



### **Small Group Discussion Guide- Day 28, Week 4 (Luke 14-19)**

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 4 (Luke 14-19) 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 (you may wish just to choose 8 questions)
  - 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 4, Pastor Dan mentioned that chapters 14-19 was part two of the long journey of Jesus and the disciples to Jerusalem. Some of the recurring themes in this section include teachings on the nature of the kingdom of God, the time of judgement that is to come and the urgent call to immediately respond to Jesus' teaching to be ready and found faithful. How are we to understand Jesus' reoccurring non-



inclusive presentation of two groupings- one that is accepted inside and those on the outside who are not accepted?

2. Day 22, Luke 14

- a. Verses 1-14 and 15-24 both contain stories about community meal gatherings or feasts.
  - i. According to Jesus, what is most important about how a community feast is to be offered?
  - ii. How is the feast offered a metaphor for the kingdom of God?
- b. As with the beginning of last week's readings (Luke 9:57-62), in 14:25-35 Jesus advised them to count the cost of being his disciple before committing to being one and to not look back even if it cost them everything. In what ways do you believe your faith has cost you something?
- c. How could these "costs" also be seen as a wise investment? (see also Luke 18:29-30)
- d. How has Jesus their master and teacher demonstrated willingness to accept the cost of pursuing the kingdom of God?
- e. \*What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

3. Day 23, Luke 15

- a. What is the setting for these three parables (15:1-2)?
- b. How might the onlookers feel about Jesus' statement in the first parable in verse 7 or in the second in verse 10?
- c. Why is this high value in the kingdom of heaven easy to overlook in everyday life?
- d. How does the third parable about the two sons build on this teaching? Who do the two sons represent?
- e. Do you believe people's concept of God typically matches up with Jesus' depiction of the Father's heart here or depart from it? Why or why not?
- f. \*What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

4. Day 24, Luke 16

- a. Verse 8 appears to be an argument from lesser to greater to strengthen the point made through an analogy. What is the point?
- b. How do verses 10-12 appear to teach a different lesson?
- c. Teachings about money and what is considered of value continued throughout the rest of the chapter (16:13-15).
  - i. How did Jesus' teaching in verse 18 help protect married women from poverty?



- ii. In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, what was the determining factor between the two groups (25-26)?
- iii. Like the sign of Jonah in chapter 11, what does 16:31 foreshadow? How does it reflect back upon the mount of transfiguration (9:28-31)? How is what Christ was teaching both old and new?
- d. \*What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

5. Day 25, Luke 17

- a. The request for Jesus to increase their faith (17:5) is a rare request from the disciples. What prompted such a request?
- b. Why is it presented as a miracle that requires faith?
- c. How is Jesus' acknowledgement of the one healed leper who returned to thank him as a Samaritan and a foreigner significant? (17:16-17)
- d. How is the location and future indicators of the kingdom of God described in 17:21 and 17:22-37?
- e. What other similar messages in Luke have we read so far?
- f. \*What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

6. Day 26, Luke 18:1-34

- a. How does 18:1-7 also provide an argument from lesser to greater through analogy? (as in 16:8)
- b. How are children and the parable about a repentant tax collector humbling himself before God, a picture of the kingdom to come? (18:9-17)
- c. In 18:18-25, how was Jesus request of the rich young ruler to give away all he had to the poor and then to follow him a gracious offer? (18:22)
- d. How did Jesus' multiple predictions about his death get more specific the closer he got to Jerusalem?
- e. \*what other insights or questions do you have from this section?

7. Day 27, Luke 18:35-19:27

- a. Near Jericho, a blind man who was begging by the roadside called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"
  - i. Why did Jesus ask him "What do you want me to do for you?"
  - ii. Was Jesus making a connection between faith and sight in 18:42? How so?
- b. Why did Jesus invite himself over to Zacchaeus's house when it didn't appear that he actually knew him (19:5)?
  - i. What steps of faith came before he was acknowledged to receive salvation and be a son of Abraham?
  - ii. Why is that important?



- c. What misunderstanding was the Parable of the Talents or Minas meant to correct? (19:11)
  - i. Who is represented in the parable of a man of noble birth going to a distant country to be appointed king and his subjects who sent a delegation to be an obstacle to him? (19:11-14)
  - ii. Compared to the way kings behaved at the time, what would have been the right or even expectation of the nobleman who returned as king? (19:27) Is this to be taken as a warning?
  - iii. The parable of the talents or minas is in the middle of this parable as well. What was the expectation of use of resources entrusted to the servants?
  - iv. How do the driving factors behind our choices of use of time, talent and treasures shift when we acknowledge they are God's and not our own?
  - v. How did the one feel about the master who buried the money to play it safe? What happened to him?
- d. \*what other insights or questions do you have from this section?

8. Day 28, Luke 19:28-48

- a. In the Pastor's video, Pastor Dan mentioned Jesus and the disciples entered Jerusalem and the Temple from the east Gate (the Jericho side). Why is this significant (Zechariah 9:9-10 & Ezekiel 43:1-2, 4)
- b. How did that kind of entrance differ from what the people may have expected from their long-awaited Messiah?
- c. How did Jesus' next words differ from them as well? (19:41-44)
- d. The Old Testament prophets declared a previous fall of Jerusalem at the hands of their enemies was allowed by God because of the sin of idolatry and worshipping other gods. What is the reason given for God allowing the next fall of Jerusalem to take place? (19:44)
- e. Why would Jesus' first order of business in Jerusalem be disrupting sales in the Temple?
- f. \*what other insights or questions do you have from this section?

\*If you did not bring any questions or insights ahead of time, the following questions may help you develop some in the moment. (Discussion questions from Immerse: The Reading Bible by Tyndale)

- What stood out to you this week?
- Was there anything confusing or troubling?
- Did anything make you feel differently about God?





### **Summary of Life Application Points from the Conversation:**

1. How might what we have learned today change how we live?
2. In light of this conversation today and the readings for week 4, what do you believe the Lord is calling you to move towards in your thinking or actions or relationships?

### **Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer:**

1. What recent life events are worth giving thanks to God for or lifting up as a prayer request before the group?
2. The facilitator closes the meeting in prayer

### **Reminders for Next Time & Support Resources:**

1. Please bring 2-3 questions or new insights from your readings to our meeting next time on Day 35.
2. If you would like input from a pastor on particular questions about the readings, please email them at [LA70@christchurchsl.org](mailto:LA70@christchurchsl.org) and they will get back to you via email and/or post on the closed LA70 Facebook Group.
3. You can access all resources including the Reading Plan, Online Daily Readings, Pastor's Videos, Discussion Guides and a link to the Facebook Group on the church webpage <http://christchurchsl.org/LA70>.
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/>