

# The Life and work of Jesus

A study in Luke 7 to 10



# FEBRUARY 2018

## Day 1

Who is someone you would say has “great” faith? Why do you think that about them?

William Carey comes to mind. He was a man in the 1700’s and 1800’s who wanted to be a missionary to India. Church and mission boards told him he was not the guy to carry out this mission. He felt called by God to reach the people of India and so he was persistent. Eventually he was sent to do the work of missions in India. God used him in incredible way in the lives of the people of India and also used him to encourage and inspire a whole new generation of missionaries. He never gave up but had faith in God, that He would make a way. He had great faith. This month we look at Jesus ministry following the Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel of Luke. Ask God to encourage you in your faith as you read the world today.

### **Read Luke 7:1-10**

What do we see about the Centurion’s relationship with his servant? How much did he love him? What was he willing to do for him?

What do we see about the kind of authority and power the Centurion had?

How do we see a man who comes before God humbly, knowing he is unworthy of anything God could do good for him?

Jesus said this man had great faith. What do we see in the Centurion's actions, and attitude that shows a man of "great" faith?

Jesus heals his servant. Are you a person of "great" faith? If yes, how do you know. If no, why not?

PRAYER – Pray for God to grow your faith in Christ.

## Day 2

When you think about being people coming back from the dead, what picture pops immediately into your mind? Why?

There are probably a lot of pictures that come into our minds when it comes to people coming back from the dead. For some reading this it might be a zombie type picture from a movie or television show you watch. For others it could be a superhero. It seems that every superhero dies many times and they always come back to life. If your favorite character dies, just give it time, they will find some crazy way to bring them back. I hope many of us will at least at some point think of how Jesus brought people back to life including us. We were dead in sin and through faith in Jesus Christ we were brought to life. Ask God to encourage you in this truth as you read this story from the Bible today.

### **Read Luke 7:11-17**

This story happened soon after healing the Centurion's servant. So a great crowd was now following Jesus. Describe in your own words this scene Jesus came upon. Describe the people, the mood, the background of what you might see. Be detailed.

What does this story show you about the character of Jesus?

Jesus touched the bier, which held the son. What do you think people were thinking as Jesus did this?

How did the people react to this miracle? Why do you think they reacted in these ways?

Think about your life. What are ways in which you know and can see that God has truly brought you back from the dead?

PRAYER – Thank God for all the changes He has made in your life because of being saved through faith in Jesus.

## Day 3

What is it about children that makes them so quick and easy to trust people who tell them things?

Children are innocent. They have no reason to not trust the adults who are in their lives. They believe what they are told even if it is bad things. They do this because they love and care for those people. They have no experiences that tell them otherwise. That is why a lot of children will jump into the water into the hands of their parents. They trust that their mom or dad will catch them. They don't think they will be dropped. They take the leap believing that truth. Do you have child-like faith when it comes to your faith in Christ? Or are you filled with doubts? Ask God to help you wrestle with this question as you read the Bible today.

### Read Luke 7:18-35

How do we see John is wrestling through some doubts about Jesus?  
What does he do to help him wrestle with those doubts?

What does Jesus do for John's followers to help them and John with their questions and doubts?

In verses 24 to 29, what does Jesus say about John and how important he was in God's plan?

How did the people and Pharisees react when Jesus said that the least in God's kingdom were greater than John?

What did different people think about John and Jesus in verses 31 to 34?

Jesus says we need to have faith like a child in verse 35. The Pharisees and leaders did not. Is your faith like the Pharisees or like a child? Explain your answer.

PRAYER – Ask for child-like faith. Thank him for the gift of faith.

## Day 4

Think of 3 kinds of people you would never expect to see in the church. Next to each one write why you would not expect them to be in church.

1.

2.

3.

