included preparing them for Jesus' departure into heaven.
  - a. How did you feel like you were in training with the disciples throughout this week's readings?
2. Day 15, Luke 9:51-10:24



- a. On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus and the disciples passed through Samaria and were rejected by the townspeople. The disciples were quick to seek divine judgement (fire) upon them as with Sodom & Gomorrah (9:54). How did Jesus' teach them to deal with rejection (9:55-56)? Why is this hard for us to do?
- b. What did Jesus' teach about the cost of being a disciple (9:57-62)?
- c. Why did Jesus send 72 followers ahead of him into the towns, two by two (10:1, 10:9)? What were their prescribed resources and responses (10:2-12)?
- d. What did Jesus' teachings after their return reveal about himself (10:18-22)?
- e. \*What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

### 3. Day 16, Luke 10:25-11:13

- a. Why did the expert in the law ask who his neighbor was (10:29)?
- b. How did Jesus' response with a parable offer a deeper answer than just naming who his neighbor was (10:30-37)?
- c. How were the persons in the parable a well suited message for the one asking the question? What conclusions or priorities was Jesus' trying to lead him to?
- d. Who do you more identify with, Mary or Martha (10:38-41)?
- e. In 11:1-13, the disciples saw Jesus praying and asking Him to teach them to pray.
  - i. What about seeing Jesus praying do you think led them to make this request?
  - ii. What did Jesus then teach them about prayer?
  - iii. What would you ask Jesus to teach you if you had the chance today?
- f. \*What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

### 4. Day 17, Luke 11:14-36

- a. The response of the crowd who witnessed Jesus driving out a demon from a mute man was mixed (11:14-16)- amazement, accusatory anger, and doubt. How did Jesus' response to the request for a sign, show them they had already been given one (11:17-20)?
- b. Jesus and Jonah were from the same general area of Galilee. The sign of Jonah was to be the only one offered to this "wicked generation" that asked for a sign. What was the sign of Jonah (11:29) and what did Jesus' claim to be greater than Jonah refer to (11:32)?
- c. What kind of positive response do you believe Jesus wanted from the people rather than their asking for a sign (11:28)?
- d. How did the section that follows in 11:33-36 about light contrast with the situation of the mute demon possessed man Jesus healed in the previous section (11:14)?



e. \*What other insights or questions do you have from chapters 5?

5. Day 18, Luke 11:37-12:12

- a. In 11:37-44, Jesus challenged the Pharisees' affinity for outward things like ceremonial hand washing rules, detailed tithing specifications, and seats of honor in synagogues. The interior life of the Pharisees (11:39, 11:42) appeared to contrast with yesterday's readings about being full of light and not darkness (11:35-36). Why would Jesus advise Pharisees to be generous to the poor (11:41) as a safeguard against darkness in their heart? (see also Proverbs 4:23)
- b. Jesus was even more direct and confrontational with the experts in the law in 11:45-54 and accused them of approving of their ancestors who killed and buried prophets of God. What present actions of theirs did Jesus seem to be most concerned about (11:52) and what was he doing about it? At what cost?
- c. How is the topic of hypocrisy addressed by Jesus with interwoven messages about secret personal life verses public life and the influence that fear can have sometimes (12:1-12)?
- d. In the Pastor's video this week, Pastor Temple said "the sin against the Holy Spirit" (12:10) is a puzzling passage with at least four possible meanings. Which of these make the most sense to you?
  - i. To say that Jesus has come from Satan
  - ii. To renounce Jesus in the face of opposition
  - iii. To reject the preaching of the Apostles
  - iv. To reject the meaning of the Gospel outright
- e. \*What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

6. Day 19, Luke 12:13-34

- a. As with Mary and Martha, a dispute between siblings and a one-sided request was brought to Jesus (12:13-14). How did Jesus again not comply with the request but pushed to reveal deeper issues or questions (12:15)?
- b. Where did the ending of the parable of the rich fool (12:20-21) redirect their focus or attention?
- c. In 12:22-30, the words and wisdom of Jesus cautioned against excessive worry over secure supplies of food and clothing and over personal physical health.
  - i. How does obsessing over such things run counter to living a life of dependent trusting faith in God?
  - ii. What do you most find yourself most worrying about today?
  - iii. What are the benefits of the kind of living by faith that Jesus recommends in 12:31-34?
- d. \*what other insights or questions do you have from this section?



7. Day 20, Luke 12:35-13:9

- a. Ever heard the phrase, “Jesus is coming, everyone look busy!”? These parables of 12:35-48 emphasize the need for servants of a returning master to be attentive and faithful in their actions so that they will be rewarded and not punished upon his return.
  - i. How is the occasion of the master attending a wedding banquet significant in the early part of the parables (12:36)?
  - ii. The “Son of Man” is identified as the master returning at an unexpected hour in 12:40. Do you think the disciples understood the message about Jesus’ return when he was yet still with them (12:41)?
  - iii. What was said about the standard of judgement that would apply to the servants after the return (12:47-48)?
  - iv. How did verses 49-53 describe the varied responses people would have to the teachings of Christ prior to His return (among the Jewish people first but then also to the Gentiles)?
- b. How is the call to be aware of the significance of the present time as well as an unknown future time of judgement strengthened in 12:54-59?
- c. How did Jesus confront the common theology of the day that the suffering must stem from God’s punishment for their sin in 13:1-5?
- d. Yet what did Jesus say about the prevalence of and necessary response to sin in 13:1-8?
- e. \*what other insights or questions do you have from this section?

8. Day 21, Luke 13:10-35

- a. Jesus’ ministry of teaching and healing continued together in 13:10-17 with a woman in a synagogue on the sabbath who had been crippled for 18 years.
  - i. Why was the synagogue ruler upset by this?
  - ii. How did Jesus justify his actions?
  - iii. How did Jesus challenge again the idea that someone’s suffering is always because of God’s punishment for their sin?
- b. What do you believe Jesus was saying about the nature of faith and the kingdom of God through the parables of the mustard seed and a woman making bread with yeast (13:18-21)?
- c. The parable of the narrow door (13:22-30) highlighted again an upcoming time of judgement and a contrast of two groups of people.
  - i. What determining factors are given for those denied entry by the owner of the house (13:25-28)?





4. You can directly access the daily scriptures on your smart phone or computer or tablet from the LA70 webpage through the hyperlinks, see <https://christchurchsl.org/la70-reading-plan/>
5. For the leader- if you would like additional background information about the verses each week in addition to information provided in the Pastor's Videos of what to look for in your readings, The Bible Project is another good source. They have a 9 part video series on Luke-Acts, see <https://bibleproject.com/explore/category/luke-acts-series/>