

L O V E

Y O U R

E N E M I E S

AN EIGHT WEEK STUDY ON LUKE'S GOSPEL:
CHAPTERS 1 - 8

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

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WEEK ONE

Day One | Luke 1:1-4

What do we learn about Luke's motivation for writing this account?

How certain are you about the details of the life of Jesus?

How could you grow in certainty & faith about who Jesus is and what He has accomplished?

Day Two | Luke 1:5-25

How do you think Zechariah & Elizabeth felt about not having children?

Which part of Gabriel's prophecy stands out to you the most? Why?

Why did Zechariah struggle to believe? Do you ever struggle in similar ways? Why?

Day Three | Luke 1:26-38

How does Mary respond differently than Zechariah? How are their responses similar?

How did Mary find favor with God? How do we find favor with God?

Why was it significant or necessary for Mary to be a virgin?

Day Four | Luke 1:39-56

What impact does the description of John leaping in Elizabeth's womb have on the way that you think about the issue of abortion?

What line in Mary's song stands out the most to you?

If you were to sing a song to the Lord, what would be the primary theme?

Day Five | Luke 1:57-80

Why do you think Zechariah's tongue was loosed after he confirmed the name John? Zechariah's prophecy addresses God's victory over both external enemies and internal sin. What is your biggest external enemy in this moment? What is your biggest internal struggle? How does Jesus ultimately bring victory over both?

Group Question: What do you believe is the most important thing that God wants you to do or to focus on in this season of your life?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help?

Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

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WEEK TWO

Day One | Luke 2:1-7

How do you think Mary & Joseph felt about traveling to Bethlehem?

How does this account differ from what you would've expected for the birth of the Son of God? Why do you think God chose to do it in this way? What does it reveal about Him? What about this story brings you encouragement when facing difficult things?

Day Two | Luke 2:8-21

Why do you think God chose to reveal this Good News to the shepherds?

Why is the birth of Jesus "good news of great joy that will be for all people"?

In our culture today, what group of people would be comparable to the shepherds?

Day Three | Luke 2:22-35

Describe a time you had to wait patiently for something.

What do we learn about the mission of Jesus from Simeon's prophecy? (v29-32)

How do you think Mary felt when she heard Simeon's words? (v34-35)

Day Four | Luke 2:36-40

Anna faced significant hardship in her life. Is there any way in which you can relate to her story? How do you think she kept from becoming bitter about her trials?

Why do you think God included her in this account of the life of Jesus?

Day Five | Luke 2:41-52

How do you think Mary & Joseph felt as they searched for Jesus for 3 days?

Do you believe Jesus failed to honor His father & mother by doing this?

What were some time(s) in your life when you questioned where Jesus was or what he was doing?

Group Question: What area of your character is God challenging you to address at this time? What would progress in that area look like?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

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WEEK THREE

Day One | Luke 3:1-6

Share the story of your baptism. If you haven't been baptized, what is preventing you from taking that step of obedience?

How would you describe the assignment that God gave to John?

What role has repentance and forgiveness played in your life?

Day Two | Luke 3:7-14

What were the crowds counting on for salvation and right standing with God?

What are you tempted to rely on for your righteousness? Why does that fall short?

Do you think John was saying "Be good and you'll go to heaven"? Why or why not?

Day Three | Luke 3:15-17

How do you think John was able to remain humble in the role that he was given?

What does it mean to be baptized "with the Holy Spirit and fire"?

Why do you think John emphasized the righteous judgment of Jesus?

Day Four | Luke 3:18-22

Have you ever been persecuted or punished for doing what was right?

Why do you think Jesus was baptized? Does this relate in any way to your thoughts on your need for baptism?

How do you see the Trinity on display in vs 21-22?

Day Five | Luke 3:23-38

Why do you think the genealogy of Jesus is included in this account?

What do you find most interesting in this list of the ancestors of Jesus?

How has your family tree impacted your life in positive and negative ways?

Group Question: What relationship outside of church are you cultivating so that you can share Gospel truth with that person? How can we pray for that?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

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WEEK FOUR

Day One | Luke 4:1-15

What caused Jesus to experience this trial? Was it due to sin or failure on His part?

What impresses you about the answers that Jesus gives when He is tempted?

Is there an area where you are feeling especially tempted at this time? What scripture can you bring to bear against your current trial or temptation?

Day Two | Luke 4:16-30

How did Jesus fulfill the prophecy in vs 18-19?

Have you ever felt misunderstood or unappreciated by those closest to you?

Why did God perform miracles for those outside of the nation of Israel?

Day Three | Luke 4:31-37

Can you describe a time when the authority of Jesus' words called you to obedience?

Why do you think Jesus commanded the demon to be silent?

Why is simply knowing the true identity of Jesus not enough to bring salvation?

Day Four | Luke 4:38-41

Are there things you don't pray for because you don't think they are "big" enough to bother Jesus with? Does the healing of the fever change your thoughts on that?

Why is Jesus better received in Capernaum than in his hometown?

Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God? How has that changed your life?

Day Five | Luke 4:42-44

Why do you think Jesus withdrew to a desolate place?

What is the purpose that Jesus was sent to accomplish?

Are you surprised that Jesus continually tried to diminish his fame & disperse the crowds? Why did He do that?

Group Question: What is the most important step of obedience that God wants you to take right now? How can our group pray for and support you with that?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

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WEEK FIVE

Day One | Luke 5:1-11

Like the request to borrow Simon's boat, is there something Jesus is asking you to do?

