

discussion questions: week 1

Note:

Numbers in parentheses refer to question numbers in the corresponding lesson.

Day 1

1. How did Luke get his information for writing his book? (#1)
2. What kind of people were Zechariah and Elizabeth? How would you describe them? (#2,3)
3. What kind of man did the angel say John would be? (#5, 6)
4. What was to be John the Baptist's ministry? (#7)
5. Why do you think Zechariah and Elizabeth were entrusted with the knowledge of God's purpose for the life of their son?

Day 2

1. Describe what the *Bible* says about Mary. Be careful not to include traditions that are not supported by Scripture. (#2)
2. How does Mary's response differ from Zechariah's? (#2- also Day 1 #4)
3. Why do you think God chose Mary and Joseph to be the parents of His Son? (#2, 8)
4. What difference does it make whether or not a person believes the child born to Mary was really the Son of God?

Day 3

1. What made John's circumcision so unusual? (#4, 6)
2. If you were one of the neighbors, what would you have thought about all of this? What do you think you would have done as John grew up?
3. What do we know about John's childhood? (#8)

Day 4

1. In what ways did God cause events of history to get Joseph and Mary where He wanted them at the appropriate time? (#1)
2. Who were the first people to learn of Jesus' birth? How did they hear of Jesus? What was their reaction? (#3,4)
3. Why do you think God had Simeon and Anna at the temple the day Jesus was dedicated? (#7, 9)
4. The Jews always thought their Messiah was coming only to rescue them and to be their king. What in Simeon's prophecy shows that was a mistaken idea?(#8)

Day 5

1. How did God protect Jesus from Herod's threats? (#6)
2. What does the *Bible* say about Jesus' childhood? Be careful to see the difference between traditions and what the Bible says. (#7)
3. How does the account of Jesus in the Temple show the tension Jesus must have felt between obedience to His heavenly Father and obedience to His earthly parents? (#8-10)

discussion questions: week 2

Day 1

1. What do we know about John the Baptist? (#4, 5, 6, 7)
 - his way of life?
 - his message?
 - his results?
 - his fulfillment of prophecy?
2. How did John say others would know we have repented? (#4)
3. Why do you think John the Baptist was so harsh with the religious leaders of his day?
4. Was John necessary to Jesus' mission?

Day 2

1. What was John's relationship to Jesus?
2. Why was Jesus baptized? (#1, 5)
3. Did John have to wait to see the dove and hear the voice to know Jesus was greater than him? (#3)
4. What is the significance of calling Jesus, "The Lamb of God"? (#8 and Topic #9)

Day 3

1. What would John's natural tendency be to Jesus having more followers than he did? (#1, 2)
2. Would you have liked to know John? How would you feel when around him?
3. What is the consequence of rejecting Jesus as the Son of God? (#3)
4. What was Herod afraid of? (Mark 6: 17- 29)

Day 4

1. How did Jesus and the devil use the Bible differently? (#5, 6, 7, 8)
2. Read I John 2: 6. How do Jesus' temptations relate to those three aspects of love of the world? (#5, 6, 7)
3. Are we tempted in similar ways?
4. When do you think Jesus was tempted by the devil again?

Day 5

1. Who besides Jesus had disciples? (#1)
2. Why did Andrew and Philip tell someone else about Jesus after spending time with Him? (#3)
3. Why did Jesus change water to wine? (#9)

discussion questions: week 3

Day 1

1. Why was it important for Jesus to “cleanse” the temple? (#4)
2. Was this a proper use of anger? How do we know Jesus was in control? (#3, 4, 5)
3. Jesus said that He could prove His authority to cleanse the temple by dying and resurrecting in three days. Why is the resurrection a good sign that Jesus had the authority to “cleanse” the temple?
4. Do you think the religious leaders knew it was wrong to sell animals and change money there?

