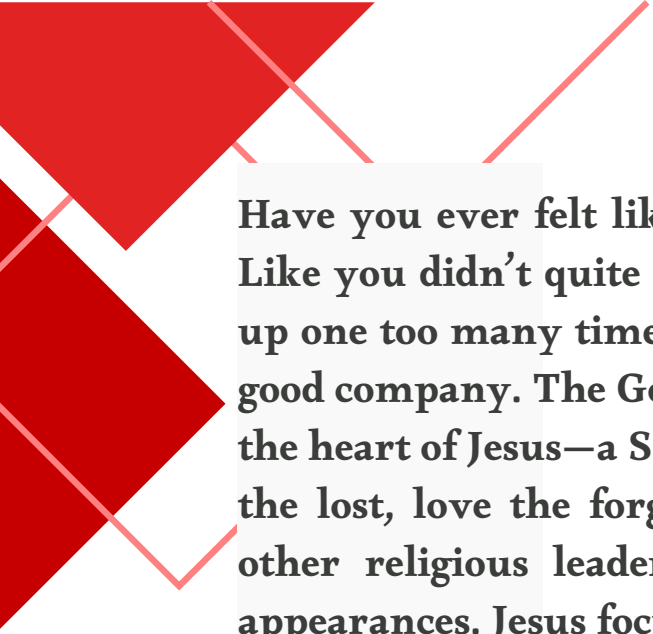


Bible Study




**Luke: Reaching Out to the Lost
and Forgotten**

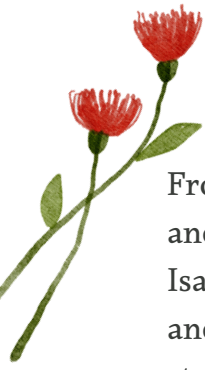


Have you ever felt like you were on the outside looking in? Like you didn't quite belong, or maybe that you had messed up one too many times to be welcomed back? If so, you're in good company. The Gospel of Luke is a powerful testament to the heart of Jesus—a Savior who went out of His way to reach the lost, love the forgotten, and restore the broken. While other religious leaders of His time focused on rules and appearances, Jesus focused on people. He didn't just preach to the crowds; He sat at their tables, healed their wounds, and invited them into a story of redemption.

Luke's Gospel is full of stories that shake up our assumptions about who belongs in God's kingdom. It's in Luke that we find the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son—each one a stunning picture of how God relentlessly pursues those who are far from Him. It's also in Luke that we see Jesus breaking social norms—welcoming sinners, dining with tax collectors, and honoring the faith of the outcasts. If you've ever wondered whether God sees you, whether you matter, or whether you're too far gone, Luke's Gospel has an answer: You are seen. You matter. And Jesus came to bring you home.

This study is an invitation to step into that same mission. As we journey through Luke's Gospel, we will see Jesus' deep compassion for the lost and the forgotten—and we'll be challenged to reflect that same heart in our own lives. Whether you're someone who has felt lost or you're longing to reach others with Christ's love, this study is for you. Get ready to be inspired, convicted, and transformed as we follow Jesus into the places where grace is most needed.





Lesson 1: The Mission of Jesus—Seeking the Lost

From the very beginning of His ministry, Jesus made His mission clear: He came to seek and save the lost. In Luke 4:16-21, He stands in the synagogue and boldly reads from Isaiah, declaring that He has been sent to preach good news to the poor, set captives free, and heal the brokenhearted. This wasn't just a poetic proclamation—it was a mission statement. Jesus was saying, This is why I'm here, and this is what I'm about.

Luke's Gospel is filled with moments that reinforce this mission. In Luke 5:27-32, Jesus calls Levi, a despised tax collector, to be His disciple. Instead of seeking approval from religious leaders, Jesus dines with tax collectors and sinners, making it abundantly clear that no one is beyond redemption. This was shocking to many at the time, but it reveals an essential truth: God's heart is for the lost, the broken, and the forgotten. Jesus didn't come for those who thought they had it all together—He came for those who knew they needed Him.

Jesus' mission is still our mission today. Luke 19:10 reminds us that He came to seek and save the lost, and as His followers, we are called to continue that work. It's easy to focus on those who are already close to God, but Jesus challenges us to go beyond our comfort zones. Who in our lives feels unseen or unworthy? How can we reach out with love and grace? The mission of Jesus is now our mission, and it starts with seeing people the way He does—with eyes of compassion, not judgment.

