

THE BOOK OF  
**Luke**

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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CREATED BY STEVE CASE

# Can You Believe This?!

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What is a “miracle birth” story you’ve heard?

## READ Luke 1:1–80.

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### 1. What was miraculous about the birth of John?

- A. Zechariah and Elizabeth both came from priestly family lines.
- B. Zechariah and Elizabeth were childless.
- C. Zechariah and Elizabeth were old.
- D. Elizabeth was a virgin.
- E. Gabriel informed Zechariah this would happen.
- F. Zechariah didn’t believe Gabriel.
- G. Zechariah became deaf and mute until John’s birth and naming.
- H. Roman occupation made any change unlikely for the Jews.
- I. Other.

### 2. What was the significance of the angel appearing to Zechariah?

- A. Zechariah was serving his priestly rotation at the temple.
- B. Zechariah had experienced a very close relationship with God.
- C. Humans don’t receive angelic sightings very often.
- D. Humans don’t receive angelic messages very often.
- E. Inside the sanctuary, on the right side (favored, power) of the altar.
- F. It scared the bejeebies out of Zechariah.
- G. It wasn’t just any angel; it was Gabriel.
- H. The angel didn’t put up with Zechariah’s faithless reasoning.
- I. Other.

### 3. Why did God choose Mary to give birth to the Messiah?

- A. She had a good track record in child-rearing practices.
- B. Her strong faith in God.
- C. She was engaged to Joseph—a good man in King David’s family line.
- D. Mary was fearless.
- E. She lived in Nazareth.
- F. She was a virgin.
- G. God knew she would do everything perfectly.
- H. Mary had Elizabeth as a relative.
- I. Other.

**4. Why did Mary visit Elizabeth?**

- A. That's what relatives do.
- B. Both had miracle pregnancies.
- C. Gabriel instructed Mary to visit Elizabeth.
- D. This would strengthen Mary's faith.
- E. This would strengthen Elizabeth's faith.
- F. The visit later challenged Joseph's trust that Mary remained a virgin.
- G. Mary had no one in Nazareth with whom she could share her secret.
- H. Other.

**5. What catches your attention in Mary's Magnificat (vs. 46-55)?**

- A. Mary's humility.
- B. God's blessing.
- C. Mary anticipated Christians would be praying to her for centuries.
- D. God's perpetual mercy.
- E. God surprises people by turning the tables on them.
- F. It certainly took God a long time to fulfil his promise to Abraham.
- G. God's powerful actions.
- H. Other.

**6. What catches your attention regarding Zechariah's outburst (vs. 68-79)?**

- A. Zechariah was happy to have his voice (and hearing) again.
- B. Zechariah expected the Messiah to free Israel from the Romans.
- C. Gratitude.
- D. The Holy Spirit spoke through Zechariah.
- E. Zechariah seemed so proud of his one and only son.
- F. God remains true to his covenant.
- G. The coming of the Messiah brings forgiveness, light, and peace.
- H. Other.

**7. John grew up and lived in the wilderness before his public ministry. What is the best environment for someone to grow up today?**

**8. In what ways are you (and your church) like John the Baptist (and Elijah) in preparing people for the Lord's arrival (vs. 16-17)?**

# Noticeable

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Where were you born? Why there?

### READ Luke 2:1–52.

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#### 1. Why did Mary place her first-born in a manger?

- A. The angel Gabriel told her to do so.
- B. That was the best Joseph could provide.
- C. There was no room in the inn.
- D. Babies usually like mangers.
- E. So the shepherds could easily identify him when they visited later that night.
- F. It would provide an idyllic setting for future Christmas pageants.
- G. The manger was like a sepulcher—indicating he was born to die.
- H. Animals matter to God/Jesus.
- I. Other.

#### 2. Why did angels sing Christ's birth announcement to lowly shepherds?

- A. Because the shepherds were lowly.
- B. Jesus was the “lamb” of God, which made shepherds important.
- C. Singing to shepherds was the angels' warm-up for singing to Jesus.
- D. Bethlehem was the breeding ground for sacrificial temple lambs.
- E. The shepherds were the only ones awake in the middle of the night.
- F. The wise men followed the star; the shepherds got a direct message.
- G. Heaven often gives updates to people on earth to share with others.
- H. Shepherds would seek, compared to many who hear but don't act.
- I. Other.

#### 3. Why did Joseph and Mary present Jesus at the temple?

- A. All first-born males were supposed to be presented to God (*Ex. 13:2*).
- B. Jerusalem was close—only five miles from Bethlehem.
- C. The temple had the best circumcisers.
- D. To be sure his name would go on record as Jesus (Yahweh saves).
- E. Mary needed to offer her own purification offering (*Lev. 12:8*).
- F. It gave the religious leaders a chance to discern the Messiah's arrival.
- G. Joseph needed to name the boy and purify his wife—a 2-for-1 trip.
- H. So the religious leaders could confirm the wise men's later inquiry.
- I. Other.

**4. What's the significance of Simeon and Anna identifying the Messiah?**

- A. Two human witnesses recognized Jesus as the Messiah from birth.
- B. Only two people in the temple recognized Jesus as the Messiah.
- C. Both a male and a female recognized the Messiah.
- D. They were very old.
- E. The religious leaders completely missed the Messiah.
- F. Nobody else joined their celebration.
- G. God always communicates even though few seem to catch it.
- H. Other.

**5. What stands out THE MOST about Jesus' trip to the temple at age 12?**

- A. This wasn't his first trip to Passover, but the first one recorded.
- B. His parents didn't keep track of him—he needed helicopter parents.
- C. The community practice expected everyone to look out for everyone.
- D. It took three days to find Jesus after his parents lost him.
- E. The interaction between Jesus and the religious teachers.
- F. A full scholarship for Jesus to enroll at the University of Jerusalem.
- G. Jesus returned home with his parents, and was obedient to them.
- H. Other.

**6. What does the one verse, *Luke 2:52*, tell you?**

- A. Jesus grew mentally.
- B. Jesus grew physically.
- C. Jesus grew spiritually.
- D. Jesus grew socially.
- E. Jesus had to develop just like other humans.
- F. We know so little about Jesus from ages 12–30.
- G. There is no mention of how long Jesus lived in Egypt.
- H. Other.

**7. When has Jesus shown up and you *didn't* recognize him, though others did? When has Jesus shown up and you *did* recognize him, though others didn't?**

**8. Jesus told his parents they should have known he would be in his Father's house. Where do you expect to find Jesus today?**

# Here We Go

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What was going on in the world when you were born (or came of age)?

### READ Luke 3:1–38.

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**1. Why did Luke list so many different rulers and territories?**

- A. It gives historical certainty for what follows.
- B. Identifying dates wasn't universally established at that time.
- C. Naming Roman and Jewish leaders tapped into two dating systems.
- D. Some of Luke's data doesn't match other historical records.
- E. Luke was giving a historical context for Theophilus (*Luke 1:1*).
- F. Naming Annas and Caiaphas exposed their political motivations.
- G. There was supposed to be only one high priest at a time.
- H. It really doesn't matter to me.
- I. Other.

**2. Why was John in the wilderness?**

- A. He wasn't a city person.
- B. God told him to go there.
- C. He didn't want to be in open conflict with the religious establishment.
- D. He didn't want to be in open conflict with the political/military powers.
- E. So people would have to take some initiative to go see/hear him.
- F. It's easier to connect with God in the wilderness.
- G. It's easier to find good food there—locusts and wild honey.
- H. He needed a place with lots of water for mass baptisms.
- I. Other.

**3. What were John's recurring messages?**

- A. Repent.
- B. Be baptized.
- C. You're a bunch of snakes.
- D. Be sure to guard private time with God for personal devotions.
- E. Show some spiritual growth/fruit.
- F. The Messiah will be here soon.
- G. The Day of Judgment will be here soon.
- H. Forgive others.
- I. Other.

**4. John's listeners asked for help to apply his message. He told them to:**

- A. Worship on the 7th day.
- B. Practice spiritual disciplines.
- C. Give to the poor.
- D. Share your food.
- E. Don't cheat others.
- F. Live every day as though the Messiah will appear today.
- G. Take things up directly with God, not some human intermediary.
- H. Other.

**5. What stands out in your mind about the baptism of Jesus?**

- A. That Jesus got baptized—Why?
- B. His cousin baptized him.
- C. Jesus was just one of the many baptized that day—a group baptism.
- D. Heaven opened when Jesus prayed.
- E. An audible voice from heaven identified Jesus as God's son.
- F. The entire Trinity was present and pleased.
- G. God the Father and God the Holy Spirit affirmed Jesus publicly.
- H. Other.