Day 2

1. Nicodemus came to Jesus secretly. Do people still come secretly to Jesus? What can we do to help them? (#2)
2. Why is new birth a good description for what happens when we believe Jesus? (#3, 4)
3. In Numbers 21: 4-9 we are told the account of Israelites bitten by snakes looking to a snake on a pole for healing. Why were the people healed when they looked at the snake? (#6)
4. Discuss verse John 3: 18. Are people condemned *when* they reject Jesus? (#8)

Day 3

1. What does “living water” mean to you? (#1)
2. Why was it important for the woman at the well to admit she wasn’t married? (#4)
3. What does it mean to you that “God is Spirit”? (#6)
4. Were more Samaritans convinced by the woman’s testimony or by meeting Jesus themselves? (#10)

Day 4

1. What do you think was most outstanding about the healing of the official’s son? (#1-4)
2. In what ways do we see Jesus healing the sick in today’s lesson? (#2, 5, 6, 9)
3. Why are the accounts of Jesus healing Simon Peter’s mother-in-law different in Luke 4: 39 and Matt. 8: 15? (#5)
4. What conditions today would you consider like the Jews considered leprosy? (#9)
5. Would God lead you to touch someone with that condition when you pray for their healing?
6. Can you believe that God could heal someone with that condition?

Day 5

1. How were people responding to Jesus and His teaching early in His ministry? (#1)
2. When Jesus read the Isa. 61 prophecy, which of the statements had He already fulfilled? (#3)
3. Why did Jesus use the widow and Naaman, both Gentiles, in this sermon? (#6, 7)
4. In what ways are we like the Nazarenes about miracles today?

discussion questions: week 4

Day 1

1. What does it mean for a message to have authority? (#1, 3)
2. Was Jesus looking for demons to cast out? (#2)
3. What comfort or confidence can we gain from Jesus' power to expel evil spirits?
4. In what way did Jesus test Simon Peter's faith? (#5, 6, 7, 8)

Day 2

1. What motivated Jesus to respond to the paralytic man? (#1)
2. What caused Jesus to ask whether it was easier to forgive sin or heal the man? (#2, 3)
3. Who did Jesus say would be in the kingdom of heaven? (#6)
4. What was the result of all the miracles Jesus did? (#2, 5, 8)
5. What picture of Jesus do you have after reading about these miracles?

Day 3

1. Does the promise of future blessing affect your present? (#1)
2. What does being salt and light mean to you? (#2)
3. What does Jesus' warning about breaking a commandment and teaching others to do likewise mean to you? (#3)
4. Why does Jesus say to pluck out an eye or cut off a hand? What does that mean to you? (#5)

Day 4

1. What motives is Jesus warning against in these Scriptures? (#1, 2, 3)
2. How secret must our giving and fasting be to still be rewarded by God? (#2, 5)
3. How does corporate prayer fit with the public praying Jesus condemned? (#3)
4. Is it really impossible to serve God and money? (#6)
5. What people do you judge? How much like you must people be so you don't judge them? (#9, 10)

Day 5

1. Why does Jesus tell us not to heap up words in prayer in one place and then tell us to continue to seek, ask, and knock to have prayers answered? (#1 also Day 4 #3)
2. Does the Golden Rule really work? (#3)
3. How is entering eternal life like going through a narrow gate? (#4)
4. What kind of fruit warns us a man is a false prophet? (#6)

discussion questions: week 5

Day 1

1. Why do you think Jesus reached out to sinners and outcasts? Are you willing to reach out to sinners and outcasts? Which ones? (#1)
2. Discuss the meaning of, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." See Hosea 6:6 (#6)
3. What does the Sabbath mean to you? Are there any Sabbath laws we should keep?

Day 2

1. Don't all sick people want to be well? Why would anyone not want healing? (#1)
2. What was Jesus doing that was causing the Jewish leaders to criticize Him? (#5)
3. Who does Jesus say is the final judge? (John 5: 22, 30)

Day 3

1. What kinds of worries do people have today? How does Jesus answer these worries? (#6 and Matt. 6: 25-34)
2. Why would anyone follow Jesus if they knew persecution would follow? (#5)
3. What comfort can we have in persecution? (#7)
4. What are the rewards for helping His disciples? (#10)

Day 4

1. When Jesus was condemning Korazin and Bethsaida He said, "It would be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgement?" What does that mean to you?(#1)
2. What would Jesus say if He preached in your hometown today?
3. Why do you think we sometimes get indifferent toward God? (#2, 5, 7)
4. Why does God reveal Himself to the simple instead of the intellectuals? (#4)
5. What do you think it was like to be one of the women who traveled with Jesus? (#10)