Scripture Readings

- Luke 4:16-21 - Jesus declares His mission.
- Luke 5:27-32 - Jesus calls Levi and dines with sinners.
- Luke 19:10 - Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Reflection Questions

How does Jesus' mission to seek and save the lost challenge your perspective on ministry?

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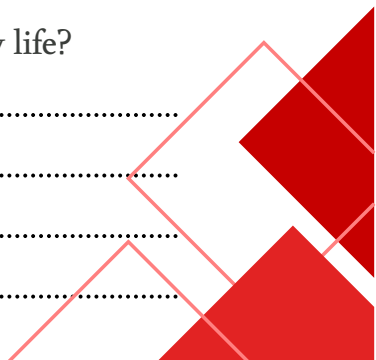
What practical steps can you take to live out Jesus' mission in your everyday life?

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Lesson 2: The Compassion of Jesus—Loving the Unseen

One of the most beautiful aspects of Jesus’ ministry in Luke’s Gospel is His deep compassion for those society ignored. Jesus didn’t just preach from a distance—He stepped into the lives of the unseen, the suffering, and the outcasts. In Luke 7:11-17, Jesus encounters a widow who had just lost her only son. In a time when widows had little means of survival, this woman faced hopelessness. But Jesus saw her, had compassion on her, and miraculously raised her son to life. His act wasn’t just about the miracle; it was about His heart—His willingness to stop, notice, and respond to someone in pain.

Another powerful moment of Jesus’ compassion is seen in Luke 8:43-48. A woman who had suffered from a bleeding disorder for twelve years reached out to touch Jesus, believing that even a slight connection with Him could bring healing. Culturally, she was considered unclean, an outcast, someone people avoided. But not Jesus. He didn’t just heal her physically; He publicly affirmed her faith, restoring her dignity and calling her daughter. Jesus’ love sees beyond physical need—He heals the soul, giving worth to those the world has disregarded.

Jesus’ encounter with the blind man in Luke 18:35-43 reinforces this theme. When the blind man cried out, others tried to silence him, but Jesus stopped. He listened, responded, and healed him. Through each of these stories, we see the heart of Jesus—He sees the unseen, He hears those who cry out, and He acts in love.

Scripture Readings

- Luke 7:11-17 – Jesus raises the widow’s son.
- Luke 8:43-48 – Jesus heals the woman with the issue of blood.
- Luke 18:35-43 – Jesus restores sight to a blind man.

Reflection Questions

How does Jesus’ compassion for the unseen challenge the way you interact with others?

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Are there people in your life who feel invisible or forgotten? How can you reach out to them?

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Lesson 3: The Prodigal Heart—God’s Grace for the Lost

Grace is at the center of Jesus’ message, and nowhere is it more powerfully illustrated than in Luke 15. The religious leaders of the time criticized Jesus for spending time with sinners, but He responded with three parables that reveal God’s heart for the lost. The first is the parable of the lost sheep, where the shepherd leaves 99 sheep to go after the one that is missing. This story shows the relentless love of God, a love that does not rest until the lost are found. If you’ve ever felt unworthy or beyond reach, this passage reminds us that God pursues us with unwavering grace.

Perhaps the most well-known parable of all, the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32), is a breathtaking picture of God’s mercy. The younger son squandered his inheritance in reckless living, yet when he hit rock bottom and decided to return home, his father ran to meet him with open arms. Instead of condemnation, he was embraced, forgiven, and restored. This is the heart of the Gospel—grace given freely to those who don’t deserve it. It is a reminder that no matter how far we’ve strayed, God’s arms are always open.

Romans 5:8 reinforces this truth: “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” We don’t earn God’s grace—it is His gift. But just as we have received grace, we are called to extend it. Jesus challenges us to not only receive grace but to live it out, offering the same love and forgiveness to those who need it.

Scripture Readings

- Luke 15:1-7 – The parable of the lost sheep.
- Luke 15:11-32 – The parable of the prodigal son.
- Romans 5:8 – God demonstrates His love for us while we were still sinners.

Reflection Questions

How does the parable of the lost sheep challenge your understanding of God’s pursuit of the lost?