Have you ever felt like God was calling you to do something that didn't make sense?

What do you think you would say to Jesus if He came to you today?

What did Jesus mean when He said "you will be catching men"?

Day Two | Luke 5:12-16

What does the leper's statement reveal about his faith? Is there anything in your life that you don't believe Jesus has the power to heal? Why do you think Jesus went to desolate places to pray? Does your prayer life reflect the model that Jesus lives out?

Day Three | Luke 5:17-26

Why were the Pharisees and teachers coming to listen to Jesus?

Have you ever gone to great lengths to bring someone to Jesus?

Which power is greater: to forgive sin or to make a paralyzed man walk? Why?

Day Four | Luke 5:27-32

Why do you think Levi was willing to get up and leave everything behind?

Who are the people that you would be unwilling to eat a meal with today?

How does this conversation convict or challenge you? Do you think of yourself as righteous or as a repentant sinner? Who have you invited to your table for a meal?

Day Five | Luke 5:33-39

Have you ever done a fast? If so, what was that experience like?

What is the purpose of fasting?

People often quote the phrase “no one puts new wine into old wineskins.” What do you think Jesus is specifically referring to when He says this?

Group Question: Who is at the top of your prayer list for salvation or for repentance and turning back to Jesus?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

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WEEK SIX

Day One | Luke 6:1-11

What does Jesus mean when He says that He is Lord of the Sabbath?

How do you personally find the balance between being legalistic and being casual to the point where it might appear sacrilegious or disrespectful?

Why was the Sabbath such a big deal to the Pharisees? Is it important to you?

Day Two | Luke 6:12-19

Describe a time when you really prayed deeply over a big decision or choice.

What do you find interesting about the disciples that Jesus chose?

Was the crowd more interested in the message or the healing? How is that reflected in the church (and the world) today?

Day Three | Luke 6:20-26

What blessing is there in being poor, hungry, weeping & hated?

How do you think about rewards in heaven? Does that motivate you to live differently?

What are we meant to learn from the list of woes? (vs24-26)

Day Four | Luke 6:27-42

Do these commands seem too difficult to obey? How does acting in this way serve as a reflection of the character of God?

Who do you struggle to love and pray for right now?

Has the Gospel helped you to become less judgemental and critical? In what ways?

Day Five | Luke 6:43-49

Does this passage imply that anyone who ever commits any sin is a bad tree?

What is overflowing from the abundance of your heart?

What makes the foundation of our life strong?

Where is Jesus calling you to be obedient to Him today? Don't delay - do it now!

Group Question: Do you feel defeated in any part of your life? How might Jesus bring you freedom from that feeling?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

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WEEK SEVEN

Day One | Luke 7:1-10

How do you balance reverence for Jesus with seeking to know Him as a friend?

What was so remarkable about the Centurion's faith?

Is there something that you need to pray for and pursue with greater faith in your life right now? Do you think a lack of faith could hinder your prayers?

Day Two | Luke 7:11-17

How would you describe the way that Jesus interacts with this woman?

Is there something that you are grieving about today? Do you believe that Jesus has the same compassion for you that He had for that widow?

Day Three | Luke 7:18-23

Read Isaiah 35. How do you see Jesus fulfilling this prophecy?

Why do you think John needed to question whether Jesus was the Messiah?

Do the accounts of the miracles of Jesus help to strengthen your faith? Why?

Day Four | Luke 7:24-35

What made John the greatest of those born of women? Are you surprised by that?

Why were the Pharisees critical of both Jesus and John?

Do you tend to be more judgemental of very religious people or very irreligious people?

Day Five | Luke 7:36-50

Do you relate more to Simon the Pharisee or the sinful woman in this account?

How do you feel when you begin to think of the things for which Jesus has forgiven you? Are there things that are currently a part of your life for which you need to repent and ask forgiveness? Are you confident that you will stand forgiven before God? How can you better extend that same forgiveness to others?

Group Question: What habit, practice or activity is the most helpful in connecting you to Jesus in a real way? How could you do more of that?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

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WEEK EIGHT

Day One | Luke 8:1-15

What do you notice about the role of women in the ministry of Jesus and the way that He treated them? How does that inform the discussion on women's roles in ministry today? Can you think of seasons of your life that relate to the various soils in this parable? What does it look like for you to "bear fruit with patience"?

Day Two | Luke 8:16-21

Is your life shining the light of Jesus? What things might be covering it or hiding it? What does it mean to "Take care then how you listen?" How should we be listening? Has it been difficult to have your family accept the way your faith has changed you?

Day Three | Luke 8:22-25

Did this trial arise out of disobedience? Why did the windstorm happen? In which area of your life is it most difficult to believe that Jesus is in control? The disciples saw many miracles. Why was this miracle especially amazing to them?

Day Four | Luke 8:26-39

In what ways has your life been transformed by following Jesus?

Why did the people of the town fear Jesus & want Him to leave?

Jesus sends the man back to his community as a witness. Who are the people that God has given to you as a mission field? Do you live as an Ambassador for Jesus?

Day Five | Luke 8:40-56

In your greatest moments of need, what has your relationship with Jesus been like?

Why do you think the woman tried to remain hidden despite her great faith in Jesus?

Do you know people who are going through difficult times? How could you share the hope of Jesus with them at this time when they may be more open to hear it?

Group Question: What is the greatest temptation that you are facing in this season of your life? How well are you resisting it? Do you have someone to keep you accountable?

PRAYER: Reflection & Response

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