**6. What do you notice comparing the genealogies of *Luke 3* with *Matt. 1*?**

- A. Lots of names I can't pronounce.
- B. Lots of names that mean nothing to me.
- C. They don't match.
- D. They go opposite directions (Matthew ↓; Luke ↑).
- E. Matthew focuses on Jewish connecting points—Abraham and David.
- F. Luke's genealogy goes all the way back to Adam, the son of God.
- G. The term "son" in the Bible has a broader meaning than I give it.
- H. Other.

**7. What parts of John's message apply to you today?**

**8. What happened at your baptism? What has happened since your baptism? What needs to happen now?**

# When Jesus Shows Up

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What do you think would happen at your church if Jesus walked in?

## READ Luke 4:1-44.

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### 1. Why did Jesus go to the wilderness following his baptism?

- A. It was a spiritual retreat for him.
- B. This transitioned Jesus into his public ministry.
- C. The Spirit led Jesus there; Jesus followed the Spirit's leading.
- D. This was a re-enactment of the Israelites 40 years in the wilderness.
- E. The wilderness gets humans centered in God.
- F. Jesus was now ready to engage the devil.
- G. To fast and pray.
- H. To memorize Scripture for the devil's temptations.
- I. Other.

### 2. What was the point of the devil tempting Jesus?

- A. That's just what the devil does.
- B. Jesus came as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam—to not give in to temptation(s).
- C. This was a test about how much power the Holy Spirit gave Jesus.
- D. This was the start of the showdown named in *Genesis 3:15*.
- E. Christ's first temptation.
- F. Christ's last temptation.
- G. The devil's desire to maintain his dominion over the earth since Eden.
- H. It all boils down to worship.
- I. Other.

### 3. What made Jesus so different when he returned north to Galilee?

- A. He was now full of Holy Spirit power.
- B. He had just defeated the devil.
- C. His synagogue teaching went viral.
- D. His healing miracles drew crowds.
- E. Christ's divine identity had become public knowledge.
- F. John the Baptist had "prepared the way."
- G. He had turned water into wine in nearby Cana.
- H. People heard he had cleansed the temple (*John 2:13-25*).
- I. Other.



**4. What happened at the Nazareth synagogue?**

- A. Jesus gave the Scripture reading.
- B. Jesus followed the custom of commenting on the Scripture he read.
- C. The passage Jesus read prompted expectations of the Messiah.
- D. This is exactly what the listeners expected.
- E. Jesus announced himself as the Messiah.
- F. All went well until Jesus highlighted the (marginalized) Gentiles.
- G. The church people tried to kill their hometown boy on Sabbath.
- H. Jesus miraculously walked away from the church mob.
- I. Other.

**5. What did Jesus do at the Capernaum synagogue?**

- A. Transferred his membership from Nazareth.
- B. Continued to worship each Sabbath.
- C. He started potlucks after church to build a sense of community.
- D. Jesus cast out demons during the church service.
- E. He quickly built a reputation as the best teacher.
- F. He spoke with unusual authority.
- G. Jesus continued to claim turf from Satan and his kingdom.
- H. Other.

**6. What happened at Simon's house?**

- A. Jesus just needed some R & R (Rest & Relaxation).
- B. This prepared the way for Simon to become a disciple.
- C. Jesus miraculously healed Simon's mother-in-law.
- D. Christ's popularity continued to erupt.
- E. More exorcisms.
- F. More food and eating.
- G. Christ's refusal to make Capernaum his home church.
- H. Other.

**7. What temptations would the devil likely to throw your way?**

**8. What does Jesus do that amazes you? What does Jesus do that offends you?**

# Whatever It Takes

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What's one thing you'd like Jesus to do for you this week?

## READ Luke 5:1–39.

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### 1. If you were Peter, how would you have related to Jesus in your boat?

- A. Happy to share it with him.
- B. Wish he would have asked before he got in and started to teach.
- C. Teachers on platforms don't know much about fishing in a lake.
- D. Peter went overboard to drop his nets at Christ's direction.
- E. Jesus went overboard to wow Peter with supernatural power.
- F. If I were Peter, I'd now feel completely unworthy to be around Jesus.
- G. I'd be telling everyone about Jesus.
- H. I'd ask Jesus to do it again (and again, and again).
- I. Other.

### 2. Why did Jesus heal the leper?

- A. That's what Jesus does.
- B. The leper asked to be healed.
- C. The leper begged to be healed.
- D. The leper appealed to Christ's compassion.
- E. The leper was about to die.
- F. Jesus knew the leper would keep this a secret.
- G. This would increase crowd support for Jesus.
- H. This would lead Jesus back to prayer time with his father.
- I. Other.

### 3. What amazes you THE MOST about Jesus healing the paralytic?

- A. That Jesus healed him.
- B. How Jesus went about healing him.
- C. The persistent friends who took the paralytic to Jesus.
- D. Lowering the paralytic through the roof to get to Jesus.
- E. How the religious leaders opposed this marvelous miracle worker.
- F. How amazed the people were that Jesus healed the man.
- G. Jesus used this public spectacle to prove he was God.
- H. That Jesus took the role of God and forgave the man's sins.
- I. Other.

**4. What would have been your response if Jesus invited you to follow him?**

- A. I'm outta here!
- B. Let me think about it.
- C. Let me get some input from family and friends.
- D. Jesus, I'll need to talk to God about it first.
- E. I need to write out all the pro's and con's, and then weigh them.
- F. This makes me want to throw a party to celebrate with my friends.
- G. I'm hoping this will open the door for me to become a Pharisee.
- H. Other.

**5. Why didn't the disciples of Jesus fast?**

- A. As young men, they were always hungry.
- B. Jesus hadn't gotten around to that spiritual discipline yet.
- C. Fishermen only fast when they don't catch any fish.
- D. They were party animals.
- E. They hadn't even learned how to pray yet.
- F. They walked so much they needed lots of food.
- G. It was just a matter of time.
- H. Other.

**6. What's the meaning of "new wine" being put into "new wine skins"?**

- A. Old and young will always be at odds with each other.
- B. Young people need time to mellow.
- C. Old people can burst at any moment.
- D. Each generation has their own way of doing things.
- E. This predicts the clash of praise music versus hymns.
- F. A conflict of new traditions and old traditions destroys both.
- G. Don't try to change traditions; just start new ones.
- H. Other.

**7. What is holding you back from following Jesus with complete abandon?**

**8. Jesus came to heal the sick people, not those who are healthy. Did Jesus come for the people in your church? Did Jesus come for you?**

# Actions

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What is something you wouldn't feel comfortable doing on Sabbath?

### READ Luke 6:1-49.

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**1. Who determines what someone should do, or not do, on the Sabbath?**

- A. Each person should be responsible for their own behavior.
- B. Parents need to instruct and guide their children.
- C. It's up to the Holy Spirit to convict a person.
- D. Religious leaders need to teach and model this.
- E. Traditions.
- F. The community.
- G. One's culture or one's religious sub-culture.
- H. The one who is Lord of the Sabbath has the ultimate say.
- I. Other.

**2. Is it legal to do good on the Sabbath?**

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. It depends.
- D. Yes, but not too much of it.
- E. The Sabbath is about relationship, not legality.
- F. Sabbath "do's and don'ts" aren't a big deal in my world.
- G. Religious practices need to be maintained or you'll lose your religion.
- H. Is this really the way the religious leaders tried to eliminate Jesus?
- I. Other.

**3. Why would you have crowded around Jesus (vs. 17-19)?**

- A. Hear what Jesus had to say.
- B. Healing for whatever afflicts me.
- C. Have my demons removed.
- D. See miracles.
- E. Be close to God.
- F. It was the "action spot" at that time.
- G. Find out for myself what others were saying.
- H. I wouldn't have crowded around Jesus.
- I. Other.

**4. What's a good way to love your enemies?**

- A. Stay away from them.
- B. Get close to them.
- C. Listen well to them.
- D. Pray for them.
- E. Pray with them.
- F. Do good to them—heap coals of fire on their heads (*Prov. 25:21-23*).
- G. Forgive them.
- H. Give them gifts.
- I. Other.

**5. What will it take for you to treat others well this week?**

- A. I already do enough of that.
- B. It depends on who the person is.
- C. They will need to treat me well in return.
- D. They need to be family or friends.
- E. It depends on whether or not I will lose my power or position.
- F. I need to receive more if I'm going to give some of it away.
- G. Payback won't matter to me—whether it's positive, negative, or nothing in return.
- H. Other.