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In what ways can you extend the grace you’ve received to others in your life?

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Lesson 4: Radical Hospitality—Welcoming the Outcast

Jesus' ministry was marked by radical hospitality—He welcomed those whom society rejected and shared meals with sinners, tax collectors, and outcasts. In Luke 7:36-50, we see a powerful example of this. A woman known for her sinful past enters a Pharisee's home and anoints Jesus' feet with perfume and her tears. While the religious leaders are appalled, Jesus honors her faith and forgives her sins. This moment reveals the heart of God: He welcomes and restores those the world seeks to exclude.

In Luke 14:12-14, Jesus challenges us to rethink who we invite to our tables. Rather than seeking connections that serve our own interests, He calls us to embrace the poor, the outcast, and those who cannot repay us. True hospitality isn't about impressing others—it's about reflecting the generosity and grace of God. When we invite the broken, we model the open arms of Christ and extend His kingdom beyond social and cultural barriers.

Hebrews 13:2 reminds us that hospitality is more than just an act of kindness—it is a way to encounter God. Welcoming others, especially those who feel unwanted or forgotten, is a tangible expression of the Gospel. As followers of Jesus, we are called to make room for others in our hearts and lives. Whether it's inviting someone to a meal, offering a listening ear, or simply treating others with dignity, radical hospitality is a way to share God's love in everyday moments.

Scripture Readings

- Luke 7:36-50 – Jesus anointed by a sinful woman.
- Luke 14:12-14 – Invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.
- Hebrews 13:2 – Show hospitality to strangers.

Reflection Questions

How does Jesus' example of welcoming outcasts challenge your understanding of hospitality?

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What practical steps can you take to practice radical hospitality in your daily interactions?

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Lesson 5: The Cost of Discipleship—Following Jesus Fully

Following Jesus is the greatest journey we will ever embark on, but it comes with a cost. In Luke 9:23-27, Jesus lays out a radical call to His disciples—deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Him. This isn't a comfortable invitation. It's a call to surrender, sacrifice, and complete devotion. Jesus never promised an easy road; instead, He challenges us to live for something greater than ourselves.

Luke 14:25-33 further emphasizes the seriousness of discipleship. Jesus urges His followers to count the cost before committing to Him. He uses strong language—saying that unless we love Him more than anything else, we cannot be His disciples. This passage isn't about neglecting family or responsibilities; rather, it's about priorities. Jesus must come first in every aspect of our lives. If we hold anything back—our comfort, ambitions, or fears—we limit what He can do through us. True discipleship means trusting Him with everything.

Philippians 3:8 reinforces this truth: "I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." Paul, once a man of high status, realized that nothing in this world compares to the joy of following Jesus. The cost of discipleship may be great, but the reward—intimacy with Christ, eternal life, and a life of true purpose—is infinitely greater.

Scripture Readings

- Luke 9:23-27 – Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus.
- Luke 14:25-33 – Counting the cost of discipleship.
- Philippians 3:8 – Considering all things loss compared to knowing Christ.

Reflection Questions

What does denying yourself and taking up your cross look like in your daily life?

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Are there things in your life that compete with Jesus for first place? What would it take to surrender them?

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Lesson 6: Faith in Action—Serving the Least of These

Faith is more than a belief—it is a way of life. Jesus continually demonstrated that true faith is reflected in how we serve others, especially those in need. In Luke 10:25-37, the parable of the Good Samaritan challenges us to go beyond words and into action. A man is left beaten on the road, ignored by religious leaders, but helped by an unlikely hero—a Samaritan. The Samaritan doesn't just acknowledge the man's suffering; he steps in, meets his needs, and sacrifices his own comfort to care for him. Jesus ends the parable with a command: "Go and do likewise."

Luke 21:1-4 gives us another powerful example of faith in action. While others gave out of abundance, a poor widow offered two small coins—everything she had. Jesus commended her not for the size of her offering but for the heart behind it. True generosity isn't measured by how much we give, but by the sacrifice it requires. Serving others isn't about grandeur—it's about faithfulness in the small things.

James 2:14-17 reinforces this truth: "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." A faith that remains stagnant, that never moves us to love, serve, and help others, is not the faith that Jesus calls us to. We don't serve to earn salvation—we serve because we have been transformed by God's love. When we live with open hands, willing to give, love, and care for others, we reflect Jesus in the most tangible way.

