

Life Group Notes & Discussion Guide, January 4, 2026

“New Wine for a New Year”

Sermon Text: **Luke 5:33-39**; New Testament Text: **Revelation 21:5-7**; Additional Gospel Text: **John 3:1-6**.

Read **Luke 5:33-39**, while listening to the sermon, then answer the questions below.

1. In **Luke 5:33**, to whom was Luke referring when he said, *They said to him*? Who were they?

Why did the Pharisees choose to compare themselves to John’s disciples in this instance?

2. Read **Luke 5:34**. Why would the friends of the bridegroom never fast while the bridegroom was with them?

In this statement, what was Jesus really saying about Himself?

3. Read **Luke 5:35**. To what time was Jesus referring when He said, *“the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast.”*

4. Read **Luke 5:36**. Why would it be absurd to *tear a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one*?

What is Jesus really saying in this statement?

5. Read **Luke 5:37**. Why would new wine cause an old wineskin to burst?

In this parable, what does the *new wine* represent?

What does the *old wineskin* represent?

6. Read **Luke 5:38**. With this statement, what was Jesus saying about the current religious leadership in Israel?

7. Read **Luke 5:39**. Why did most of the people of Israel prefer the *old wine*?

8. What will you remember most about this message?

Discussion Guide for Your Life Group Meeting

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **Revelation 21:5-7** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Read **Revelation 21:5**. To what is Jesus referring when He says, *“Behold, I am making all things new?”*
 2. How does it make you feel to know *“These words are trustworthy and true?”*
 3. Read **Revelation 21:6**. What does Jesus mean when He says, *“It is done?”*
 4. Explain what Jesus means when He says, *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”*
 5. Read **John 3:37-39**. How does this help explain what Jesus was saying in **Revelation 21:6b**?
 6. Read **Revelation 21:7**. How do we become *one who conquers*?
- II. Next read **John 3:1-6**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Why did Nicodemus come to see Jesus at night?
 2. What do you think Nicodemus was trying to do with his statement in **John 3:2**?
 3. What does it mean to you to *be born again*?
 4. Why was this such a difficult concept for Nicodemus to grasp?
 5. Why is it so hard for people to grasp this concept now?
 6. What are some different ways of interpreting what it means to be *born of water and the Spirit*?
 7. How might you paraphrase **John 3:6**?
- III. Read **Luke 5:33-39**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. In **Luke 5:33**, to whom was Luke referring when he said, *“They said to him?”* Who were they?
 2. Why did the Pharisees choose to compare themselves to John’s disciples in this instance?
 3. Read **Luke 5:34**. Why would the friends of the bridegroom never fast while the bridegroom was with them?
 4. In this statement, what was Jesus really saying about Himself?
 5. Read **Luke 5:35**. To what time was Jesus referring when He said, *“the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast.”*

6. Read **Luke 5:36**. Why would it be absurd to *tear a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one*?
7. What is Jesus really saying in this statement?
8. Read **Luke 5:37**. Why would new wine cause an old wineskin to burst?
9. In this parable, what does the *new wine* represent?
10. What does the *old wineskin* represent?
11. Read **Luke 5:38**. With this statement, what was Jesus saying about the current religious leadership in Israel?
12. Read **Luke 5:39**. Why did most of the people of Israel prefer the *old wine*?