

Join us over the next few weeks as we journey through the Book of Luke. We'll provide short devotionals, questions, and activities for you to engage in as a family or with friends. The meals that Jesus shared with others are our central focus. His interactions with people in these settings changed hearts and lives. This transformation is our desire too. We pray Jesus' words would challenge us to walk in complete surrender and sharpen us as we study His Word together.

Weekly Activity

Deuteronomy says to fix these words in your hearts and minds by talking about them and writing them in your home. Choose one verse from the Daily Devotional or the Sermon to memorize each week.

Kids' Interaction

This week, how would you like our family to remember the Scripture we have chosen?

*They might come up with writing the verse with a washable marker on their hand, making a sign, let them be creative with this!

Fun Conversation Starters

We have included some fun conversation starters that you can cut up and place in a jar to spark great conversation at your dinner table.

Recipe for Challah Bread

You can make this bread for Week Three, Day Three to share with your family for our Passover Dinner devotional.

Week One, Day One

Read: Deuteronomy 11:18-21

Deuteronomy is a recap of the trials, adventures, adversity, and God's provision for the Israelites as He led them out of Egyptian slavery and into the promised land. This book is full of the blessings and commands God gave them if they would live their lives surrendered to Him and His ways.

We who are in Christ have been delivered and set free just like the Israelites. We lived as slaves to sin and the things of this world, and because we have put our faith in Christ and repented of our sin, we are now free in Him! Now let's live as those who have been set free.

This passage sums up the heart of reclaiming the Table. It starts with God's Word. It is alive and active and able to transform us from the inside out. Let's create time to discuss, read, and apply His Word in all we do!

Discuss it

Why do you think spending time in God's Word is so important?

In what ways can you talk about God's Word each day and redeem the time you have together?

Example

driving to sports activities, taking a walk together...

Week One, Day Two

Read: Luke 5:1-11

Many people followed Jesus and listened to His teachings. They saw the miracles He performed and were amazed. This Scripture illustrates the difference between being part of the crowd and being a disciple.

Peter's eyes were opened to his sin and brokenness, and it caused him to fall at Jesus' feet in repentance and surrender. Too often, we get caught up in what's being provided instead of allowing the provision to bring us to Jesus' feet. The moments of the miraculous should lead us TO the miracle worker.

Verse 11 says that Peter didn't even stay to cash in on the big catch of fish. He followed the provider of the fish immediately. Peter recognized that the greatest treasure was Jesus himself, not the miracles that He performed. Jesus is calling all of us to follow Him, wholly surrendered.

Discuss it

What was the difference between the crowd's reaction and Peter's reaction to the miracle Jesus performed?

Week One, Day Three

Read: Luke 5:27-32

Jesus called people from all different walks of life, and He wasn't ashamed to be seen with any of them. His mission was to seek and save the lost. The very people who were supposed to lead others to God had become so prideful and separated themselves. They couldn't believe Jesus would associate with such sinful people. But the Bible tells us Jesus came to reveal the heart of the Father to us. God is after all humanity. He sees us all with love and desires to redeem our souls -- The down and out, the wealthy, those who are loved, the abandoned, the hurting, and the strong.

The key to receiving His invitation is humility. Jesus said He came to call those who know they need a doctor. The truth is we all need Him, but we will never accept Him unless we have a humble heart to receive his invitation to follow.

Discuss it

Have you ever had a hard time when Jesus has extended grace to someone that has hurt you?

Week One, Day Four

Read: Luke 6:46-49

How do we make sure that we are building our lives on rock and not sand? James tells us that faith without works is dead because there's no depth. Nothing tangible is being built in your life. This passage teaches us that the way to build this foundation is by first hearing the Word of God and then doing what it says. Those who only hear and never do, build a house with no foundation. When we only listen to the Word and do not obey, it is merely surface-level 'fluff.' When we respond with action to God's Word, then we are building our faith on solid rock.

Discuss it

So, where is God challenging you to act today? What's He been asking you to let go of or leave behind? What step of obedience have you been putting off?

Week One, Day Five

Read: Luke 7:36-50

Jesus was reclining and enjoying dinner with a local religious leader when suddenly, a woman with a lousy reputation entered the home looking for Jesus. Instantly, she felt the judgment of the onlookers, but she had to get her offering to the feet of Jesus. When everyone in that room wanted to cast her away or stop her from pouring such expensive oil on Jesus' feet, Jesus saw her heart. He allowed her to perform this precious act of worship.