**6. What's the difference between "hearing" vs. "hearing & doing" (*vs. 47*)?**

- A. Change.
- B. Listening.
- C. Action.
- D. Cost.
- E. Lordship.
- F. Trust.
- G. Sand vs. rock.
- H. Other.

**7. What is one of these beatitudes (starting in *vs. 20*) you already do? What is one you don't do these days?**

**8. When have you given and then received as much or more in return?**

# Unusual

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What's something unusual that happened to you in the past month?

### READ Luke 7:1–50.

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**1. What seems unusual about Jesus healing the Roman officer's slave?**

- A. Jesus doing a favor for a Roman officer.
- B. Jewish leaders asked Jesus for a favor for the Roman officer.
- C. The Roman officer cared this much about his slave.
- D. The Roman officer communicated to Jesus through others.
- E. The religious leaders explained that the Roman officer deserved it.
- F. Jesus healed a sick slave without even seeing or touching him.
- G. The Roman officer humbled himself.
- H. Jesus made the Roman officer a role model of faith for the Jews.
- I. Other.

**2. What seems unusual about what happened at the village of Nain?**

- A. Whenever Jesus shows up, unusual things happen.
- B. A funeral procession isn't an everyday occurrence in a small town.
- C. A lady had lost her husband and now her son, leaving her alone.
- D. Lots of village mourners joined this funeral procession out of Nain.
- E. Lots of people followed Jesus toward Nain.
- F. The unstoppable compassion of Jesus went into action.
- G. Jesus resurrected the dead boy in front of everyone.
- H. News of this spread to all Jews and beyond.
- I. Other.

**3. What was unusual about the interaction of John's disciples with Jesus?**

- A. John didn't go to Jesus himself.
- B. Jesus wasn't checking up on John—his forerunner (and cousin).
- C. John wasn't sure Jesus was the Messiah.
- D. John's disciples weren't sure Jesus was the Messiah.
- E. John's disciples asked the question while Jesus was doing miracles.
- F. The disciples of John became disciples of Jesus.
- G. John's disciples had less faith than the Roman officer (*vs. g*).
- H. Jesus likened John the Baptist to the religious leaders.
- I. Other.

**4. What did Jesus say about John after John's disciples departed?**

- A. John was a bit unusual.
- B. Many of you felt drawn to John, didn't you?
- C. John was a prophet.
- D. Introducing the Messiah was the greatest position on earth so far.
- E. Being with the Messiah surpassed being John the Baptist.
- F. Christ's support of John attracted those baptized; it repelled the rest.
- G. You religious leaders criticize every message from God.
- H. He must increase; I must decrease.
- I. Other.

**5. What was unusual about Jesus' meal at the Pharisee's house?**

- A. A Pharisee invited Jesus to his house for a meal.
- B. Jesus accepted the Pharisee's invitation to eat with him.
- C. A prostitute somehow got inside the house.
- D. The immoral woman stunk up the whole place.
- E. The immoral woman sweetened the whole place.
- F. The Pharisee knew the woman.
- G. Jesus knew the woman.
- H. Other.

**6. What message did Jesus have at this awkward moment?**

- A. Let me tell you a story.
- B. Give the lady a break.
- C. I bear no responsibility for this woman's actions.
- D. And what have you done for me?
- E. This lady is a sinner.
- F. This lady is forgiven.
- G. Forgiveness releases love; love releases forgiveness.
- H. A person can give only as much as they have received.
- I. Other.

**7. Is the activity of Jesus in your life usual or unusual?**

**8. How much forgiveness do you usually receive? How much do you usually give? (same question, but replace "forgiveness" with "love.")**

# Good Times

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## OPENING QUESTION

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How much of a “green thumb” (gardening success) do you have?

### READ Luke 8:1–56.

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**1. What did you glean from the story about the farmer sowing seeds?**

- A. Jesus was a great storyteller.
- B. Seeds fall on a variety of soils.
- C. Jesus had to spoon-feed his disciples.
- D. The harvest is huge in some places.
- E. The devil actively steals salvation from some people.
- F. Consistent growth counts more than quick growth.
- G. Success happens when spiritual roots go deep.
- H. Jesus illustrated spiritual truths by highlighting common activities.
- I. Other.

**2. What do we know about the women who followed Jesus?**

- A. Not much.
- B. The 12 disciples were just part of the group that stayed with Jesus.
- C. The women experienced Jesus’ miraculous powers.
- D. They’re the ones who financed Christ’s ministry.
- E. Some had a crush on Jesus.
- F. Some had been demon-possessed.
- G. They proved to be more of a hindrance than a help.
- H. They proved to be more of a help than a hindrance.
- I. Other.

**3. Who is “family” to you?**

- A. Those who live under my roof.
- B. Anyone related to me biologically.
- C. Anyone legally adopted into my family.
- D. People I like, and people who like me.
- E. My local church.
- F. Everyone who is part of my religious denomination.
- G. The ones it seems I fight with the most.
- H. Anyone who follows Jesus.
- I. Other.



**4. If you were one of Christ's disciples, what would you be thinking now?**

- A. How many more miracles does Jesus have in him?
- B. I'm having so much fun!
- C. I have no idea why Jesus invited me to join him.
- D. I'm so glad Jesus stopped the demoniac from joining our group.
- E. Jesus is fairly predictable.
- F. We're going to get into so much trouble.
- G. I'm in way over my head.
- H. We're unstoppable.
- I. Other.

**5. Why is Jesus drawn to you?**

- A. My great need.
- B. His abundant goodness.
- C. I ask him for favors.
- D. I'm teachable.
- E. We're intimate.
- F. I'm low maintenance.
- G. I'm high maintenance.
- H. Other.

**6. Rank from 1-8 (low-high) the impact of Jesus' actions in this chapter.**

FOR YOU

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- Taking women and men on his team
- Stories and parables
- Teaching
- Calming the storm
- Cleansing the demoniac
- Healing the bleeding woman
- Resurrecting Jairus' daughter

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR JESUS

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**7. Do you have more understanding of Jesus now compared to a year ago (vs. 18)? What about compared to five years ago? Twenty years ago?**

**8. Jesus did many miraculous things. Where do you see God's miraculous power today?**

# Good News and Bad News

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## OPENING QUESTION

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When did you get authority to do something you hadn't done previously?

### READ Luke 9:1–62.

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- 1. Why did Jesus empower the 12 with such power and authority?**
  - A. Lots of people needed demons cast out and sickness healed.
  - B. To prepare the way for Christ's arrival.
  - C. This revealed that divine power can flow through humans.
  - D. To test the faith of his disciples.
  - E. It determined which towns Jesus would visit and which to avoid.
  - F. It proved to be "sink or swim" for Christ's disciples.
  - G. The 12 disciples were the only ones given such power and authority.
  - H. Any (empowered) disciple of Christ can do the same things today.
  - I. Other.
  
- 2. Why is feeding the 5,000 the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels?**
  - A. It's not the only one.
  - B. It's such a great story.
  - C. Each Gospel writer gives their own perspective of the story.
  - D. If someone reads only one of the Gospels, they'll get this story.
  - E. It's the pivot point: Jesus "king of the Jews" or "Savior of the world"?
  - F. Luke left out the "little boy" as the source of the 5 loaves and 2 fishes.
  - G. It connects the OT to the NT: OT manna and NT miracle bread.
  - H. It showed the disciples they had more to learn after doing miracles.
  - I. Other.
  
- 3. Why did Jesus NOT want his disciples to disclose he was the Messiah?**
  - A. It would distract from Christ's true mission.
  - B. He was better off being thought of as a resurrected prophet.
  - C. The disciples were such poor PR people it would hurt his cause.
  - D. Most Jews needed a paradigm shift regarding the Messiah/God.
  - E. It would chase away people too soon.
  - F. It would attract political insurrectionists.
  - G. People had to come to this conclusion on their own.
  - H. This needed to wait until after Christ's death and resurrection.
  - I. Other.

**4. Put “S” by things the 12 were to keep Secret; put “T” by things to Tell.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ The kingdom of heaven is here.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is the Messiah.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We have supernatural powers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus will be rejected and killed by the religious leaders.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus will die and then be resurrected.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Moses and Elijah recently met with Jesus.
- \_\_\_\_\_ God is very, very happy with what Jesus is doing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other.

**5. Who is the greatest?**

- A. Jesus.
- B. A child—any child.
- C. Only good kids.
- D. I am (but I just can’t say it out loud).
- E. A follower/disciple of Jesus.
- F. It depends on the category.
- G. Any US citizen (legally in the USA).
- H. Other.