Day 5

1. Why was it so significant that the religious leaders attributed this healing to a work of the Devil? (#1, 2, 3)
2. What is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? (#4)
3. What importance does God place on what we say? Matt. 12: 36- 37 (#5)
4. What evidence of God is there in your life that could point others to Jesus? (#10)

discussion questions: week 6

Day 1

- 1.** To whom was Jesus telling these parables? Who would have understood them? (#1 & Matt. 13: 1-2)
- 2.** How does the enemy “snatch” away any teaching you hear? What circumstances in your life tend to “scorch” the words you hear and cause them to wither? What are some “thorns” that tend to choke your progress? (#2, 3)
- 3.** The seed in the first parable was teaching. What was the seed in the second parable? What about the mustard seed and the yeast? What is the hidden treasure and pearl? (#2, 4, 6, 8)

Day 2

- 1.** How serious was the storm? How quickly was it stopped? Can you think of a situation we can face today that would be to us like the storm was to the fishermen? (#1, 2)
- 2.** What can we do to build our faith for situations like these?
- 3.** Look at the crowd reactions. Why were they different? (Luke 8: 37, 40, 45, 52-54)

Day 3

- 1.** Which disciple posed a possible solution to the food shortage? (#3)
- 2.** What was *this* crowd’s response? (#6)
- 3.** Have you ever seen a miracle like the multiplication of this bread?
- 4.** How would you rate your faith level on a scale of 1- 5 with 1 being weak and 5 strong?
- 5.** In what areas have you seen your faith grow?

Day 4

- 1.** What was God’s will for Jesus? What is God’s will for us? (#4, 5)
- 2.** How many people were listening to Jesus in John 6: 24-25? How many were still with Him in John 6: 67? What made the difference? (#6, 8, 9)
- 3.** Who comes to Jesus? (#6)
- 4.** What is the result of believing Jesus? (#5, 7, 10)

Day 5

- 1.** What is the proper relationship between tradition and commands? (#2, 3)
- 2.** What church traditions can get in the way of non-believers becoming interested in Christianity?
- 3.** What was exemplary about the Syrophenician woman? (#6, 7)
- 4.** Why do you think Jesus was doing more miracles for individuals and fewer among crowds of people? (#9)

discussion questions: week 7

Day 1

1. Why do you think the disciples failed to remember Jesus' previous feeding of a crowd? (#2)
2. Why do you think God works through us when He could get things done better and faster Himself? (#2)
3. What signs or proofs of power does our generation already have? (#3)
4. Trying to save our own life we will lose it. What is the only way to save our life? Why does it work? (#8)

Day 2

1. Why did Peter offer to build tabernacles? What would you have done or said if you were at the Transfiguration? (#4)
2. When were similar words spoken about Jesus? (#5 and see Week 2 Day 2 #7)
3. What does Jesus mean by, "All things are possible to him who believes"? (#8)
4. Why were the disciples unable to cast the demon out of the boy? (#8, 9)

Day 3

1. Should we pay taxes and why? (#1,2)
2. What is it about children that Jesus wants us to copy? (#3)
3. What can we learn about God's character in the parable of the lost sheep? (#6)
4. What is the central principle in the way Jesus said to deal with a brother who sins against you? (#7, 8)

Day 4

1. Why did Jesus go secretly to the Feast? (#1)
2. Why did the world hate Jesus? Do you think it hates Him today for the same reason? (#2)
3. How did Jesus say someone could know whether His doctrine was from God? (#5)
4. What were the crowd's opinions about Jesus now? (#7)

Day 5

1. Why were the Pharisees trying to get rid of Jesus? (#3)
2. In the story of the adulteress, who sinned the most? Who went away condemned? (#4, 5, 6)
3. Does the Bible consider some sins worse than others? Which ones?
4. What does it mean to "walk in the light"? (#7, 8)

discussion questions: week 8

Day 1

1. Of the four statements Jesus makes in John 8:21, why did the Jews focus on where Jesus was going? Do you think this is the same one most of your neighbors would respond to? (#1)
2. Truth sets us free from what? How does that happen? (#5)
3. What is one of the surest ways to know if something you heard is from God or from the devil? (#7)
4. What is the thing Jesus said that most infuriated the Jews? (#9, 10)

Day 2

1. What is the significance of Jesus being the light of the world? (#2)
2. Why did the Pharisees refuse to see the man's healing as from God? (#4)
3. How did you answer #10? What made the difference in this man's life? Is there any application for those we are witnessing to? (#10)

Day 3

1. What does it mean to you that Jesus is a good shepherd to His flock? (#1, 4)
2. From this teaching on the good shepherd, how would you know a false shepherd? (#1, 4)
3. What caused you to believe Jesus is the Son of God?