Don't ever allow the thoughts of others to restrain you from worshipping Jesus for all He has done in and for you. Only you know the depths that He has brought you from, the love that He has shown you, and the difference His redemption has made in your life. People have many opinions, but the only One that truly matters wants you to come to Him, not run from Him.

Discuss it

How do you think that the woman felt as she made her way to the feet of Jesus?

Week Two, Day One

Read: Luke 9:10-17

Can you imagine what the disciples thought when Jesus told them to give thousands of people something to eat? Even though they must've been wondering what Jesus was going to do with the little bit of food they had, they obeyed. They took the instructions that Jesus gave them and started to have the people sit down in groups. I bet they had no idea what would happen, but we can all learn from their obedience. When Jesus gives us instructions, sometimes they don't make sense, but when we listen and take a step of faith to do what He asks, we get to watch the miraculous unfold.

Discuss it

Has God ever asked you to do something that you felt utterly incapable of doing? Have you experienced God doing the impossible with your obedience?

Week Two, Day Two
Read: Luke 10:38-42

Today's passage is an excellent reminder to take the time to rest in the presence of Jesus. There are infinite things to finish -- cleaning, sports, family activities, and sometimes we're running from event to event without taking the time to sit in God's presence and listen to what He has to say. It's not that Martha wasn't doing something important, but she was too busy even to hear the life-giving words Jesus was sharing.

Take time today as you read His Word and pray, pause and listen to what He speaks to your heart.

Discuss it

Who do you relate to more, Mary or Martha?

Week Two, Day Three

Read: Luke 11:1-13

Jesus teaches us about prayer and what it means to come to God with a humble heart, praising Him first, putting Him in His proper place. He teaches us how to pray for our daily needs and invite God into each moment of our lives, but He ends this passage with defining persistent prayer. As we align our hearts with God's, we can bring our requests before Him, and He tells us to keep asking. Our dedication to prayer is so essential, and we must know that we have a Heavenly Father ready and willing to respond to those who ask.

Maybe you're in a challenging situation at school, perhaps they're difficult circumstances at home or work, but do not quit praying and seeking God. He tells us to be persistent, don't give up, and don't loose heart. Keep pressing into Him!

Discuss it

Do you ever feel like you are bothering God with your prayer requests?

Why do you think you have these thoughts?

Week Two, Day Four

Read: Luke 11:37-54

Jesus sits down for a meal with these leaders, and He doesn't waste time praising them for having him over for dinner. Jesus is on a mission. He's there to reveal what's in their hearts and to expose the way they're living. He doesn't pull any punches because their greatest chance at freedom is TRUTH. Jesus wasn't mean. He intended to open their eyes.

But instead of receiving the rebuke in humility and repentance, they responded with pride and defensiveness. The meal ended with these leaders attempting to trap Jesus and use His words against Him. This rebuke could've set them free, but instead, they dug their heels in, refused to examine their hearts, and went after Jesus to find some way to condemn Him.

Today, ask the Lord to examine your heart. Are there things He's been pointing out in you that you've not responded with humility and repentance? Don't be prideful like the religious leaders who only looked to justify their ways. When God opens our eyes to something inside us that's not of Him, it's not to harm us but to set us free!

Discuss it

Why do you think Jesus was so severe and harsh with His words to these leaders?

Week Two, Day Five

Read: Luke 14:1-24

Jesus never wasted the time He had with people. He knew that they were hungry to hear the words of life and wisdom that He had to teach them. At this meal, Jesus taught them many things that have value for this life and for the life to come.

What if you used the meals and times you share with friends and family to be intentional about your conversations? What if God wanted to take these precious interactions and bring even greater purpose in your time with others?

Discuss it

Of all the things that Jesus did or taught during this meal, which one stood out to you most?

Week Three, Day One

Read: Luke 18:9-14

Jesus taught many lessons and told many stories that illustrate His desire for hearts fully surrendered to Him. In our humanity, we tend to judge others based on outward appearance and assume their righteousness based on what they say and do. We sometimes allow our shortcomings and flaws to keep us from drawing near to God. Jesus repeatedly ensures us His criteria are entirely different from what the world values.

This religious leader appeared to have a close relationship with God because of his loud prayers and pretentious vocabulary. Still, the reality was the tax collector did indeed have a genuine relationship with the Heavenly Father. The tax collector humbly and reverently prayed compared to the religious leader's arrogance and attention-seeking way. As we pray and interact with the Father, remember to pray with humility and not compare to anyone else. Be genuine, repent, and you will be justified before God as you seek Him in truth and humility. You don't have to have fancy words to talk to Him; you need only to come as you are.

Discuss it

Do you ever compare yourself to others and their relationship with God? Does this passage give you freedom as you think about your relationship with the Lord?