**6. What went wrong with Christ’s plan to stop at a Samaritan town?**

- A. It wasn’t his destination; just a stop on the way.
- B. The disciples bungled the announcement to the Samaritans.
- C. Christ shouldn’t have revealed he was going to Jerusalem.
- D. What do you expect from Samaritans?
- E. The “woman at the well” and “the good Samaritan” weren’t there.
- F. James and John continued their righteous ego ride.
- G. Truth sometimes suffocates mercy.
- H. Other.

**7. What does it mean to “take up your cross daily and follow Jesus” (vs. 23)? How do you actually do that?**

**8. When it comes to “you and Jesus,” what do you keep secret and what do you make public?**

# Showing Favorites

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Are you more like Mary or more like Martha (*Luke 10:38-42*)?

## READ **Luke 10:1-42.**

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### **1. Why did Jesus send out the 70 (or the 72 in some translations)?**

- A. That's what Jesus does—he sends people.
- B. Sending the 12 hadn't worked very well previously.
- C. Sending the 12 worked so well he upped it 500 percent.
- D. Jesus needed more laborers for his harvest.
- E. To prepare people to receive Jesus.
- F. To prepare his followers for when he would be gone.
- G. This would put his larger group of disciples to the test.
- H. These disciples were getting on his nerves.
- I. Other.

### **2. What bothers you about the instructions Christ gave his disciples?**

- A. Jesus put them on the front lines before putting himself there.
- B. Inviting themselves into the houses of total strangers—pushy.
- C. It sounds like they will take advantage of the hospitality of others.
- D. Place peace on a house before you know what might happen.
- E. Stay in one house rather than spreading it around town.
- F. Eat and drink whatever they give you—beggars can't be choosers.
- G. Heal people.
- H. Curse a town if the people there don't accept you.
- I. Other.

### **3. Why did the disciples rejoice upon their return to Jesus (*vs. 17*)?**

- A. They were so happy and excited to see Jesus again.
- B. They healed so many people.
- C. They found acceptance in every town.
- D. Nobody got hurt.
- E. Even demons were subject to them.
- F. Their personal salvation was now secure.
- G. They could graduate to walking on snakes and scorpions.
- H. This toppled Satan's reign on the earth.
- I. Other.

**4. Who is your neighbor?**

- A. People who live near me.
- B. Anyone who needs help.
- C. My online community.
- D. People who are a lot like me.
- E. People who are not a lot like me.
- F. Those in my small group Bible study.
- G. Someone of a different ethnic group.
- H. Priests and Levites.
- I. Other.

**5. What did Jesus mean by, “Go and do likewise” (vs. 37)?**

- A. Put your religious teachings into action instead of only talking about it.
- B. Let the Samaritans be role models for you.
- C. Radical service demonstrates love to God.
- D. Radical service demonstrates love to others.
- E. Radical service demonstrates love to yourself.
- F. Instead of asking, “Who is my neighbor?” go be a good neighbor.
- G. Broaden you horizon on who you help/serve.
- H. Other.

**6. Put a “✓” by what you like or dislike about the Mary and Martha story.**

LIKE

DISLIKE

- |                          |   |                          |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jesus and his 12 disciples came to eat. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Martha welcomed Jesus into the home.    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mary sat at the feet of Jesus.          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | The 12 disciples did nothing to help.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jesus did nothing to help.              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jesus failed to back up his host.       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I’m more like Mary.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I’m more like Martha.                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**7. Compared to most people, what advantages has God given you? How does that compare to what God gave these disciples?**

**8. Who shows mercy to you? To whom do you grant mercy?**

# Good and Evil

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Which do you see more often—good or evil?

### READ Luke 11:1–54.

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**1. The key to praying is:**

- A. Just doing it.
- B. Believing.
- C. Knowing what to say.
- D. Maintaining contact with the supernatural God.
- E. Having a set time and place for prayer.
- F. Spontaneously praying throughout your day.
- G. Listening more than talking.
- H. Doing it both privately and publicly.
- I. Other.

**2. Which one of these analogies would you use to illustrate prayer?**

- A. Knocking on the door until someone answers.
- B. Following someone on Facebook or posting something online.
- C. It's like being Santa Claus at Christmas.
- D. A one-way conversation.
- E. A child who keeps asking for the same thing.
- F. Taking a horse to water.
- G. Texting.
- H. Dancing with your lover.
- I. Other.

**3. What's the deal with evil spirits, humans, and God (vs. 14–26)?**

- A. Evil spirits enter humans and manipulate them.
- B. Evil spirits are subject to Jesus.
- C. Jesus (and his disciples) cast evil spirits out of humans.
- D. Evil spirits thrive in primitive societies, not civilized ones.
- E. Once an evil spirit enters a human, there's no more hope.
- F. Evil spirits are always wanting to do evil.
- G. God's kingdom includes freedom from evil spirits.
- H. Humans don't need to waste any time thinking about this.
- I. Other.

**4. What sign have you received, or would like to receive, about Jesus?**

- A. A miracle in my life.
- B. An audible voice from God.
- C. Jesus is real, and he really is God.
- D. Jesus has dominion over Satan and all evil forces.
- E. A clear answer to a specific prayer.
- F. The gift of discernment.
- G. A miracle for someone in my family.
- H. Clarity about what God wants me to do.
- I. Other.

**5. Prioritize the following (1-9) for you, and then for Jesus.**

FOR YOU

FOR JESUS

|       |                             |       |
|-------|-----------------------------|-------|
| _____ | Tithing                     | _____ |
| _____ | Forgiveness                 | _____ |
| _____ | How nice you look           | _____ |
| _____ | Your reputation             | _____ |
| _____ | Justice—specifically: _____ | _____ |
| _____ | Mercy—specifically: _____   | _____ |
| _____ | Your family                 | _____ |
| _____ | Your church                 | _____ |
| _____ | Other: _____                | _____ |

**6. What would Jesus say to those in your Bible study group?**

- A. Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you.
- B. I never knew you.
- C. I consider you some of my best friends.
- D. You're a bunch of hypocrites.
- E. I certainly don't want to offend anyone.
- F. You hurt more people than you help.
- G. You help more people than you hurt.
- H. Other.

**7. Who seems to have more power in your personal life: Jesus, Satan, or you? What about in your world—who seems to have more power?**

**8. What do you make sure you clean on your outside? What do you make sure you clean on your inside? What doesn't get cleaned?**

# Enough

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Which do most people have more of: **1)** time; **2)** talent; or **3)** treasure?

## READ Luke 12:1–59.

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### 1. Why did Jesus warn his disciples about hypocrisy getting revealed?

- A. The religious leaders would eventually get exposed.
- B. The disciples would be tempted to cover up their inconsistencies.
- C. We all have secrets we don't want others to know.
- D. Public disclosures eventually reveal hypocrisy.
- E. Repent now and live with a clean conscience.
- F. Judgment Day will surprise a lot of people.
- G. Live in the fear of God rather than in fear of what others think of you.
- H. One day there won't be any more secrets.
- I. Other.

### 2. What's the meaning of God watching the (cheap) sparrows?

- A. God notes the little things more than the big things.
- B. God notes the little things as well as the big things.
- C. God cares about you.
- D. Nothing bad will happen to you.
- E. God is "a birder" (bird-watcher).
- F. God knows when you suffer.
- G. God knows every bit of suffering that happens on earth.
- H. It's a mistake to think a person's suffering means God doesn't care.
- I. Other.

### 3. How do most people relate to greed? How do you?

- A. The word "greed" is bad, but having more and more is good.
- B. Money makes the world go around.
- C. Whoever dies with the most toys wins.
- D. Whoever dies with the most toys still dies.
- E. I give God my tithe; the rest is mine to do as I please.
- F. Store up treasure in heaven, not on earth.
- G. Money isn't the problem; it's the "love of money" that's a problem.
- H. I'm simply a steward, not the owner, of what God gives me.
- I. Other.



**4. Why does poverty persist?**

- A. There simply isn't enough for everyone.
- B. The world is full of evil.
- C. God's people won't suffer from poverty.
- D. God's people will respond to poverty by taking action.
- E. Greed results in poverty.
- F. Some people just make poor choices.
- G. God said the poor would always be with us.
- H. God's kingdom isn't fully established on this earth yet.
- I. Other.

**5. How do you "store up treasure in heaven"?**

- A. Team up with SpaceX or NASA to deliver your goods.
- B. Donate money to worthy causes.
- C. Donate time and energy to worthy causes.
- D. Follow a sound financial plan for your retirement years on earth.
- E. Be actively generous.
- F. Continue to invest in your personal relationship with God.
- G. It's easier to talk about this than do it.
- H. Make sure you don't have much treasure on earth.
- I. Other.