Who are 3 people that I would be surprised to see? A hard core evolutionist. They believe that belief in God is a crock. How could you believe in someone who spoke the world into existence. God is not needed and weak man's construct. Someone who has changed their gender or actively engaging in a same gender relationship. I would be surprised because they believe Christians are judgmental and don't want to get to know them or their lives. Lastly, would be a Hindu, Buddhist or Muslim, because they are part of a religion that is opposed to Christianity. Yet, God can bring any one of these people into our church. Are we ready to minister to them? Ask God to challenge and encourage your thoughts on this as you read the Bible today.

### Read Luke 7:36-50

Write down 4 or 5 observations of this story as far as what people are thinking, feeling or what you might expect to see as this story is unfolding.

How does Jesus compare this woman with his host Simon?

What illustration does Jesus use in verses 41 to 43? What was his point?

What does Jesus do for the woman? What was the reaction of the people to Jesus action? Why?

Who are 3 people/ groups you can pray would be saved like the woman and like the Pharisees needed? What else can you pray for them about?

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – For the 3 people's salvation and the other request.

## Day 5

What is a story you read or have been told that had a hidden meaning for your life? What was the meaning?

I love the story of the tortoise and the hare. The hare is cocky and thinking he will win the race with the tortoise he basically goofs off, naps and does not take seriously running the race. The hare the whole time keeps running as fast as his little body can take him. He eventually wins the race to the dismay of the hare. How could he have lost the race. He lost it because he took his eyes off the prize and put them on the tortoise. He let how he run the race, be dictated by what he saw outwardly. He did not try his best and he lost. There are so many meanings in the story. One take away is do your best, be persistent, and you will accomplish great things, like a tortoise winning a race against a hare. Jesus told stories to people in the form of parables. Today we look at one of them. Ask God to show you His truths and what they mean for your life.

### **Read Luke 8:1-8**

Who do you think is the sower in this parable?

What is the seed?

Describe the seed in the following verses. Also write one way in which you would see that in a person's life.

Verse 5 – seed on the path –

Verse 6 – seed on the rocks –

Verse 7 – seed with the thorns –

Verse 8 – seed on good soil –

These seeds represent people. The good seed is the person truly following Jesus Christ. The other seeds are not. What are ways in which Christians grow like the seed? Circle the things you wrote that you see in your own life.

PRAYER – Give thanks for spiritual growth. Pray for continued growth.

## Day 6

Name 3 symbols we see in our world today. What does each symbol point to or mean?

1.

2.

3.

If I am driving on a long trip and see the Golden Arches or a big Yellow M, I know that there is a McDonalds nearby. When I am surfing the internet and I see a rainbow colored G then I know that I am about to surf on Google. If I am in pain and need to get to doctor and I see a blue sign with an H on it, then I know there is a hospital nearby. These are all signs that point to some greater meaning. The sign can do nothing for you, but you follow it to that which is true and real. Jesus told stories or parables for the same reason. He wanted people to hear truth by using symbols in his parables. Ask God to instruct your heart in his word today.

### Read Luke 8:9-15

Look back at what you wrote down yesterday for answers in the parable of the sower. Were you right and what you wrote down for meanings? Where were you right and where were you wrong?

Look at verse 10. Why did Jesus tell parables for?

1. Believers –
  
2. Unbelievers –

When you think about this parable, what point did Jesus want to make to the people who were listening?

How was this parable a slap in the face to the Pharisees and religious leaders?

Name a person you know that is like each of the seeds and why:

1. Verse 12 – seed on the path –
  
2. Verse 13 – seed on the rock –
  
3. Verse 14 – seed by thorns –
  
4. Verse 15 – seed on good soil –

PRAYER – Pray for each person you wrote about above.

## Day 7

List all the characteristics of light? Which is most important? Why?

I love cave exploring, at least in caves I know are relatively safe. Every time I take a group caving, at some point I tell everybody to turn off their lights and tell me if they can see their hands right in front of their faces. No one ever can. It is creepy how dark the darkness can be and why light is so important. It helps us see. It shows us all the details of things around us. We can see nothing without light. Ask God that this simple lesson will guide you and challenge you as you read the Bible.

