

Spending Time with Jesus in Luke 5

Don't forget to invite Jesus to speak to you as you read this week.

First read through: Read Chapter 5 all the way through, imagining you are there.

Second read through: Look for themes and underline them in the color on your key.

What do you notice?

1)

2)

3)

Third read through: Answer questions as you go.

Luke 5:1-11

Put yourself in Simon Peter's sandals. How would you describe his feelings when Jesus told him to go into deep water and let down his nets? What tone of voice is he using in his answer in verse 5? (Remember 4:38-39, too.)

*Why does he fall at Jesus' knees? Every other time the phrase is "to fall at his feet."
Remember the story. Where are they at that moment?*

Read Isaiah 6:1-5. When Isaiah sees the Lord, exalted and seated on his throne, he cries out kind of like Peter in Luke 5. Why does Simon Peter say, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" In other words, what has made Peter aware of his sin?

How would you define what it means to be a disciple based on 5:11 (and Matthew 16:24)?

Luke 5:12-16

Imagine having leprosy in Bible times and not having a single person touch you or come near you...for years. Your family brings you food and leaves it on the ground at a meeting point, and then they back up several feet away so that you can go pick it up without accidentally contaminating them. You long to be close enough for a normal conversation, to look into their eyes, to just be with them.

Leprosy starts as a small patch of skin. The man in this story is covered, so his years-long terrible fight with this disease has almost ended. He is close to death.

He also has amazing faith. Since the Law was written, no Jew has ever been healed from leprosy. Miriam had it for 7 days as a judgment for bad mouthing her brother Moses, but that was before the law was written. And in Luke 4, Jesus mentioned Naaman the Gentile being healed from leprosy. But not one Jew.

The rabbis taught that when the Messiah came, he would have the power to cure leprosy.

Who does the man with leprosy believe Jesus is?

What crazy thing does Jesus do when healing this man?

It would take 4-5 days for the man to walk from Galilee to Jerusalem to show himself to the priest, and the priest would have to examine him over the course of 7 days to be sure he was clean. On the first and again on the eighth day, he would bring sacrifices (this is described in Leviticus 14.)

Jesus said those sacrifices were a testimony to whom?

In the midst of teaching and healing crowds of people, what does Jesus often do?

Why would he do this?

If Jesus needed to do that, how much more do we! How are you doing at spending time alone with Jesus?

Luke 5:17-26

Hmmm, there are Pharisees and teachers of the law showing up...from all over Israel, even Jerusalem. *Looking at the story in vv 12-16, can you guess why they are all of the sudden so interested in Jesus that some of them would walk 4-5 days to hear him?*

The Pharisees and teachers of the law are upset when Jesus says, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." What do they realize Jesus is claiming?

Luke 5:27-39

List all the outcasts Jesus reaches out to in this chapter: (underline in pink in your portion/Bible)

What does Jesus say about the upside-down kingdom in verse 32? Would that have been surprising to the Pharisees and teachers of the law? Why or why not?

Lord, show us, your church, if there is anyone we feel would not be included in your kingdom. Give us your love for them!

Fasting was a practice that God's people used to help them remember that they were dependent on God for all things. Denying yourself food frees up time to spend praying...and a growling stomach reminds you to pray. God invites us to fast, but he does not command it. The Pharisees and teachers of the law expect everyone to fast. To them it is a requirement.

Jesus calls his disciples "friends of the bridegroom." He is the bridegroom. Think about weddings you have seen. How close are the friends of the groom and the groom?

How do you think the Pharisees and teachers of the law felt about Jesus saying that his being with his disciples is reason for celebration, not fasting?

Do you live as though just knowing Jesus is with you is cause for celebration?