**6. What's the best way to be ready for Christ's Second Coming?**

- A. Always be watching.
- B. Find some way(s) to figure out exactly when Christ will return.
- C. Just do what Christ wants you to do each day.
- D. Do your own thing; get serious when you see signs of Christ's return.
- E. Don't let your family get divided no matter what else happens.
- F. Clear up any conflicts with others ASAP.
- G. Check your lifestyle as a Christian more than you check the weather.
- H. Other.

**7. Are you more likely to deny God by your: 1) words; or 2) actions? Are you more likely to acknowledge God by your: 1) words; or 2) actions?**

**8. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Where have you found this to be true? Not true?**

# Saved or Lost?

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## OPENING QUESTION

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When have you heard that something was “an act of God”?

### READ Luke 13:1–35.

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**1. According to Jesus, who will perish?**

- A. Everyone.
- B. Only sinners.
- C. Those who don't repent.
- D. Those who reject Jesus.
- E. Those without Jesus.
- F. Be careful what you call “an act of God.”
- G. No one will “perish” until the final judgment.
- H. Persecution is a common action by despots, not God.
- I. Other.

**2. What do you think happened to the fig tree after one more year of care?**

- A. Nothing.
- B. It had no fruit, but the gardener pled for yet one more year of mercy.
- C. There's no need for fruit.
- D. It had no fruit, so it was cut down.
- E. It bore only one fig, but that was enough to spare it.
- F. It had an abundance of figs the next year.
- G. The gardener replaced the fig tree with an apple tree.
- H. The fruitfulness of the fig tree didn't matter because it was a vineyard.
- I. Other.

**3. Why did Jesus heal the woman in the synagogue on Sabbath?**

- A. Jesus likes to heal.
- B. Jesus always heals.
- C. It was Sabbath—the best day for healing/saving (same Greek word).
- D. It was the only time Jesus would be in this town—a one-shot deal.
- E. Jesus put *Luke 4:16-21* into action here.
- F. This would challenge their Sabbath understanding and practices.
- G. Satan had bound her for 18 long years.
- H. Jesus wanted to provoke the synagogue leader.
- I. Other.

**4. Why was the synagogue leader upset about Jesus healing the woman?**

- A. There were six days for healing (not the seventh day).
- B. Jesus broke the Sabbath in this leader's synagogue.
- C. The leader's understanding of the Sabbath made Christ's deed bad.
- D. He would suffer when Jewish leaders from Jerusalem heard about it.
- E. It wasn't part of the scheduled program for that Sabbath.
- F. Jesus elevated a sinful woman.
- G. Jesus exposed a Sabbath practice that had come to value animals more than humans.
- H. Other.

**5. Prioritize from 1-7 these metaphors about the kingdom of heaven.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Mustard seed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Yeast.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fig tree.
- \_\_\_\_\_ City gate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wheat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The cross.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other.

**6. Who will be saved?**

- A. Just a few.
- B. It's too soon to know.
- C. Nobody knows until the end.
- D. You can know right now about your own salvation.
- E. You can know right now about someone else's salvation.
- F. Some people you think will be saved . . . won't.
- G. Some people you think won't be saved . . . will.
- H. Other.

**7. Put an "✓" on the continuum to indicate how many you think will be saved by Jesus.**

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**NO ONE**

**EVERYONE**

**8. How does the way you treat others demonstrate the way Jesus treats them? When does it miss the mark?**

# You're Welcome Here

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## OPENING QUESTION

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How many entrances are there where you live? Who uses which one(s)?

## READ Luke 14:1–35.

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### 1. Why was Jesus in the home of a leader of the Pharisees on a Sabbath?

- A. It was church—the synagogue in that area.
- B. For potluck.
- C. The Pharisee invited Jesus.
- D. The Pharisees wanted to learn from Jesus.
- E. The Pharisees wanted to teach Jesus.
- F. The Pharisees wanted to trap Jesus.
- G. It seemed like such a holy place.
- H. Jesus went there to heal the sick man.
- I. Other.

### 2. What were the dynamics when Jesus asked about healing on Sabbath?

- A. Deciding what's okay and what's not okay on Sabbath?
- B. What's "good" on Sabbath?
- C. Respect for the host.
- D. Compassion for the sick man.
- E. Which Pharisee who was present had the most authority?
- F. Whether or not Jesus had supernatural power.
- G. Those present would help an animal but not a human on Sabbath.
- H. Would this turn into a "praise" and "hallelujah" service?
- I. Other.

### 3. How do you choose where you sit when there's a "pecking order"?

- A. Go for the top spot.
- B. Go for the bottom spot.
- C. Aim for somewhere in the middle—depending on who's there.
- D. Wait until others pick; then choose from what's left.
- E. Have someone else choose for you.
- F. Ignore the "pecking order" game.
- G. Pray about what to do.
- H. Ask the host.
- I. Other.

**4. Who are you most likely to invite to a meal?**

- A. Family.
- B. Friends.
- C. Someone from church.
- D. Someone who invited you previously (and you “owe them” one).
- E. Someone you don’t like.
- F. Someone you don’t know.
- G. Jesus.
- H. An “enemy.”
- I. Other.

**5. What is your takeaway from the parable of the great feast (vs. 16-24)?**

- A. Many are called, but few are chosen.
- B. So many people are very, very busy.
- C. The great feast isn’t necessarily a great priority for those invited.
- D. The food isn’t that great.
- E. Although invited earlier, many weren’t ready when reminded.
- F. God gets upset when people brush him off.
- G. Heaven will have lots of very defective people.
- H. Other.

**6. When should a person become a disciple of Jesus?**

- A. Before adolescence.
- B. After adolescence.
- C. Not until they really know what they are doing.
- D. Not until they count the cost.
- E. The sooner the better.
- F. This needs to be chosen multiple times during a person’s life.
- G. Not until Jesus “calls” them.
- H. Other.

**7. Based on *Luke 14*, what might Jesus say if he ate lunch at your place?**

**8. What has gone into your decision to be a disciple of Jesus? How has that changed over the years?**

# Lost and Found

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What's something you've lost? How did that impact you?

## READ Luke 15:1–32.

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### 1. Why did sinners come to Jesus?

- A. They felt guilty.
- B. Hope for forgiveness.
- C. Jesus might feed them.
- D. Jesus wouldn't condemn them.
- E. Jesus would convict them.
- F. The testimony of others.
- G. Jesus did miracles.
- H. Jesus offered God's forgiveness and cleansing.
- I. Other.

### 2. If you had 100 sheep and lost one, what would you do?

- A. Pray about it.
- B. Blame someone else.
- C. Just ignore it.
- D. Hire someone to search for the lost sheep.
- E. Leave the 99 sheep with someone you trust; then look for the one.
- F. With that many sheep, you're bound to lose some.
- G. Never let the sheep go outside the sheep pen again.
- H. Quit taking care of sheep.
- I. Other.

### 3. What makes the story of the lost coin different from the lost sheep?

- A. The message is the same.
- B. The message is different.
- C. The coin loss is 10%; the sheep loss is only 1%.
- D. Coins aren't alive; sheep are living creatures.
- E. The space in which the coin was lost is much smaller—in a house.
- F. The entire house got the benefit of a good cleaning.
- G. The coins could be personally symbolic—like a wedding ring.
- H. The coin story is specifically about women.
- I. Other.

**4. What made the difference for the prodigal son?**

- A. He just needed to “sow his wild oats”—get it out of his system.
- B. The son couldn’t cash in on his inheritance until his father died.
- C. He had such a great time “living it up” in a distant country.
- D. Running out of money.
- E. Coming to his senses—the realization pigs were better off than he.
- F. Knowing his father would accept him back.
- G. His relationship with his older brother.
- H. The father.
- I. Other.

**5. What does the story about the prodigal son say about the father?**

- A. The father hadn’t done a very good job as a parent.
- B. The father was a pushover.
- C. The father was patient.
- D. Treat your children as individuals—no two are the same.
- E. Sometimes you just have to let go.
- F. Both sons were lost.
- G. The father never gave up hope.
- H. Other.

**6. What do you do to celebrate when someone lost is found?**

- A. Tell them to never do that again.
- B. Throw a party for them.
- C. I’m not into this sort of thing.
- D. Invite everyone you know to come celebrate.
- E. Join heaven in celebrating God’s child returning home.
- F. I’ll wait until heaven to celebrate.
- G. I get resentful—more like the older brother.
- H. Other.

**7. Are you more like the prodigal son or the (stay-at-home) older brother?**

**8. What are you currently doing to find people who are lost? What could you be doing? What will you do? When?**

# Money Matters, Now and Then

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## OPENING QUESTION

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When have you owed somebody money? What was that like?

