



Week 6: Luke 1-8

Study Guide for the week of Feb. 2-8

Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week, spend time with Luke 6:37-42, one of Jesus' teachings on forgiveness.

We all have tried to remove the "speck" from someone else's eye while ignoring the "log" in our own eye. Ask God to reveal those "logs" and "specks" in your life and make a list of them.

Often what we criticize most in other people are those habits and sins we struggle with ourselves. Ask God to show you if this is a problem in your life.

Make a list of all the times you remember Jesus showing compassion, not criticism, to a sinner. (Hint: for starters, check out Mark 2:40-45; 2:1-12; 2:15-17; 3:1-5; 5:22-43; 6:34; 8:1-9; 9:14-27; 10:13-16; 10:17-22). Ask God to teach you a spirit of compassion and not criticism. As you pray the Lord's Prayer this week, make forgiveness personal by praying "...And forgive me my trespasses as I forgive those who trespass against me ..."

Discussion starters

1. Reread Luke 1:46-55, Mary's song of praise, also called the Magnificat. Now read 1 Sam 2:1-10, Hannah's song of praise. What similarities can you identify? Who is God going to defend?
2. Reread Luke 1:72-73. What was God's covenant with Abraham? The answer is found in Gen 12:1-3. Put one finger in Gen 12 and another in Luke 3 and notice how much of God's story is in between your two fingers. Is it any wonder God's people longed for the promise to be fulfilled? How are you doing with developing the gift of patience?
3. How do you view the elderly? As experienced people with wisdom to share, or as people to be ignored? How did God use Anna and Simeon (Luke 2:25-39)? Are there wise elders in your life? If not, be on the lookout for an Anna or Simeon to learn from.
4. Often the religious leaders in Jesus' time focused more on the negatives than the positives. Would someone looking at your life consider you a "positive" Christian or a "negative" Christian? Are you more concerned with the "shouldn'ts" or the "shoulds"? Is Christianity a positive or a negative force in the world? Which did Jesus intend his followers to be?
5. Jesus chose a variety of people to be his disciples. Go around your group and name the ways you're different from each other. Name the ways you are similar to each other. Now celebrate the fact that God brought you together with diverse strengths to build each other up!
6. In Luke 8:1-3, Luke names some "behind-the-scenes" people. Do you work behind-the-scenes or know someone who does? How valuable are the behind-the-scenes people? Read Paul's answer in 1 Cor 12:22-26. When you see a behind-the-scenes person around, remember to offer your thanks!

Bible verse to memorize: Luke 4:18-19