



Small Group Discussion Guide- Day 35, Week 5 (Luke 20-24)

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 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 5 (Luke 20-24) 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 5, Pastor Michelle summarized Luke chapters 20-24 where Jesus entered into Jerusalem and, as was divinely predicted, he was delivered unto death at the hands of men. On the way to the cross, Jesus engaged friends and foes in conversations of learning. What do you believe were the main lessons or messages that Jesus focused his final week of his life prior to the crucifixion?



2. Day 29, Luke 20:1-40

- a. Some had asked previously for a sign from Jesus that he was from God and Jesus said no sign will be given them but the sign of Jonah. Here in 20:1-2, opponents in the Jerusalem/temple area questioned the source of his Authority. Why do you think Jesus responded the way he did in 20:3-8?
- b. 20:19 indicates the teachers of the law and the chief priests knew Jesus had spoken the parable of the tenants of the vineyard against them. Where were they represented in the parable and what was their motivation?
- c. How is the question about taxes in 20:24 meant to entrap Jesus whether his response is “yes” or “no?” How did Jesus’ response answer the question but deny the trap of losing favor of the people in being too friendly with Rome or dividing his followers?
- d. The people were also divided about belief in the resurrection of the dead. The theoretical situation about a widow repeatedly remarrying and the question of whose wife she would be in the resurrection was meant to force him to deny the resurrection (and deny his followers). How did Jesus response offer scriptural reasons for faith in the resurrection (20:37)?
- e. *What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

3. Day 30, Luke 20:41-21:28

- a. When given the chance to ask his detractors, rather than simply respond to theirs, Jesus asks his own (20:44). Why do you think Jesus choose this particular question at this time?
- b. How do the motivations of the teachers of the law in 20:45-47, compare with the poor widow in 21:1-4?
- c. In 21:5-28 Jesus both predicted the destruction of the temple (which later happened at the hands of Rome in 70AD) and taught about signs of the end times and the return of the Son of Man. How is the end times or apocalypse presented here as both bad news and good news?
- d. *What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

4. Day 31, Luke 21:29-22:23

- a. How does 21:34-36 compare with Jesus’ previous teachings about being prepared for an unknown future time of judgement?
- b. How did Jesus public teaching activities and evening accommodations make it difficult for his enemies to target him for arrest or murder (21:37-38)?
- c. How was having an insider ally helpful to Jesus’ enemies (21:1-6)?
- d. How did Jesus exercise authority over the Passover meal in conveying his message of the new covenant (22:14-23)?



e. *What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

5. Day 32, Luke 22:24-22:62

- a. How might 22:24 offer a sign of what the disciples were thinking or anticipating in this climactic arrival into Jerusalem for the Passover?
 - i. How does Jesus teaching in 22:25-27 offer insight to Jesus' choice to an undesirable end to the Jerusalem phase of his ministry (see also 22:41-43)?
- b. How does Jesus' prediction of Peter's denial of him also include words of hope for him (22:31-32)?
- c. While Jesus experienced anguish in the anticipation of his crucifixion, how did he also show care in preparing the disciples for his absence (22:35-46)?
- d. Led by the betrayer Judas, chief priests, the temple guard and elders came to capture Jesus. How does Jesus response in 22:52-53 contrast with the common ways and goals of worldly revolutionaries?
- e. How was Jesus' surrender to the will of the Father over his own shown through Jesus choices on the Mount of Olives that night?
- f. How do you imagine Peter's feelings and thoughts shifted throughout 22:54-62?
- g. *What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

6. Day 33, Luke 22:63-23:25

- a. How did the trial in 22:66-71 bear the signs of a predetermined unfair outcome?
- b. What were the legal accusations made against Jesus (23:2, 23:5, 23:13)?
- c. Both Pilate and Herod were unconvinced of Jesus' committing a crime deserving of capital punishment (23:13-16). How then did the enemies of Jesus' force their hand (23:18-24)?
- d. *what other insights or questions do you have from this section?

7. Day 34, Luke 23:26-23:56

- a. With the help of Simon from Cyrene, Jesus and 2 criminals traveled to the site of the crucifixion with their crosses. How did the words or actions of others towards Jesus in this time bear marks of mockery (22:63, 23:11, 23:35, and 23:39)?
- b. How did Jesus' words leading up to his death on the cross bear the marks of compassion rather than anger or fear (23:28-31, 23:34, 23:43)?
- c. What do you believe led the one thief on the cross to choose to appeal to Jesus for mercy rather than join in with the other mockers (23:40-43)?
- d. What is the significance of the curtain of the temple being torn in two at the time in which Jesus called out "Father into your hands I commit my spirit" and then breathed his last (23:45)?



e. *what other insights or questions do you have from this section?

8. Day 35, Luke 24:1-53

- a. After the body of Jesus' was laid to rest in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea on the day before the sabbath and throughout the sabbath, women who were Jesus followers came to finish wrapping his body with spices they had prepared. What was odd about the scene they encountered at the grave (24:3-8)?
- b. Why do you think the disciples didn't believe the women at first (24:9-11)?
- c. Why might God choose women to be the first to receive the message of the resurrection from angels and the first to share it with others?
- d. How were the two men on the way to Emmaus gradually brought to an understanding of Jesus' identity and resurrection (24:13-35)?
- e. 24:32 says "They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'" Have you had a faith growing experience with God's word like this to share with the group where it felt like God was speaking personally to you?
- f. How does Luke describe the message of Christ and the calling of the disciples at the end of his Gospel (24:46-49)?
- g. How does this prepare the way for Luke's second volume, the book of Acts?
- h. *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 5, 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 42.
2. If you would like input from a pastor on particular questions about the readings, please email them at 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/>