## READ Luke 16:1–31.

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### 1. What do you think of the shrewd/dishonest manager?

- A. He's quite smart.
- B. He's quite evil.
- C. There's more than one way to be dishonest.
- D. I know some people like that.
- E. Sometimes I'm like that.
- F. He was banking on other dishonest people to pay back the favor.
- G. Jesus should not have told this story.
- H. This illustrated what the Pharisees did, and they were eavesdropping.
- I. Other.

### 2. What point was Jesus making with the story of the shrewd manager?

- A. Dishonest people will always be dishonest.
- B. The rules of this world are different from the rules of Christ's kingdom.
- C. Put off paying your bills and maybe you'll only have to pay a fraction.
- D. Do whatever is necessary to take care of yourself.
- E. Worldly people do things more earnestly than Godly people do.
- F. Relationships count more than money.
- G. It's okay to be dishonest.
- H. Use whatever you have to benefit others.
- I. Other.

### 3. What theme do you see in the separate statements in *verses 10-18*?

- A. I don't see any cohesive theme in these verses.
- B. Money matters.
- C. There are two basic ways of living on this earth.
- D. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
- E. God's laws are true in heaven and on earth.
- F. Religious leaders can be very worldly, but with a godly disguise.
- G. You reap what you sow.
- H. Christ's kingdom is very different from the ways of the world.
- I. Other.



**4. What's wrong with the story of the rich man and Lazarus?**

- A. It leads people to believe in an eternally burning hell.
- B. Jesus' other teachings about the state of the dead don't match this.
- C. Things get reversed after you die.
- D. There seems to be a lack of mercy.
- E. You can't undo what's already been done.
- F. The rules that work in this world don't work after we leave this world.
- G. It makes it seem that only beggars will be in heaven.
- H. Other.

**5. What do you like about the story of the rich man and Lazarus?**

- A. Nothing in particular.
- B. It's a great reversal.
- C. Jesus brought in Abraham as part of the story.
- D. Jesus took Egyptian folklore and tweaked it for new insights.
- E. This is the only time Jesus used a person's name in a parable.
- F. Jesus predicted the rejection of two resurrections—Lazarus' and his.
- G. It exposed the Pharisees who acted godly but pursued money first.
- H. Other.

**6. Why don't people pay more attention to messages from God?**

- A. God's messages aren't readily available.
- B. Too many distractions.
- C. God's messages are just suggestions, not requirements.
- D. You have to be "born again" to appreciate God's messages.
- E. More miracles—signs and wonders—would garner more attention.
- F. They're too old—the prophets are ancient rather than current.
- G. Better marketing would help.
- H. Other.

**7. Name one of Christ's parables you like better than these two.**

**8. What's a message from the Bible you would do well to pay attention to now?**

# Teachings from Jesus

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Who has been one of your favorite teachers?

## READ Luke 17:1–37.

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### 1. Why is forgiveness so important?

- A. So many people need it.
- B. Lots of people ask for it.
- C. It frees the forgiven and the forgiver.
- D. It's an act of God.
- E. Without it there would be more people in the depths of the sea.
- F. All relationships, especially close ones, depend on it.
- G. Forgiveness is overrated.
- H. With forgiveness, the innocent pay the price for the guilty.
- I. Other.

### 2. How does faith increase (vs. 5)? Pick your “top 2” ways:

- A. Forgiving others increases your own faith.
- B. When others forgive you, your faith increases
- C. Ask God for it—like asking God for wisdom (*James 1:5*).
- D. Go to church.
- E. Take a calculated risk for God.
- F. Command a tree to go jump in a lake.
- G. It's like a muscle—use it or lose it.
- H. Look at your world from God's perspective.
- I. Other.

### 3. What was Christ's message about the servant and master (vs. 7-10)?

- A. Servants serve.
- B. It's better to be a master than a servant.
- C. This describes the typical practice in the days of Jesus.
- D. A servant's work is never done.
- E. Suck it up, Buttercup.
- F. Don't depend on a positive feedback loop.
- G. Jesus calls us to be servants.
- H. Following Jesus isn't necessarily the easy way.
- I. Other.

**4. What is your favorite take-away from the 10 healed lepers (vs. 11-19)?**

- A. They no longer had leprosy; Jesus healed them.
- B. Faith brings healing.
- C. They obeyed Jesus—he told them to show themselves to the priests.
- D. A despised Samaritan received Christ’s praise as the role model.
- E. We will always need reminders to say, “Thank you.”
- F. Just meditating on the whole story as it unfolds.
- G. This would create a real conundrum for the priests.
- H. Other.

**5. When will the kingdom of God come?**

- A. It already came with Christ’s ministry and teachings (*Mark 1:15*).
- B. It already came on the Day of Pentecost (*Acts 2*).
- C. It won’t come until Christ’s 2nd Coming.
- D. It won’t come until after the millennium and the end of sin and death.
- E. The kingdom of God is within you.
- F. The kingdom of God is among you.
- G. It appears and disappears sporadically.
- H. Other.

**6. Why will people be taken by surprise when Christ returns?**

- A. They won’t be surprised if they’ve been looking for his return.
- B. Lack of indicators that he’s returning.
- C. Indicators for his return have been happening for centuries.
- D. Life always seems to go on.
- E. Lack of sensitivity to God.
- F. Satisfaction with the way things are.
- G. Busyness.
- H. Rampant wickedness.
- I. Other.

**7. Is it easier for you to repent or to forgive?**

**8. What does it take for you to be “ready” for Christ’s return?**

# Different Kinds of People

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Are you drawn more to people who are like you or different from you?

## READ Luke 18:1–43.

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### 1. What's the point of the story of the persistent widow and unjust judge?

- A. Never give up.
- B. Lots of judges are corrupt.
- C. God needs to be reminded a lot.
- D. When women are persistent, they get what they want.
- E. If something is really important to you, pray more than once about it.
- F. The unjust judge is a contrast, not a confirmation, of how God works.
- G. The squeaky wheel gets the grease.
- H. Justice will prevail.
- I. Other.

### 2. What message do Christians need from the Pharisee and tax collector?

- A. Don't judge others.
- B. If you put yourself on a pedestal, prepare to fall.
- C. Your judgment might be too superficial.
- D. Behavior doesn't matter.
- E. Pride is a big deal to God.
- F. Humility is a big deal to God.
- G. The good guys are actually bad, while the bad guys are good.
- H. Humans can see only the outward appearance, not the heart.
- I. Other.

### 3. Why do children matter so much to Jesus?

- A. Children are so innocent.
- B. Humans value adults more than children.
- C. Children are more trusting and teachable than adults.
- D. Patriarchal societies put men first, women second, and children last.
- E. Children illustrate God's kingdom right now.
- F. It's all about faith.
- G. Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world . . .
- H. Children automatically go to heaven; adults are questionable.
- I. Other.

**4. How does a person get eternal life (vs. 18)?**

- A. Be good.
- B. Be bad.
- C. Be poor.
- D. You'll never know until Jesus returns.
- E. Sell all you have, give to the poor, then follow Jesus.
- F. It's humanly impossible.
- G. Get rid of your money and possessions.
- H. Other.

**5. Why did the disciples fail to grasp what Jesus told them (vs. 34)?**

- A. The disciples weren't very smart.
- B. Jesus could have explained it better.
- C. It didn't match the disciples' current understanding or expectations.
- D. The Old Testament prophets predicted a glorious reign (*Is. 54*).
- E. The Old Testament prophets predicted a suffering Messiah (*Is. 53*).
- F. The disciples went with the majority opinion (12 versus 1).
- G. The disciples joined Jesus to win, not to lose.
- H. Other.

**6. Why did Jesus heal the blind beggar?**

- A. The blind beggar asked.
- B. The blind beggar pleaded and begged.
- C. This would stop the commotion.
- D. Jesus wants to heal all people (compare *Luke 6:19* with *Mark 6:5*).
- E. The blind beggar called out for Jesus as the Messiah (Son of David).
- F. To prepare his disciples to later do similar things (*Acts 3:1-11*).
- G. Healing the blind beggar would lead to praising God.
- H. Other.

**7. Put an "X" where you see yourself on the following continuum:**

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**PHARISEE**

**TAX COLLECTOR**

**8. What would you like Jesus to do for you right now?**

# Money Problems

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Do you find money to be more of a help or a hindrance?

## READ Luke 19:1–48.

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1. Put a ✓ by what “delights” you and by what “troubles” you about the Zacchaeus story.