Week Three, Day Two

Read: Luke 19:1-10

The details of God's Word are so interesting. Zacchaeus was desperate to see Jesus that day, but he couldn't see Him through the crowd because he was so short. He didn't let that stop him, though. He climbed a tree to see this teacher who'd gained such popularity among the people. Little did he know that this height disadvantage would be the very reason he'd meet Jesus.

Most often, our disadvantages and shortcomings are very things that can lead us to divine appointments with Christ. In our weakness, His strength is made known. If we can look past our imperfections and disadvantages and instead focus on the Lord, He will meet us in our struggle.

Discuss it

What struggles can you begin to view differently by inviting Christ to meet you there instead of wishing it away?

Week Three, Day Three

Read: Luke 22:14-30

This meal changed everything. Jesus spoke of the new covenant between God and man as He symbolically gave the bread and wine, representing all He would sacrifice for us.

The disciples had no idea the depth of what He was illustrating. Even those closest to Jesus didn't fully understand. That didn't stop Jesus from teaching, discipling, and training them because He knew what He was instilling in them would be understood when the timing was right.

As we teach and train our children and disciple others, often, the lessons are not fully revealed until months or even years later. As a child, you learn things that will make so much more sense in just a little time. Trust those who are teaching you. As an adult, lean into the things in Scripture that you struggle to understand, and God will bring revelation when the time is right.

Discuss it

What's one thing over the last year or two that didn't make sense at first, but then you had a "light bulb moment" when it came alive for you?

Week Three, Day Four

Read: Luke 24:13-32

During yesterday's discussion, we saw how Jesus revealed the Old Testament prophecies and Scripture that spoke of Him.

In the 40 days following His resurrection, Jesus was deliberate with how He spent His time and with whom He spent it. He didn't just appear to His disciples to merely prove His resurrection. His intentional presence was the embodiment of all Scripture fulfilled; He opened eyes and minds to the reality that He was, indeed, the Messiah.

The poignant moments Christ had with His people before He ascended to Heaven provided eyewitnesses, or guardians, of the gospel message.

Today, Scripture can open our eyes and minds as well. A true understanding of God's Word reveals how all of redemptive history fits together fully. It builds our faith and gives us solid ground to stand on.

Ask the Lord for a more profound desire and hunger to see Jesus throughout Scripture. As your knowledge increases, so will your faith. His Word will deepen your trust in Him as you recognize that He's been writing the redemption story from the beginning of time.

Discuss it

How has your walk with Christ grown over the last few weeks as you've shared these scriptures and devotions?

Week Three, Day Five

Read: Luke 24:35-53

As Jesus is having one of the last conversations with His followers before He ascends to Heaven, He takes the time to prove that He is, in fact, risen and not a disembodied spirit or ghost. He shows them the marks on His hands and feet. He eats something in front of them, not because he needs food, but to prove that He is physically there.

He takes this time with us as well if we will only pay attention. Look for ways He daily shows you His presence. Through the love of other believers, through nature, through His Word, and any other way He may try to get your attention. He cares that you recognize His presence, and He cares that you spend time seeking Him through the Word. Don't let your day go by without seeking Him first. Just ask for an awareness of His presence because He is always here.

Discuss it

How have you seen or experienced His presence in your daily life?

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

Have you ever met a celebrity? What foods make you gag?

What is your favorite sport and why?

What's the most memorable historical event to you? What is your definition of success?

What is your dream job?

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

If you had a million dollars, what would you do with it? joke?

If you could have one last meal, what would it be?

What person do you admire most and why?

If you were a car, what would you be?

Which school teacher do you remember most and why?

What's your greatest strength and why? What's your favorite childhood memory?

If you could help one person change their life, who would it be and why?

What's your favorite love song and why?

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

What was your favorite fairy tale growing up and why? What's your favorite quote and why?

What's your most embarrassing moment?

If you could change anything about yourself what would it be?

What's the first thing you notice in a person? What are your favorite baby names?

What has been the happiest day of your life thus far? What's the most memorable scene from a movie to you?

What is your most cherished possession?

If you had the opportunity to be anyone in the world for a week, who would you be and why?

If you had to use a movie or book title to describe life for you right now, what would it be and why?

What do you need to be refreshed in your walk with the Lord? In life? In ministry?

What makes it hard for you to rest and find refuge in Jesus?

Where do you find rest? What restores your soul? When was the last time you did the answers to those two questions? Why?

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

What's your prayer for this week?

What was your family like growing up?

What was your religious experience growing up?

In your opinion, what is the meaning of life?

