

Week 9: Become Like Jesus Pt 2

Luke 8:16-21

To be studied in preparation for November 11, 2018.

Leader's Note: Please refer to the resource, "Storying," available [on our website](#), for a detailed guide on how to facilitate storying in your group.

this is life:

A people apprenticed to
the Life of Jesus

Why We Have Gathered

Our common goal as apprentices of Jesus is to learn to be *loved by Jesus*, to be *led by Jesus*, to *become like Jesus*, to *lead others to Jesus*.

Establishing "Safe Harbour"

For us to open up to God and one another, the environment needs to be safe, and we each need to be safe for each other. Let's remember the following guidelines:

- Practice **good listening skills**: open body postures and eye contact, no "cross talk" (side conversations when someone is sharing), non-judgmental reflection, attention to the one sharing (rather than forming your own thoughts), allowing others to finish their thought, and not rushing to fill a pause or moment of silence.
- Honour "**sharing boundaries**" and **confidentiality**: Don't share what you don't have permission to share, here or outside our meetings, and don't gossip about others. Tell your own story.
- Don't try to fix, problem-solve or rescue**. Our aim is "**gospel fluency**": pointing toward Jesus' life-changing power and the truths of who we are, who God is, and what God has done in Christ.
- Practice **healthy conflict resolution**: offer **grace, patience** and the **benefit of the doubt**; accept your responsibility for **peace**; seek swift **reconciliation** and **make amends** for hurts caused.
- Let's seek to be **co-learners** and make this a safe space to ask **any and all questions**.

Week 8 Follow-up: *Based on Luke 8:1-15 we were challenged to set aside a couple of times in our week where we select a portion Scripture to read, reflect on the Vision it offers, and respond with Intent and a Means (a plan or action step) by which to obey. What has been challenging about this? Is there something you learned (from Scripture or about the practice itself)?*

Entering Into the Story: Luke 8:16-21

Setting the Scene: Luke positions this parable and teaching story immediately after last week's parable of the sower/seed/soil, which describes how an apprentice can respond to the sowing of the Word in her or his life. We can see how Jesus is beginning to filter out the sincere apprentices from the fickle, uncommitted crowd. The parable of the lamp once again causes us to reflect on what we do with the Word once we have heard it. But even more radical is what Jesus says about family – one of the sacred institutions of his day! As we read, we want to pay attention both to how the idea of family informs how we pursue apprenticeship, and to how Jesus radically redefines what family will be in the kingdom of God. **As I tell you this story, I invite you to consider who or what you relate to in the story, and why.**

Tell the Story: The leader will tell **Luke 8:16-21** from memory.

Rebuild the Story: Let's open up our Bibles to Luke 8:16-21.

- *Walk through, chronologically, verse by verse, asking "Who, What, Where, When, How, and sometimes Why" questions. Where did the story-teller add or omit details?*

Read the Story: Read the story in one translation. If you have time, you might choose to read a second translation as well.

Debrief the Story: Let's respond to the following questions:

- ***Who or what do you relate to in the story, and why?***
- *What questions arise for you out of what Jesus teaches?*
- *What barriers to apprenticeship are exposed by the negative images in this story? What might Jesus point to as a barrier in my life?*
- *What vision or goal are the positive images in this story calling us toward?*
- *What other Scriptures or biblical principles does this story remind you of?*
- *How could this story be used to help someone else understand apprenticeship to Jesus?*
- *How will you apply this story in your own life? What is your "take-away"?*
- ***What specific action do you sense God asking you/us to do as a result of our conversation with Him through his Word?***

Praying for One Another

Using the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) as a guide, and based on what has come to the surface in your sharing together, lift one another to God in prayer.

WORSHIP

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Express your thanks and praise to your heavenly Father for his work in your lives.

PETITION

Your Kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

Invite God to be King in the various areas of your life, as well as for practical needs, people far from God, the church's mission and its leadership.

CONFESSION

And forgive us our debts,
as we also have
forgiven our debtors.

Repent of any sin, express forgiveness regarding any broken relationship, and ask for God's help in bringing reconciliation wherever it is needed.

ENGAGEMENT

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

Ask God to lead, protect and heal you wherever it is needed. Give time to listen and respond to the Spirit's voice.

WORSHIP

For yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Close by praising God for who he is, and for anticipated opportunities and answers to prayer.

Leader's Notes

This is the second of four studies on the "I Will Make You"/"Become Like Jesus" chapter of this sermon series. This coming Sunday, you will hear a teaching specifically rooted in **Luke 8:19-21**. We have chosen this Scripture because here Jesus teaches that he is creating a new family of mentors and siblings, "not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God" (John 1:13). As such, you and your group are invited to reflect on apprenticeship as a process of formation that happens "in a family."

Since this Scripture is such a short section, in this week's storying exercise we have chosen to include the preceding parable (8:16-18). This will give the group an opportunity to reflect on what the new family of Jesus is called to do together. As the group discusses, keep these thoughts or questions in mind...

- V 16: In this parable, the light of the lamp represents what the seeds represented in the last parable: the word of God, the message of the kingdom, all the teachings of Jesus and his apprentices.
- Consider some of the ways that we place the light (the word) in a "clay jar" or under the bed in our own lives, so that it can't shine where it needs to.
- V 17: If this warning is universally and ultimately true, why might it be important to allow the light to do its work now and not later? (see 1 John 1:5-10)
- V 18: Here, "having" represents our willingness to listen, pay attention, and put what we hear into practice in the details of our lives. Why is it so important for us to make sure we "have" the light that is offered to us?
- V 19 – 21: In an ancient Middle-Eastern culture, family loyalty trumps all other connections, and is the context in which a person is born, raised, lives, and dies. Consider how Jesus' redefinition of family could be both informed by this idea, and changes it.
- What are the competing loyalties in contemporary culture that parallel those of Jesus' culture? (e.g. family, corporate, brand, friend groups)
- How is Jesus' redefinition of the family "good news" for his apprentices?
- Put the parable and the teaching about family together. How does being part of a spiritual family equip us to listen to the Word?

Still Coming Up in Becoming Like Jesus:

- **November 18:** How and why Jesus asks us to pay close attention to our habits/disciplines in becoming like him.
- **November 25:** How and why mutual confession, repentance and accountability are essential to becoming like Jesus.