

The Gospel of Luke: Jesus Encourages His Disciples

Luke 22:24-38

the gospel according to

LUKE

Please Note: The next two sermons across all campuses unpack the Last Supper over two weeks. Because of this, the study guides for March 3rd & 10th have been uploaded at the same time.

Yorkson & Walnut Grove 9/11am service, use this outline the week of March 3rd
Aldergrove & Walnut Grove 5pm service, use this outline for the week of March 10th

Begin with Prayer

In silence, invite the Holy Spirit to guide you. Then pray: *Empowering God, we pray that you will send your Holy Spirit to move us to understanding; to help us to believe the gospel; to give us strength and wisdom to live by it. Amen.* (Worship Sourcebook Q.3.5.8)

Reconnecting and Debriefing

Take a moment to check in with one another (2 minutes each).

1. As a kid, what job did you imagine you would have when you grew up?
2. Who is the best boss / teacher / supervisor / leader you've ever had? What made them so special?

Introduction

When we gather, our goal is to be a people apprenticed to the life of Jesus. As you begin this week, remind your group to not try to fix, problem-solve or rescue, but rather to keep pointing one another to the truths of the gospel for our lives.

Listening to God's Word

We have seen the increasing opposition to Jesus' ministry as we have gone through Luke. The religious leaders had been looking to kill Jesus without having the crowds turn against them (e.g. Luke 20:19) and Judas had given them a way. Knowing all this, Jesus takes time to teach one last message and encourage His disciples one last time. Jesus had already eaten the Last Supper with His disciples, and he now tells them not to worry about personal status, inevitable failures, or experiencing persecution and opposition, but rather to trust in Him.

Small Group Discussion

Read Luke 22:24-38. Then discuss together:

- **What is your first thought when you read through this passage?**
- The disciples had a discussion over who would betray Jesus (v. 23) and this led into an argument over who would be the greatest (v. 24). *When have you been tempted to put on your best face in a group in order to be seen as the strongest, smartest, or best?*
- We often think great people are people who do great things, but Jesus says that great people are people who serve others. *How hard is it for us to shift our understanding of what makes great people great? What might need to change for us to value serving as highly as Jesus values it?*
- *Where have you observed or experienced someone who has 'greatness' and 'authority' but lives as 'one who serves'?* In other words, where have you seen this done well?
- Jesus recognizes the suffering his disciples will experience, but also promises that He will give His disciples a Kingdom, throne, and authority (v. 29-30). *How does Jesus' promise of such things in the future impact a pursuit of 'great things' in the present?*

- *How real do Jesus' promises for your future feel for you? How much do they impact how you pursue 'greatness?'*
- Jesus talks very plainly about Satan's plans for the disciples (v. 31) but immediately says that He has prayed in response. *How often do you feel like you are experiencing spiritual opposition? What role does prayer play in these situations?*
- In v. 31-34, Jesus says that Simon will deny Jesus, but that his failure isn't forever. *How do we live that truth in our lives: a moment of 'denial,' even a significant moment, doesn't have to result in the end of our faith?*
- **Read Luke 22:49-52.** In v. 36, Jesus says that His disciples should buy swords, but then rebukes them for using swords. If we focus on the swords (like the disciples focused on the sword), we might forget that Jesus' kingdom isn't political but spiritual. *How does Jesus' Kingdom as a spiritual Kingdom brought in by spiritual means, rather than a political kingdom brought by military means, impact how we live?*
- ***How do you sense the Holy Spirit calling you to respond to or act on what we have read and discussed?***

Practices – Servant Prayer

In this passage, Jesus' models two things for his disciples: the heart of a servant and the importance of prayer.

1. In v. 32, Jesus' indicates that His prayer had a powerful and life-shaping impact for Simon. *Take a moment to sit silently as a group and ask the Holy Spirit to bring a name to mind of someone in your life you can be praying for these days.*
2. If your group has built trust, share the names in confidence. (If your group has not yet built trust to the point where this feels comfortable, reflect on that for a moment – what would it look like to grow in trust and vulnerability as a group? What is holding you back?)

Now, consider how you could **pray for** and **serve** that person this week:

Prayer – How can you remember to regularly pray for that person? Perhaps you could set a daily alarm on your phone, or associate prayer with part of your daily routine (e.g. your morning coffee or evening commute), or a place in your home (e.g. kitchen pantry). Share your reminder strategy with the group, and then commit to pray for the person every time you remember them this week.

Serving – Is there a way you could bless that same person this week? Perhaps a simple card, a call, a cupcake, or a pat on the back could be significant. If you have the relationship and if it would be appropriate, consider how to go deeper. Perhaps offering to babysit, inviting them for a meal, having an intentional conversation with deep and significant encouragement, or meeting a known need (even if it's not an emergency) could work. *You could also consider how to do this as a group!*

Caring for One Another

- *Suggest a prayer request that is related to the topic we've discussed.*
- ***Do you or your family have a need that the Life Group can help meet?***

Using **the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)** as a guide, based on what you've shared together, spend time listening to God and praying for one another.