How do you think faith fits into life? What does having faith mean to you?

If you could go back in time what point in time would you choose?

Who is Jesus to you?

What is your favorite holiday and why?

What has been your best experience with community and intimate relationships?

What do you hope to accomplish in your life? What will bring you satisfaction?

What is the goal of your life?

Who is your best friend, and why?

What qualities do you look for in a friend?

What do you think is the biggest problem in our country? What would your solution be?

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

What's your favorite way to spend your spare time?

What is your favorite birthday memory?

When did God become more than a word for you?

What makes you cry?

What makes you feel loved?

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?

Describe 3 important character traits you desire in a husband/wife?

Give 3 words to describe how you feel right now.

What's the most unique thing about you?

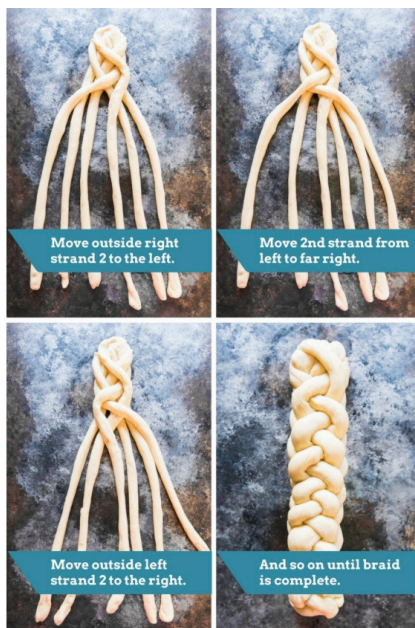
What 3 things would you take on a deserted island?

If you could receive an unexpected gift, what would you like it to be?

If you could pick one character from a fiction book, TV, or movie to describe you, who would it be and why?

Challah Bread

- 1 3/4 cups warm water
- 1 1/2 tablespoons active dry yeast
- 1/2 cup sugar, plus 1 tablespoon extra for proofing the yeast
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 5 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 8 to 8 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, plus extra for kneading/dusting
- Sesame seeds, for dusting (optional)



INSTRUCTIONS

Proof the yeast by dissolving it in the warm water with the tablespoon of sugar in a large bowl until foamy, about 5 minutes. Stir in the oil and 4 of the eggs (reserve 1 egg for an egg wash after braiding), with the remaining sugar and salt. Gradually add the flour, 1 cup at a time, to make a soft dough. My standard size KitchenAid mixer can't quite handle this much dough so I pretty much always finish kneading by hand by turning the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and kneading until smooth.

Clean out and lightly oil the bowl before returning the dough to it. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and let the challah dough rise in a warm, draft-free spot for about an hour, until almost doubled in size. Punch the dough down (literally, just stick your fist right into the center of the dough and push it down), then cover it with plastic wrap and let it rise again for another half hour.

To form the 6-strand challah braid, divide the dough in half for two loaves on a clean surface. Divide each half into 6 equally sized portions and roll the balls of dough into 6 equally sized strands, each about 16 inches long. Place the strands side by side and pinch the tops together.

Starting with the outside right strand, move it over 2 strands to the left. Then take the second strand from the left and move it all the way across to the far right. Next, take the outside left strand and move it over 2 strands to the right. Then move the second strand from the right over to the far left. Repeat the pattern by starting again with the outside right strand being moved over 2 strands to the left, and so on until you have a long, braided loaf.

Tuck the end of the braid underneath the loaf to secure it. Your braid is likely to be fairly long and skinny at this point, and that's completely normal. To finish shaping the loaf, you need to plump it a bit into more of a loaf shape by sort of lifting and smooshing the braid in on itself a bit and wiggling it a bit to make the loaf a bit shorter, wider, and even from top to bottom. The braid shouldn't come undone - you are just evening out the shape here to make your loaf look nice. This step can be done as you are transferring the braid from the surface where you formed it onto a parchment-lined baking sheet.

Repeat steps 4 & 5 with the remaining half of the dough for the second loaf. Place the braided loaves on a parchment-lined baking sheet lined with at least 2 inches in between them so they don't touch as they rise. Beat the remaining egg and brush half of it on loaves using a pastry brush. Be sure to get in the crevices of the braid and down the sides of the loaves. Allow the loaves to rise another hour in a warm place, then brush again with the remainder of the egg wash. Sprinkle with sesame seeds, if using (I almost always skip them, but it would make the loaf even more traditional).

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees then bake the challah for 30-35 minutes until golden brown (or when the internal temperature of the bread reaches 190 degrees on an instant-read thermometer)