### **Read Luke 8:16-21**

What do you do and don't do with light according to verse 16? Why not?

What does verse 17 say about things we think are hidden or will never be found out? Who knows? How do they know?

What is verse 18 saying about Christians and non-Christians?

Jesus is referred to the Light. When you think about these first 3 verses, how is Jesus the Light?

Was Jesus saying in verses 19 to 21 that he hated his mother and brothers? If not, what was Jesus point in these verses?

What are ways in which God's word has been a light in your life? What kinds of things has it shown you or exposed in your heart?

PRAYER – Give thanks for the Bible and it lighting our path and helping us see what is right and true and sin in our life.

## Day 8

When is a time when your faith was shaken or wavered? Why was it shaken? How did you come through that trying time?

I loved the new *Wonder Woman* movie. Diana thought she was going to fight Ares, the God of War. She thought that if she just helped men then they would do the right thing, they would be good. But as she fought she realized that men were not that good. They did terrible things to each other. They killed innocent men, women and children. She had helped liberate a town under siege by the Germans only to have them use a gas and kill all the people a little later. Her faith in men was shaken. It was not something that she believed she could come back from. When we face hard situations in our lives, sometimes our faith is tested and shaken. Do we ultimately learn to trust God in those hard times? Ask God to strengthen your faith as you read his word today.

### **Read Luke 8:22-25**

Why was the faith of Jesus disciples shaken?

In that moment where was their focus? Why?

Jesus slept because he was tired. That simple. Jesus was fully man.  
What does Jesus do to the wind and waves? What happens?

What does Jesus say to his disciples? Why did they need to hear this?

What is the disciples' reaction to Jesus actions and words? Why?

Think about your doubt. Pretend Jesus is saying verse 25 to you. What does that make you feel and think?

PRAYER – Pray about the doubts you are having in your faith.

## Day 9

What is something you have seen or experienced that scared you because you could not explain it? Describe the situation or event.

I like watching *America's Got Talent* during the summer months. There is a great variety of acts. The ones that blow me away are usually the magic acts and the acts where it seems like they are reading your minds. The ones who read your minds are the scary ones to me. There was a man named Colin Cloud who told one of the judges a girl from her childhood that she thought bad things about. Woah! I think I would be a little afraid being around him because what if he really did know what I am thinking. That is scary. It is natural to be fearful of things we cannot explain. That brings us to our story today. Ask God to encourage you in your faith through your reading of the Bible.

### **Read Luke 8:26-39**

Write a two sentence summary of this story for a pretend newspaper.

What is the main point God wants us to see through this account in the life of Jesus Christ?

Describe the demon possessed man before and after the possession.

Describe the demons in this story. What do we see about who they are, what they feel and what they believe about Jesus?

Describe the herdsmen and the towns people. What are they thinking and feeling as a result of this event? Why?

What important things do you see about Jesus in this story? Why is that important for you to see?

PRAYER – Praise God for the person and works of Jesus Christ.

## Day 10

What is the difference between “faith” and “wishful thinking”? Give an example of each one.

Wishful thinking is wishing that you would win a million dollars. You know it is probably not going to happen but you wish for it against every single odd. Faith is being confident that something is going to happen without any evidence to support your claim. George Mueller believed that when all food was gone in his orphanage that God would provide food for all the children. He did not waver. He knew it would happen. That is the difference between faith and wishful thinking. Today we look at two people who had incredible faith in Jesus and their lives were changed forever. Ask God to grow you in your faith as you read His Word.

### **Read Luke 8:40-56**

How did Jairus show he had faith in Jesus?

How was Jairus faith rewarded in this story?

How did the woman show she had faith in Jesus?

How was her faith rewarded?

How did the people, who were probably “paid” mourners show their lack of faith when Jesus showed up?

What impact do you think these acts of Jesus had on:

1. Jairus and his wife –

2. Jairus’s daughter –

3. The disciples –

4. You –

PRAYER – Pray for faith for you, family member, friend and non-Christian.

