



Hello! This guide is provided to help facilitate a clear understanding of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truths to our lives individually and corporately. As such we encourage you to spend at least half your time pondering and discussing questions that are application focused. While the guide has been bulked up, we still need to prepare by praying through the passage, reviewing the guide on our own, and thinking about how our group might answer questions.

Overview of Luke

Background, Context and Structure

Luke the Greek physician was Paul's companion during his mission in proclaiming the gospel. Luke wrote this gospel as the first volume of a single work, consisting of The Gospel Of Luke and Acts. Both volumes are addressed to Theophilus and are written in a similar style. Acts refers to The Gospel Of Luke in its introduction. As a Greek, and later a companion of Paul, Luke had never met Jesus personally, yet as a scholar and physician he set upon a task to interview and record the events of the life of Jesus, according to Jesus' close companions and earliest eyewitnesses (1:1-4). Luke's gospel is therefore the most detailed, and it contains the most material of the three synoptic gospels.

Christ in Luke

Luke's gospel presents Jesus as the fulfillment of OT's promises for the Davidic Messiah for both Jews and Gentiles. Luke stresses Jesus' concern and focus for social outcasts (tax collectors, prostitutes and Gentiles), and he tells us his ultimate concern in his mission statement of Jesus ministry in Luke 19:10, "The Son of man came to seek and to save the lost." He shows how Jesus does this by emphasizing Jesus' prophecies about his suffering, his journey towards Jerusalem, and God's sovereignty in Jesus' ministry and death. The fulfillment of Jesus' mission is in his death and resurrection.

Big Idea of the Text

The affirmation of Jesus' identity as the Son of God, the institution of His new rule, and the expression of His new kingdom.

Goal of this Study

For us to know that Jesus is God, To know His calling for us to participate as His chosen and beloved people, and to obey him with our whole lives.

Icebreaker Question

What are some of the regular practices or disciplines that you maintain in your life today? Why do you them?

Read Luke 5:33-39 and 6:1-19

Luke 5:33-39 and 6:1-5

33 And they said to him, "The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink." **34** And Jesus said to them, "Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? **35** The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days." **36** He also told them a parable: "No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. **37** And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. **38** But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. **39** And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, 'The old is good.'" *Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath*

6 On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands. **2** But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?" **3** And Jesus answered them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: **4** how he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?" **5** And he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

Q1. Who were the Pharisees and what did they represent in the time of Jesus?

Q2. What was "the law" and what did it represent to the Jewish people, in the time of Jesus?

Q3. In Jesus' encounters with the Pharisees (in 5:33-39 to 6:1-5), what were the Pharisees accusing Jesus or His disciples of doing?

Q4. How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees, and what does He claim about Himself? (5:34-35,6:3-5)

Q5. Looking at 5:36-39, how does Jesus reveal the way the Pharisees were thinking? How do these parables show what Jesus has come to do?

Q6. In what ways do you tend to compartmentalise Jesus? How do you obey Jesus to in some areas of your life, but refuse to give other areas of your life over to his rule?

Q7. Looking at verses 6:1-5, in what ways have you applied a similar mindset to the Pharisees in the way you see others? How does also impact the way you see yourself? And God?

Read Luke 6:6-19

6 On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered. **7** And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him. **8** But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come and stand here." And he rose and stood there. **9** And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?" **10** And after looking around at them all he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored. **11** But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

12 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. **13** And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: **14** Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, **15** and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, **16** and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. **17** And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, **18** who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. **19** And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

Q8. In verses 7-11, we see that "...the scribes and the Pharisees watched [Jesus], to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him." And upon his doing so "...they were filled with fury."

- a. What does this tell you about their perception of Jesus?
- b. What does this tell you about their perception of themselves?

Q9. Through Jesus' actions in 6:3-5 and 9-11, how does Jesus think about the Law?

Q10. As followers of Jesus, how should we view the Law and our religious activities?

Q11. Verses 12-16 describes and lists the selection of the twelve apostles. Based on what we know about the apostles (their desertion and betrayal of Jesus):

- a. What insight does this provide into Jesus' kingdom, and how He chooses His people?
- b. How is this different from how the Pharisees believed people are chosen?

Q12. The Pharisees believed God chose people based on how good they are at following certain laws. Jesus chooses undeserving people, based on his graciousness.

Why is it freeing to know that Jesus chooses us on this basis?

Apply Practically

Pray for and encourage one another that God would continue to give you a deeper revelation of who Jesus is, what He has done, and what He is calling us to be as His disciples in His kingdom.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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