### DELIGHTS

- Zacchaeus was the chief tax collector
- Zacchaeus was very rich
- Jesus picked Zacchaeus out of the crowd/tree
- Jesus chose Zacchaeus over the Jericho crowd
- Zacchaeus professed generosity and restitution
- Jesus reclaimed one lost Jew
- Zacchaeus was corrupt, yet Jesus welcomed him
- Zacchaeus didn't have to sell all and follow Jesus

### TROUBLES

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2. Why did Jesus tell the story about the 10 minas (vs. 11-27)?

- A. Use money to make more money.
- B. This would encourage people to develop their talents.
- C. It reminds us of the source of all we have.
- D. Doing nothing isn't an option.
- E. Those who are industrious and loyal get a great payday.
- F. There will always be some who are opposed to the king.
- G. To correct the mistakes in the story of the talents (*Matt 25:14-30*).
- H. God's kingdom is coming later rather than sooner.
- I. Other.

3. What does the story of the 10 minas tell you about Jesus?

- A. Jesus is patient.
- B. Jesus is generous.
- C. Jesus judges.
- D. Jesus returns.
- E. Jesus commends.
- F. Jesus rebukes.
- G. Jesus is unfair.
- H. Jesus kills.
- I. Other.

**4. What seems unusual about Christ's entry into Jerusalem?**

- A. He didn't have the money to rent a little donkey for his ride.
- B. All the attention he allowed (compare with *John 7:10*).
- C. Jesus had no problem riding an unbroken colt—no bucking.
- D. The swift gathering of a crowd to proclaim the Messiah's arrival.
- E. The Roman soldiers didn't stop it.
- F. The religious leaders didn't stop it.
- G. Christ's suggestion that the rocks could praise him.
- H. Other.

**5. Why did Jesus cry over Jerusalem?**

- A. Because of the city's past.
- B. Because of the city's present.
- C. Because of the city's future.
- D. He knew those praising him would soon shout, "Crucify him!"
- E. Jesus was a very sensitive guy.
- F. The religious leaders kept leading the people astray.
- G. Rejection.
- H. Other.

**6. Why did Jesus clear the temple?**

- A. It was time for the sanctuary to be cleansed.
- B. It reverted to what it was at the start of his ministry (*John 2:13-17*).
- C. The disciples asked Jesus to do it again.
- D. God the Father told Jesus to do it.
- E. Jesus wanted to replace corrupt commerce with prayer.
- F. To give those excluded from the temple access to the temple.
- G. Jesus claimed the temple as his domain at this time.
- H. Other.

**7. What role does money play in the *Luke 19* stories? What role does money play in your life now?**

**8. Where would you place yourself in the story of Christ's triumphal entry? his weeping? his cleansing the temple? How would that apply to your life today?**

# I've Got a Question for You

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Do you prefer to ask questions or give answers?

## READ Luke 20:1-47.

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**1. What source of authority could Jesus have given his inquisitors (vs. 2)?**

- A. God.
- B. Jesus himself.
- C. Moses.
- D. The Old Testament prophets.
- E. John the Baptist.
- F. The Messiah.
- G. Tradition.
- H. Rome.
- I. Other.

**2. What was the main point about Jesus' story about the evil farmers?**

- A. Farmers can be evil people.
- B. The vineyard belongs to God.
- C. The farmers treated the owner's people very poorly.
- D. The farmers murdered the owner's son.
- E. Getting the religious leaders to indict themselves.
- F. Exposing the religious leaders to the common people.
- G. Communicating a harsh reality through a parable.
- H. God's vineyard was about to be given to others.
- I. Other.

**3. What is the meaning of "give to Caesar ..." (vs. 25)?**

- A. You owe both Caesar and God.
- B. Caesar doesn't own everything.
- C. God doesn't own everything.
- D. Give Caesar as many pictures of himself on coins as he wants.
- E. Caesar has to put his stamp on metal; God's stamp is everywhere.
- F. Pay taxes and tithe.
- G. You have God's stamp on you; therefore give yourself to God.
- H. It's just a clever turn of a phrase.
- I. Other.



**4. Why didn't the Sadducees believe in resurrection?**

- A. They were very smart.
- B. They were the opposite of smart.
- C. They were too smart for their britches.
- D. Nobody they knew had even been resurrected—no proof.
- E. They were faithless—trusting only in things they could see.
- F. Lazarus hadn't yet been raised from the dead.
- G. They were “sad-you-see.”
- H. Other.

**5. What was Jesus' response to the Sadducee's clever question (vs. 33)?**

- A. The woman will be married to her first husband.
- B. You don't know what you're talking about.
- C. Marriage is for earth, not for heaven.
- D. Heaven is better than sex.
- E. God hadn't thought through marriage conundrums in advance.
- F. You don't believe in resurrection; how will you understand marriage?
- G. I can confuse you more than your attempt to confuse me.
- H. Other.

**6. What was Christ's real question which he posed with *Psalm 110:1*?**

- A. Do you know LORD (all caps) is Yahweh, while lord is master/elder?
- B. Israel's enemies would get stomped by the Israelites.
- C. Yahweh's enemies would get stomped by Yahweh.
- D. Yahweh's enemies would get stomped by Jesus.
- E. Jesus was the Son of Man (David's son).
- F. Jesus was the Son of God (Yahweh's son).
- G. Did you know you're trying to trip up God's Son—Me?!
- H. Other.

**7. If God created marriage in the Garden of Eden, and blessed it throughout Scripture, why won't there be marriage in heaven?**

**8. In what way is your reputation an accurate portrayal of you? What's not accurate about your current reputation?**

# Pay Attention

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## OPENING QUESTION

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How good are your observation skills, on a scale of **1** (low) to **10** (high)?

## READ Luke 21:1–38.

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### 1. What message came through to you with the widow's offering?

- A. A little matters a lot.
- B. The percentage counts more than quantity.
- C. Rich people give comparatively little to God.
- D. Poor people give more than rich people.
- E. Rich people's offerings don't matter as much as we think they do.
- F. The church will take all you have.
- G. Offerings are a good metric of one's values.
- H. Offerings are a poor metric of one's values.
- I. Other.

### 2. What would be the worst thing for you to lose?

- A. Freedom.
- B. Life.
- C. Respect.
- D. Family.
- E. Finances.
- F. Faith.
- G. Your physical health.
- H. Your mind.
- I. Other.

### 3. What warnings has God provided before past calamities?

- A. Noah's preaching before the Flood.
- B. Pharaoh's dreams interpreted by Joseph.
- C. Old Testament prophets warning about Babylonian captivity.
- D. Jesus predicting his death.
- E. The destruction of Jerusalem.
- F. Jewish massacres, such as World War II.
- G. Natural catastrophes—drought, fire, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes.
- H. Worldliness.
- I. Other.

**4. Name one warning in *Luke 21* that scares you the most.**

- A. Persecution.
- B. Betrayal by family and friends.
- C. Death.
- D. Fleeing.
- E. Disease.
- F. Signs in the sky.
- G. Seeing the Son of Man arriving on the clouds.
- H. Other.

**5. How can you know Christ's return is near?**

- A. Leaves come on the fig trees (*vs. 29*).
- B. The world seems to fall apart.
- C. God will somehow let you know.
- D. Pay attention to what's happening all around you.
- E. You can't know (see *Matthew 24:36*).
- F. You can know (see *Luke 21:31*).
- G. Tune in to "End of the world" media presentations.
- H. Other.

**6. Why will there be so much upheaval before Christ returns?**

- A. There has been upheaval on earth since the Fall in Eden.
- B. Things are going downhill—getting worse and worse.
- C. I'm not so sure Christ will return in my lifetime.
- D. I don't see how things could get any worse than they are now.
- E. It's the devil's rage.
- F. The Great Controversy (Christ vs. Satan) is reaching its climax.
- G. We're on a course of self-destruction; only Christ can stop it.
- H. Other.

**7. What elements from Christ's prediction about Jerusalem's destruction (*vs. 5-7, 32*) would you apply to Christ's second coming? What do you expect will happen before Christ returns?**

**8. How can you live well in the present if you need to keep watch about the future (*vs. 34-36*)?**

# Shocking

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Are you more shocked by the evil in the world or by the good in the world?

### READ Luke 22:1–71.

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**1. What shocks you the most about the developing plot to betray Jesus?**

- A. One of Christ's disciples instigated it.
- B. The religious leaders actually talked about murdering Jesus.
- C. Temple guards joined the Passover plot.
- D. Satan entered Judas.
- E. Doing this quietly to bypass potential public revolt.
- F. The rest of Christ's disciples knew nothing about this.
- G. Jesus knew nothing about it.
- H. The irony of Jewish leaders plotting death during the Passover.
- I. Other.