Day 4

1. When we go out, are we to follow the same instructions Jesus gave these 72? Why or why not? (#2)
2. What made Jesus so happy about the report of the 72? Would He be happy with us for the same reason? (#7)
3. Have you been confronted with a "neighbor" in need recently? Was this someone you found easy to love? How can you love a repulsive neighbor?

Day 5

1. Do you find it easier to sit and listen or work? (#1)
2. Is it always wrong to work? Is it always right to sit and listen? (#1, 2)
3. Should we ask for something in prayer more than once? Does this mean we don't have faith? (#4)
4. Is it possible for a demon to cast out a demon? (#7)
5. What does Luke 11: 23 mean?

discussion questions: week 9

Day 1

1. Should we tithe? (#1)
2. Is there any way we hinder people from the knowledge of God? (#3)
3. What place should possessions have in our lives? (#4, 5)
4. Is there anything we're allowed to fret about? (#6, 9)

Day 2

1. In what ways should we prepare for His coming and wait for Him? (#1, 2)
2. What do you think Luke 12: 48b means? What should you do about it?
3. Why does Jesus bring division instead of peace to families? (#4)
4. We have had lots of natural disasters lately. If someone's house is destroyed can we assume they were not right with God? (#7)

Day 3

1. What was the motive for telling Jesus that Herod wanted to kill Him? (#1)
2. When was the last time you invited someone to a dinner that could not invite you in return? Jesus said you'll be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous. Is that the only reward you received? (#6)
3. What is the cost of discipleship to Jesus for you? (#9, 10)

Day 4

1. Has your life been more like the younger or older son? How have you responded to God? (#5-10)
2. What did the father do for both sons when they came home? (#7, 10)
3. How do you feel about murderers, AIDS patients, and drug addicts when they become Christians? Do you think there should be a "waiting period" for them to prove their salvation is real?

Day 5

1. What do you think Luke 16: 9 means?
2. What are Jesus' teachings about wealth? (#1, 3, 4)
3. Is it ever possible for someone who had died to appear to people still alive? (#6, 7)

discussion questions: week 10

Day 1

1. Did Jesus have close friends? Who can you think of? How do you know they were close?
2. Why do you think Jesus was not afraid to go back to Judea? (#4)
3. In verse 11: 22 Martha declared that she believed God would do whatever Jesus asked. Why then is she the one to try to hinder opening the grave in verse 39? Have you ever felt the same way? (#5, 8)

Day 2

1. Why would the Jews lose their authority with Rome if Jesus continued? (#1)
2. Many times in these studies we have seen Jesus use the Samaritans as an example. Why was the Samaritan leper's return to Jesus so amazing? (#2, 3)
3. Describe some of the things you learned about the coming of the kingdom of God. (#5, 6, 8, 9)

Day 3

1. What was the widow asking for? (#1)
2. Have you seen any examples of God answering this type of prayer quickly?
3. Have you ever caught yourself praying like the Pharisee? (#4)
4. In what ways are we to be like a little child in receiving the Kingdom of God? (#6)
5. How do we know if God is telling us to sell or give away something? (#7)
6. What did Jesus promise to those who gave up everything to follow Jesus? Have you seen this happen in your life or in others? (#10)

Day 4

1. Was it fair to pay the first ones only one denarius? (#1, 2, 3)
2. Do you see God as unfair or generous in this parable? (#4)
3. Why did Jesus' disciples never understand about the crucifixion and resurrection until after it happened? (#6)
4. What does Jesus say we must do if we want to be great in God's kingdom? Do you think you can improve your standing in Heaven? If so, how? If not, why not? (#9)

Day 5

1. Who in our day would be like the tax collector was in that day? (#1, 2)
2. If Jesus' mission was to seek and save the lost, what should we be doing? If we can't be as bold as Jesus, what can we do? (#3)
3. Why did Jesus tell the parable of the minas? (#4)
4. Describe the "triumphal entry" of Jesus to Jerusalem. Where would you have been that day? (#7-10)

discussion questions: week 11

Day 1

1. On what do answers to prayer depend? (#2, 3)
2. How can holding a grudge affect the way God answers prayer? (#3)
3. Who were the tenants, and who were the farmer, servants, and son in this parable? (#6)
4. Why did the farmer send so many servants? (#6)
5. In John 12: 27 Jesus' heart was troubled. Why did He never pray for God to save Him from His hour of trouble? (#10)

Day 2

1. How did Jesus respond to the Pharisee's praise in verses 16-18?
2. What does it mean to love the Lord your God with all your heart? (#4)
3. What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself? Can you give an example?(#5)
4. How would you answer a friend who said to you, "Prove to me that Jesus is God"?