## Day 11

Describe a mission trip or service project you have participate in. What kinds of things did you do? What kinds of things did you say/teach?

There are many ways in which we go out and tell people a message that is important to us, whether good or bad. It could be the fact that you want to kneel down as an athlete during the National anthem, to make a point about racial inequality as controversial as that might be. It could be a salesperson trying to convince you why this car, house, washing machine is the one for you. Or it could be a Christian who talks about how Jesus Christ has changed their life and that people can know Jesus too. We all have a message to share, good or bad. What are you sharing with those around you? Ask God to show you what you need to be saying to the people He has put in your life as you read his message today.

### **Read Luke 9:1-6**

How do we see in these verses that all the disciples did was because of God and not because of them?

How is this a humbling thing to be reminded about?

What are all the different things that the disciples did? List them all.

Jesus knew people would reject them. Did he want them to fight and argue with them? Explain.

Look at the list of all the disciples did. What are ways in which we should be doing the same things today?

Write down one thing that is easy for you to do in serving Jesus. Write down one thing that is hard for you to do in serving Jesus. Write why next to each one.

1. Easy –

2. Hard –

PRAYER – Ask for boldness and power in serving God by serving others.

## Day 12

What are two things that confuse you? Write why next to each one.

1.

2.

I am confused at why terrorists destroy everything in their path. They destroy houses, oil refineries, grocery stores, fields, churches, roads, etc. They have to live somewhere. If they destroy everything then what in the world are they going to do for the necessities of life. Confusing. I am also confused as to why cats are so evil. My cat is the most loving animal one minute. He is nudging your ankle, purring and coming up on your lap. Then a split second later he is biting your ankle, swiping at your face and in attack mode. Why? It is so confusing. People were confused about Jesus. Who was this man who seemed like a mere man and yet he said and did things that were pretty powerful. Ask God to help you apply His word to your heart as you read and study it today.

### Read Luke 9:7-9

What are all the factors that had Herod confused?

Why do you think he was confused?

How did Herod show he was curious about Jesus in the midst of his confusion?

Why do you think he was curious about who Jesus was?

List 3 things that people get confused about when it comes to Jesus?  
Write next to each one, something you can say to help those people.

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Pray for 2 people in your life, that they would not be confused about who Jesus is.

## Day 13

If you had the power to multiply anything, by the power of your word, what would you multiply and why?

I can guess what most people would say. Money! Who would not want more of that. It could get us anything we want. It would make us happy. We would not have any needs. Yes, that is an answer. I would be tempted to say that as my answer. I would like to multiply cars. One of my children is schedule to drive this which means the others are right behind in him in wanting to get a license. I would love if I could pray over my car and then multiply it so everybody could have their own car. It would be so much cheaper for everyone. Today we look at a story where Jesus multiplied food. Ask for heart of understanding as you read and study the Bible.

### **Read Luke 9:10-17**

What do we see about Jesus popularity in the first part of this story?

Why did the disciples want to send the people away?

What was Jesus response to the disciples' request? What does this show you about the character of Christ?

How did the disciples seem to lack faith?

Think about what Jesus did. In what ways would it have amazed all of those who were present?

What "amazing" things have you seen God do in your life that have strengthened your faith?

PRAYER – Give thanks for "amazing" acts of God and for the gift of faith.

## Day 14

If someone was to ask you who Jesus is to you in one word or phrase, what would you say? Why is that the thing that comes to mind?

So many words and phrases come to mind. I would say Prince of Peace. For some reason that popped in my head first. We live in a world that is at war. There does not seem to be any peace, here at home or abroad. There always seems to be people fighting whether in my house, in the church, at school, in the political realm and in so many countries. Our world seems devoid of peace. Yet, for those who know Jesus Christ, we have been given a peace that passes all understanding. How can a person be so at peace when their life seems to be falling apart? One word. Jesus. He is the Prince of Peace. Ask God to give you peace as you read and study today.

### **Read Luke 9:18-22**

What answers do the disciples give as to who the crowds think he is?