**2. What did Luke include in his telling of the Last Supper?**

- A. Peter and John were capable of preparing the Passover meal.
- B. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.
- C. The disciples continued their debate about who was the greatest.
- D. Jesus took the cup before he broke the bread.
- E. The Passover Seder meal has four times of drinking from the cup.
- F. Jesus had looked forward to this particular Passover meal.
- G. Christ told his disciples to repeat this in remembrance of him.
- H. Jesus gave clues about his betrayer.
- I. Other.

**3. If you were Peter, what's your response to Christ's warning (vs. 31-32)?**

- A. No way!
- B. Thanks for the "heads up."
- C. What should I do? What can I do?
- D. Please keep praying for me.
- E. James and John need your prayers more than I do.
- F. After all I've done for you, this is how you see me?
- G. I guarantee I will never deny you.
- H. I'll go down fighting.
- I. Other.

**4. What happened that night on the Mount of Olives?**

- A. Jesus followed his regular routine—he went to pray.
- B. The disciples followed their regular routine—they went to sleep.
- C. Jesus admonished his disciples to pray.
- D. Jesus begged his disciples to pray.
- E. Christ engaged in the supernatural battle for this world at that time.
- F. Prayer and submission to God seemed to be the critical elements.
- G. Jesus sweat blood in his agony.
- H. Other.

**5. According to Luke, what happened at Christ's arrest?**

- A. Judas personified hypocrisy using the kiss of friendship as his sign.
- B. Many died in the showdown.
- C. The disciples laid down their weapons.
- D. The high priest's servant obtained a story for those with ears to hear.
- E. Jesus took control of the situation.
- F. The disciples fled.
- G. Leading priests and temple guards shared communion with Jesus.
- H. Other.

**6. What shocks you the most about Christ's trial before the Sanhedrin?**

- A. Peter really did deny Jesus.
- B. Nicodemus didn't speak up and stop the proceedings.
- C. They broke their own rules that forbade a nighttime judgment.
- D. Religious leaders killed the Son of God (as in *Luke 20:9-19*).
- E. The rough treatment of Jesus by the temple guards.
- F. How difficult it was to condemn Jesus.
- G. God the Father allowed this to happen.
- H. Other.

**7. Are you more likely to deny Jesus by what you say or by what you do? What about by what you don't say or don't do?**

**8. Jesus seemed destined to be killed and then placed at God's right hand of power (*vs. 69*). What is your destiny—on earth and in heaven??**

# Out of Control

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## OPENING QUESTION

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When have you seen someone horribly mistreated?

### READ Luke 23:1–56.

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#### 1. What was a good reason to eliminate Jesus?

- A. Jesus advocated to not pay taxes.
- B. He claimed to be the King of the Jews.
- C. He claimed to be the King of the whole world.
- D. Jesus had upended the Jewish systems and powers (repeatedly).
- E. The Jewish leaders wanted to work more closely with the Romans.
- F. Jesus was the Lamb of God.
- G. Jesus was God.
- H. There were no good reasons to eliminate Jesus.
- I. Other.

#### 2. Who was in control during the trial of Jesus?

- A. Pilate.
- B. Herod.
- C. The Jewish leaders.
- D. The mob.
- E. Satan.
- F. Jesus.
- G. Christ's disciples.
- H. The Roman soldiers.
- I. Other.

#### 3. Why did Pilate crucify Jesus?

- A. Pilate felt threatened by Jesus.
- B. Pilate felt threatened by the Jewish leaders.
- C. Pilate felt threatened by the mob.
- D. This fulfilled Bible prophecy.
- E. Pilate was simply a pawn in Satan's hands.
- F. Pilate didn't crucify Jesus, he just handed him over to the mob.
- G. Pilate tried to defend Jesus, not crucify him.
- H. Pilate really didn't care.
- I. Other.

**4. Why did Jesus pray for his Father to forgive his killers?**

- A. That's what Jesus does.
- B. That's who Jesus is.
- C. It would have been an unpardonable sin without this intervention.
- D. This further showed the differences between light and darkness.
- E. The killers really were quite clueless about what was happening.
- F. Jesus had become delirious.
- G. It serves as an example for us to follow with supernatural power.
- H. Other.

**5. What made the death of Christ Friday afternoon so unusual?**

- A. Crucifixion usually took more time.
- B. One guilty thief on a cross put his faith in Jesus, and one didn't.
- C. The testimony of the Roman captain overseeing the crucifixion.
- D. The temple curtain tore, exposing an empty Most Holy Place.
- E. Nature seemed to respond to the shadowy event.
- F. So many who had followed Christ turned on him.
- G. It gave Jesus Sabbath rest.
- H. Other.

**6. Why did the women wait to anoint the body of Jesus after Sabbath?**

- A. The Roman soldiers blocked their access.
- B. They didn't have the spices and ointments ready before Sabbath.
- C. They were too overwhelmed to create a plan until then.
- D. Anointing the body of Jesus on Sabbath would break the Sabbath.
- E. They had to prepare food for Sabbath potluck first.
- F. God wanted them at the tomb on Sunday morning.
- G. They feared what might happen to themselves.
- H. Other.

**7. In what ways are you similar to Barabbas (vs. 18-19)? In what ways are you different from Barabbas?**

**8. What troubles you most about the death of Christ?**

# A Very Unusual Day

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Describe a typical day for you—in 30 seconds or less.

## READ Luke 24:1–53.

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### 1. What would you think if you arrived at Christ's empty, deserted tomb?

- A. I must be at the wrong tomb.
- B. Where are the Roman soldiers?
- C. Who moved the giant stone that was sealed in place?
- D. Those courageous disciples must have stolen Christ's body.
- E. Joseph of Arimathea might have had a change of heart or mind.
- F. Jesus must be resurrected.
- G. I could be dreaming.
- H. The religious leaders are probably up to something.
- I. Other.

### 2. What would be your response to the women's testimony (vs. 9-11)?

- A. Do you really expect me to believe you?
- B. Women—that's why their testimony doesn't count in court.
- C. If it weren't for these women, we would have no testimony.
- D. Either they were hallucinating or they had a vision.
- E. Who were those two men in dazzling robes who talked to you?
- F. I'm going to the tomb to see for myself.
- G. I knew Jesus would rise from the dead.
- H. I know Pilate sealed the tomb and stationed a Roman guard there.
- I. Other.

### 3. Why didn't the two on the road to Emmaus recognize Jesus?

- A. They had never actually seen Jesus up close previous to this.
- B. Jesus was the last person they expected to see that day.
- C. Observation skills weren't their strongest skills.
- D. Jesus wore a hoody and sunglasses.
- E. God kept them from recognizing Jesus.
- F. Their grief and disappointment overwhelmed their thinking.
- G. Jesus didn't present himself in the way they expected.
- H. Their lack of Bible knowledge blunted their perception.
- I. Other.



**4. On resurrection day, why did Jesus spend the time to walk to Emmaus?**

- A. After three days in the tomb, Jesus wanted to stretch his legs.
- B. These disciples were open to a new understanding of Scripture.
- C. Christ's 11 remaining disciples weren't ready to see him yet.
- D. Jesus had already created enough excitement in Jerusalem.
- E. Jesus resisted the temptation to visit Pilate, Annas, and Caiaphas.
- F. Jesus feared for his life in Jerusalem.
- G. Jesus only appears to those who seek him.
- H. Other.

**5. What made it difficult to believe Christ rose from the dead?**

- A. It's not every day that someone rises from the dead.
- B. Mary Magdalene (and the other women) didn't have any credibility.
- C. Peter saw the empty tomb, but no angels and no Jesus.
- D. Cleopas and his unnamed partner weren't part of Christ's inner circle.
- E. The disciples expected Jesus would appear to them first.
- F. Because Jesus had died, seeing him alive in front of them was simply unbelievable.
- G. When Jesus doesn't meet your expectations, it's hard to change.
- H. Other.

**6. Prioritize from 1-8 Jesus' messages to the disciples (vs. 36-49):**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Shalom** (Hebrew for God's supernatural peace).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Touch me and be sure I am who I say I am.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I'd like to eat some food.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Let me give you a new understanding of the Bible.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spread this message: Repent and be forgiven.
- \_\_\_\_\_ You are my witnesses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Don't do anything until the Holy Spirit empowers you.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will send you the Holy Spirit.

**7. What do you need your eyes opened to see (in a new way)?**

**8. What is your witness that Christ was resurrected 2,000 years ago? What difference does that make to you? to others?**

