

Union United Methodist Church
 Spring FOCUS Bible School, 2025
 FOCUS: Followers of Christ Understanding Scripture
 Study: Gospel of LUKE

Week 5: April 02, 2025
Introduction, and Luke 9-12
 This Week's Study: **Luke 9-12**

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Week 5: Jesus Teaches on Prayer, Good Samaritan, Jonah as a sign, warnings, etc.

Below is a table showing which chapters would be covered in each week of this 12-week study, followed by a general outline of the gospel of Luke

Week	From Luke Chapter	To Luke Chapter	Theme
1	1	2	Jesus' Birth and Infancy
2	3	4	John the Baptist; Jesus' Preparation for Ministry; Start of Ministry
3	5	8	Jesus' Galilee Ministry: Nazareth, Chooses Disciples, Sermon on Mount
4	9	10	Commissioning of Disciples, Feeding 5,000, Good Samaritan
5	11	12	Jesus on Prayer; Jonah as a sign; Various warnings (blasphemy, etc.)
6	13	14	Teachings on Kingdom of God; Lament over Jerusalem; Cost of discipleship; Eating with Pharisees
7	15	16	Parables of the Kingdom: lost sheep, lost coin, unjust steward; Rich man & Lazarus
8	17	18	Teachings on Kingdom of God; Healing of 10 lepers; Rich young ruler; Prayer – persistent widow; Parable: pharisee & tax collector
9	19	20	Zaccheus, Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem; Jesus & the Temple; Marriage & Resurrection, ...
10	21	22	Widow's giving; Prediction of Jerusalem destruction; Signs of Jesus' Return; Passover & the Last Supper; Who is the Greatest?
11	22	23	Passion: Garden of Gethsemane, Arrest, Trial, Crucifixion, Death & Burial
12	23	24	Resurrection, Appearances, Ascension of Jesus

General Outline of the Gospel of Luke

- The beginning
 - Jesus's Birth, Infancy, and Preparation for Ministry: 1:1-4:12
 - Preface: 1:1-4
 - Jesus' Infancy: 1:5-2:52
 - Preparation for Ministry: 2:53-4:13
- Jesus' Ministry in Galilee: 4:14-9:50
 - Nazareth - Manifesto proclamation & Resistance: 4:16-30
 - Choosing of Disciples
 - The sermon on the mount: 5:17-6:49
- Jesus' Travelling Ministry: 9:51-19:27
- The Passion - Suffering & Death of Jesus: 19:28-23:56
- Resurrection of Jesus, Appearances, Ascension: Luke 24

1. Luke 9 to 11 Overview

These chapters contain a lot of great stories and lessons for us from Jesus' ministry. For clarity, and to help with understanding and application of the lessons, these have been organized into themes. Not every story is covered but the themes provide a helpful way to tie the stories together.

1) Jesus Delegates Gospel Sharing to Disciples

- **Luke 9:1-6: Jesus Sends the 12 to Share the Gospel**

"Then Jesus called the twelve together and **gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases**, ²and **he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.**"

Luke 9:1-2 NRSV

We have the same commission from Jesus!

See Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:14-18

- **Luke 10:1-23: Jesus Sends 70 Disciples to Share the Gospel**

¹After this the Lord **appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go.** ²He said to them, "**The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.**" 10:1-2 NRSV

2) Cost of Discipleship

- **Luke 9:3-5 Living by Faith & Obedience**

To the 12:

3He said to them,

"Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic. 4Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there.

5Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.

6They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere." 9:3-6 NRSV

To the 70 he added:

3Go on your way.

See, **I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.**

4Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.

5Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!'

6And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.

...

8Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you;

9cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

...

16"Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

Luke 10:3-6, 8-9,16 NRSV

- **Luke 9:46-48 - True Greatness - Humility & Welcoming the Least**

46An argument arose among them [the disciples] as to which one of them was the greatest.

47But Jesus, aware of their inner thoughts, took a little child and put it by his side,

48and said to them, "Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; for **the least among all of you is the greatest.**" NRSV

- **Luke 9:57-61 Demands of Discipleship**

3 Demands of Disciples:

- **Following Jesus has rough patches**
57As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58And Jesus said to him, "**Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.**" 9:57-58 NRSV
- **Priorities must be the "Go and Proclaim the Kingdom of God"**
59To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." 60But Jesus said to him, "**Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.**" 9:59-60 NRSV
- **No Looking Back!**
61Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." 62Jesus said to him, "**No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.**" 9:61-62 NRSV

- **Luke 10:38-42 - Mary & Martha - "Need of only one thing"**

"Martha welcomed him into her home.

39She had a sister named **Mary,**

who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying.

Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked,

"Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell

her then to help me." 41But the Lord answered her, "**Martha, Martha, you are**

worried and distracted by many things; 42there is need of only one

thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from

her." 10:38-42 NRSV

Every disciple must make time to simply sit at Jesus' feet and LISTEN to

what Jesus teaches us, and put it into practice. **This the only thing**

needed!

3) Luke 11:1-13 - Jesus Teaches on Prayer

- **Luke 11:1-4: The Lord's Prayer**

1He [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his

disciples said to him, "**Lord, teach us to pray,** as John taught his disciples." 2He

said to them, "When you pray, say: ... " 11:1-2 NRSV

What follows is what we know today as the Lord's Prayer. Note the circumstances:

- Jesus himself was praying – he set the example
- A disciple asked Jesus to teach them to pray and he did
- The Lord's prayer is both a model of prayer, and an actual prayer we can and should pray.

- **Luke 11:5-13: Perseverance in Prayer**

Jesus did not just teach the disciples WHAT to pray and HOW to pray. He also taught them the MINDSET and PERSISTENCE needed for prayer. He illustrates with the story of a man who goes with GUTS to knock on his friend's door at midnight to ask for help. Jesus concludes:

9"So I say to you,

Ask, and it will be given you;

search, and you will find;

knock, and the door will be opened for you.

10For everyone who asks receives,

and everyone who searches finds,

and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." 11:9-10 NRSV

Jesus makes it plain that God in heaven is our FATHER whose goodness is incomparable to that of any human parent.

11Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? 12Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? 13If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

NOTE: God gives us THE HOLY SPIRIT - the Spirit that empower us and help us with every need and makes us victorious in Christ.

4) Jesus Deals with Demons & Evil Spirits

- **Luke 9:37-43 - Rebuking evil spirits - Jesus did not tolerate them!**

"Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. 39Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. 40I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not."

42While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But **Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.**

This story follows immediately after Jesus came down from the mountain after his Transfiguration. Before he delivered the boy he rebuked his disciples:

41Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here."

Homework: Study this same account in the gospel of Mark.

In the Mark account we see that the disciples asked him later why they could not drive the demon out and he responded that these kinds of demons go out by prayer and fasting. However, note that Jesus was already prayed up, so he cast the demon out right away!

- **Luke 11:14-23 - How Demons are Cast Out**

Jesus was accused of casting out demons with the power of Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons. His response was: that makes no sense!

"Every kingdom divided against itself becomes a desert, and house falls on house. 18If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? –for you say that I cast out the demons by Beelzebul." Luke 11:17-18 NRSV

Then he explained that it is only by power of God ("finger of God") that he cast them out. Notably when the power of God shows up and drives out evil, the kingdom of God has shown up!

20But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you. 21When a strong man, fully armed, guards his castle, his property is safe. 22But when one stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his plunder" Luke 11:20-22 NRSV

In other words, **Satan's power is real but not match for the power of God and God's kingdom.**

Just as Jesus gave his early disciples the power to drive out demons, we have Jesus' delegated authority in his name to cast out demons. Jesus said:

“...these signs will accompany those who believe:

by using my name they will cast out demons” Mark 16:17 NRSV

- **Luke 11:24-26 - Maintain Clean State after Demon Cast Out**

Jesus describes a phenomenon that is very important for us to note and pay heed to:

24“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting place, but not finding any, it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ 25When it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. 26Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and live there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first.”
Luke 11:24-25 NRSV

Sometimes the oppression people experience is from the direct work of evil spirits and demons. In Jesus we can be fully delivered. The point Jesus makes here is this:

When the Lord has delivered us from the bondages and oppression of the devil, we must fill up properly – with the Word, and the Holy Spirit ...

18“**Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit,** 19as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, 20giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
Ephesians 5:18-20 NRSV

5) How To Inherit Eternal Life

- **Luke 10:25-28 Loving God & Neighbor**
- **Luke 10:29-37 “Who Is My Neighbor” - The Good Samaritan parable**

2. Daily Study Schedule & Questions

This week, please take each of the 5 themes above and study them – one a day.

Days 1: Jesus’s call to you (His disciple) go and proclaim the Gospel

Suggested reflection themes:

- 1) Do you share the gospel of Jesus with others?
- 2) What challenges do you face when you attempt to share the gospel?
- 3) Are you following the methods Jesus taught his disciples to follow in sharing the gospel?
- 4) What do you need to work on to be obedient to Jesus’ call to share the gospel?
- 5) Do you have a testimony on this you would like to share with your group?

Day 2-5: Cost of Discipleship, Prayer, Dealing with Evil, Inheriting the Kingdom:

For each of these themes,

- What are your challenges in obeying Christ?
- Are you paying the true costs of discipleship as described by Jesus (read the notes above to refresh your memory)
- Are you bold in invoking the name of Jesus when faced with blatant evil and what seems like the presence of demons?
- What changes is the Lord demanding in your life as you study these scriptures and read the notes above?
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