

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS FOR LUKE

Leaders: Since we are covering a lot of ground in each gospel, feel the freedom to focus on a few of these questions that will most encourage your group. You do not need to finish them all (or you could be there all night!)

WARM UP (PICK ONE)

Imagine there are four witnesses who see a tornado strike: (1) a journalist in a distant state watching a posted video, (2) a person in a car several miles away, (3) a person in a nearby house that is left standing and (4) a survivor who crawls out of the remains of their destroyed house. What factors would influence how they tell the story of the tornado? The four gospels, three of which you have read at this point, are told by four different “witnesses”. As you can tell, they are not identical. What factors do you think influenced how they tell the story of Jesus?

What stood out most from Sunday’s sermon on the book of Luke?

EXPLORATION

1. Luke and John provide explicit reasons for why they are writing their gospels. Read Luke 1:1-4 to find out why Luke is writing. The apostle Paul identifies Luke as a physician (Col. 4:14) and his fellow worker (Philemon 24). Why does Luke write this gospel and what might you expect in this book based on his reasons for writing, how he came by his information and who he was?
2. Luke records many beloved stories that are not contained in any of the other gospels. One of these is the story (it is not clear that it is a parable) of the good Samaritan (10:30-37). Read the story and identify the characters, then describe what you would expect them to do and what they actually do. Jesus tells this story in order to answer the question, “Who is my neighbor?” Based on this story, who is your neighbor?

3. Read Luke 14:25-33. In Mark, we looked at a similar passage (Mark 8:34-39) but here, Jesus provides some more information about becoming a disciple. Given the two mini-parables Jesus uses (the man considering whether he has enough money before building a tower and the king considering whether he has enough military strength before going into battle), what is “enough” in terms of being Jesus’ disciple? Jesus also says in Luke 6:40 that when a disciple is fully trained he will be like his teacher. How did Jesus model what He is teaching here in ch. 14 for His disciples? Refer to Phil. 2:5-8.

4. Another parable unique to Luke that people love is the prodigal son. This parable has a context in the preceding parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin (Luke 15:1-10). Identify the main point of these parables before reading Luke 15:11-32. Keep in mind that in this culture, children did not normally receive their inheritance until their father died. So what the younger son is essentially saying with words and actions in v. 12 and 13 is “Father, I wish you were dead!” Given the whole story, who do the three main characters represent? What do you learn about each of them? Why is this story so treasured and well known by believers and unbelievers alike?

5. Read Luke 1:30-33, 2:10-11 and 19:10. How does what Jesus say about Himself, just before He enters Jerusalem to suffer and die, reflect what the angels told Mary and the shepherds? How does Jesus’ purpose for coming apply to you?

APPLICATION

At the end of Luke, he tells the story about the two men on the road to Emmaus. Read Luke 24:13-36. Note how these two men describe in v. 32 that their hearts were burning within them while Jesus was speaking with them and explaining the Scriptures. Now that you have read the Bible from Genesis to Malachi, spend some time as a group remembering how Jesus was portrayed and promised. Have as many people as are willing share their favorite stories that give a glimpse of who Jesus will be and what He will do. As you share and as Jesus promised, allow the Holy Spirit to “guide you into all the truth” (Jn. 16:13) and allow God to write His law of love on your hearts (Jer. 31:33, Heb. 8:10). During your prayer time, include praises based on what is shared.