Scripture Readings

- Luke 10:25-37 - The parable of the Good Samaritan.
- Luke 21:1-4 - The widow's offering.
- James 2:14-17 - Faith without works is dead.

Reflection Questions

How does the parable of the Good Samaritan challenge your view of serving others?

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What practical steps can you take this week to serve someone in need?

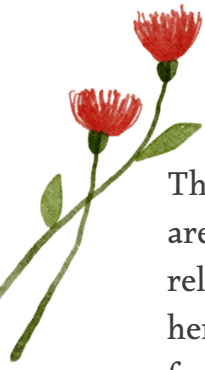
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Lesson 7: The Joy of Salvation—Rejoicing Over the Redeemed

Throughout the Gospel of Luke, we see a recurring theme—heaven rejoices when the lost are found. In Luke 15:8-10, Jesus tells the parable of the lost coin, illustrating God’s relentless pursuit of those who are spiritually lost. Just as a woman rejoices when she finds her lost coin, so too does God celebrate when one sinner repents. Salvation is not just about forgiveness; it is about restoration, joy, and new life in Christ.

Luke 19:1-10 gives us a real-life example of this joy. Zacchaeus, a despised tax collector, was curious about Jesus. Despite his reputation, Jesus called him by name and went to his house, an act that stunned onlookers. But Zacchaeus’ encounter with Jesus changed him—he repented, made amends, and embraced a transformed life. Jesus declared, “Today salvation has come to this house.” This story reminds us that no one is beyond God’s grace, and salvation is always worth celebrating.

2 Corinthians 5:17 affirms this truth: “If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” When we come to Jesus, we are made new. Our past no longer defines us. This is the joy of salvation—not just for us, but for all who find their way back to God. Are we rejoicing in the work God is doing, not only in our own lives but in the lives of others?

Scripture Readings

- Luke 15:8-10 – The parable of the lost coin.
- Luke 19:1-10 – Jesus and Zacchaeus.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 – Anyone in Christ is a new creation.

Reflection Questions

Have you ever hesitated to celebrate the salvation of someone with a troubled past? Why?

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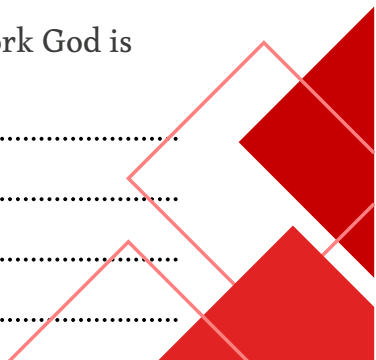
In what ways can you cultivate joy and encourage others to rejoice in the work God is doing?

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As we have journeyed through the Gospel of Luke, one truth has stood out above all: Jesus' mission was to reach the lost, the broken, and the forgotten. He did not come for the perfect or the religious elite but for those who knew their need for Him. His compassion, grace, and unwavering commitment to welcoming the outcasts challenge us to examine our own lives. Are we following in His footsteps? Are we seeking out those who need to experience the love of Christ, or are we remaining in our comfort zones? The message of Luke is clear—God's kingdom is for all, and we are called to be His hands and feet in extending His love to the world.

Discipleship is not passive; it is active and transformational. As we reflect on Jesus' radical hospitality, sacrificial love, and unwavering pursuit of the lost, we are invited to live the same way. This means stepping beyond surface-level faith and embracing a faith that reaches, serves, and loves. It means putting aside personal preferences and self-interest to welcome the outcast, serve the hurting, and celebrate every life transformed by Christ. Just as Jesus called Levi, dined with sinners, and restored the broken, we too are called to extend grace beyond what is expected, loving people with the same relentless compassion that He showed.

Now, as we move forward, let this study not just be knowledge but action. Let Jesus' mission shape your daily interactions, your relationships, and the way you see the world around you. Whether it's through a simple act of kindness, an invitation to someone who feels alone, or standing firm in faith when the world pressures you otherwise, your life can be a reflection of the Gospel. The joy of salvation is not something to keep to ourselves—it is a gift to share. May we go out and live as Jesus did, bringing His light to a world that so desperately needs Him.