Day 3

1. What was wrong with the Pharisees' motivation? (#3)
2. What are some of the dangers of having a "checklist" of dos and don'ts that go beyond God's written Word? (#2, 3)
3. In what ways could Jesus call today's average church member a hypocrite?
4. Why is humility so important? (#6)

Day 4

1. What are some of the signs of the coming of Christ? (#3, 4, 5)
2. What does Matt. 24: 14 mean to you?
3. If someone says they know the day and hour the Lord will return, what should your answer be? (#9)
4. What should we be doing to prepare for the second coming of Christ? (#9, 10)

Day 5

1. Why do you think the master said, "I don't know you," to the virgins who had to go get oil? (verse 12)
2. When Jesus said, "Good and faithful...I will put you in charge of many thing," did He mean in this life or in heaven? (#4)
3. Who is the parable of the sheep and goats speaking about? Can it be applied to individuals as well as nations? (#6-10)

discussion questions: week 12

Day 1

1. What are possible reasons Judas would betray Jesus? (#1-4)
2. How did Jesus want His disciples to respond to His “departure”? (#6)
3. In what way is Christianity exclusive? (#6)
4. What “greater things” are we doing today or should be doing? (#8)
5. What should be our motivation for asking anything in Jesus’ name? (#8)

Day 2

1. Has God ever pruned your life? Why did He do it? (#1)
2. How does “remaining in Him” relate to us asking what we want and Him giving it to us? (#3, 4)
3. John 15: 16 talks about fruit that will last. What fruit do we bear that will last? Can you give specifics?
4. Why does the world hate Christians? (#8)

Day 3

1. Why should we prepare believers for persecution? Is the American church ready for persecution? (#1)
2. Why was it “better” for the Holy Spirit to come than for Jesus to “stay”? (#4, 5)
3. What does John 16: 8-11 mean?
4. Why do we pray directly to God? (#9)

Day 4

1. What is eternal life? (#2)
2. What are the three things Jesus prays for His disciples? (#5, 6, 7)
3. What is sanctification? How are we sanctified? (#7)
4. Verse 23 talks about unity. What does our unity show the world?
5. What is the last thing Jesus prays for His disciples? (#10)

Day 5

1. Why was washing the disciple’s feet such a powerful a demonstration? (#2, 3, 6)
2. When and why do you find it difficult to let others serve you or for you to serve others?
3. In what ways are we to wash one another’s feet today?
4. When and why do you feel competition with other believers?

discussion questions: week 13

Day 1

1. How was the bread Jesus' body and the blood Jesus' blood? Are they "just" symbols? (#1)
2. What does, "MY blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many" mean? (#2, 3)
3. Why did Jesus tell His disciples they would deny Him and scatter? (#5)
4. Have you ever prayed earnestly for a need for an hour? What has helped you to pray?

Day 2

1. Read John 18: 10-11. Jesus told Peter he would deny Him before dawn. Jesus told him when he fell asleep during prayer to pray so he wouldn't be tempted. His act of bravery to protect Jesus ends in a rebuke from Jesus. How do you think he was feeling at Caiaphas' house? (#2, 3, 8, 9)
2. In what ways was Jesus' trial unfair? (#4-7)
3. Why did Peter weep bitterly after denying Jesus? (#10)

Day 3

1. How did Pilate attempt to evade authority for Jesus' crucifixion? (#6, 8)
2. What ironic statement did the crowd make at Jesus' trial? (vs. 25)
3. What do you think the soldiers were thinking while they abused Jesus? (#10)
4. If you had been there that day, who do you think you would have acted like: Judas, Pilate, the chief priests and elders, a soldier, or one of the crowd? Why?

Day 4

1. How is it possible to love the very people who are the most cruel and vicious to us? (#2)
2. Why didn't both criminals plead for mercy from Jesus? (#4)
3. Have you ever wanted to ask God why He had forsaken you? When? (#5)
4. Why was the seal on the tomb so important? (#10)

Day 5

1. What was Jesus' attitude toward His disciples who had deserted Him? (#5, 6, 7)
2. What was significant about Jesus eating fish? (#5)
3. Why is the Resurrection so important to Christians?
4. On what evidence do you rely for your belief that Jesus rose from the dead?