Why do you think people thought Jesus was John the Baptist, Elijah or one of the prophets?

Then Jesus asks the disciples the question. What is Peter's answer?

When you think about Peter's answer, who is he saying Jesus is?

Jesus then says don't tell anybody this truth about me yet. Why not according to verse 22?

Were the disciples always to keep quiet about this truth? How do we know that Jesus meant for them to share this truth eventually?

Take a minute. Write down who Jesus is to you.

PRAYER – Give thanks for all you just wrote down about Jesus.

## Day 15

What would you do to show you follow the following things:

1. A certain sports team –
2. A church group –
3. Social issue –

Someone who follows a person, group or an idea is willing to give of themselves to follow. They give up personal comfort, dreams, and things they want to do in order to follow. There are many missionaries I have met who gave up a lot to serve on the mission field. They give up all the comforts of their own country, they give up their extended family, they sacrifice of money, they leave their home church. These are all things that they would give up to follow the Lord to serve on the mission field. What would you give up to follow Jesus? Pray that today's study will challenge that question as you think about your life.

### **Read Luke 9:23-27**

What does Jesus say about following him in verse 23?

What does it mean to deny yourself? What is something you have to deny yourself in order to follow Jesus?

We are to do this daily. What does he say about our lives in verse 24?

Some will want the comforts of the world. It will tempt them. What does Jesus say about this in verse 25? Why is this hard to hear for many?

What is hard about what Jesus says in verse 26? What is comforting about what he says in verse 27?

Take a good look at your life. Are you living for the world or are you denying yourself to follow Jesus? Be honest. Explain your answer.

PRAYER – Ask for help to deny yourself. Confess your idols of the world.

## Day 16

What one miracle in the Bible would you have loved to see with your own eyes? Why?

I would have loved to see the story from a few days ago, when Jesus cast out the Legion of demons into the pigs and they ran down the bank and were drowned. I would have loved to see the transformation in the man possessed. I would have loved to hear the interaction between Jesus and the demons. That would have been a great event to see. For me a close second would be to have seen the time when Jesus was transfigured before the disciples' eyes. Today we read that story. Ask God to amaze you as you read the Bible today.

### **Read Luke 9:28-36**

Our event takes place 8 days after what we studied yesterday. What happens when Jesus starts to pray? What changes? Who shows up? Share all that happen in verses 29 to 32.

What does Peter want to do according to verse 33? Why?

Then the second “amazing” event happens. What is it? Why would it have been “amazing” to the 3 disciples?

What do you think the disciples are thinking and feeling after these two experiences in this chapter?

It says they kept quiet about this event in those days. But man they remembered later when they started preaching after Jesus ascended to heaven. What are two things about Jesus you need to share with people?

1.

2.

PRAYER – Ask God for opportunities to share these things. Pray for 2 people you can share these truths with.

## Day 17

What extremes would you be willing to go to help a loved one who is in trouble? Be honest.

That is a hard question to wrestle with. I have four children and I would do almost anything for them. Would I steal food if they were starving and that was the only way I could get food for them? Would I lie to protect them if they are wanted for a crime? Would I physically harm someone to protect my children or get revenge if they did something violent to them? I would like to think I would say no to all these questions because I know in most of them I would be going against God's Word. But I am also human and love my family. The point is we would do a lot for someone we love. Today's story is about a father that really loves his son. Ask God to challenge you in your faith as you read His word today.

### **Read Luke 9:37-43a**

I want you to read between the lines. What is going on in the heart and mind of this father as he brings his son to Jesus?

What are the different things that have happened or not happened that made this father so desperate?

What is the point of Jesus statement in verse 41?

What do we see about Jesus power and authority? Why were the people so astonished?

Would Jesus be calling you faithful or faithless like in verse 41? Explain.

PRAYER – Pray for 3 people you know who are “faithless”.

## Day 18

What is something you heard someone say, you did not understand, and were afraid to ask about it? Why were you afraid to ask?

I can remember numerous times in middle school, high school, college and, yes, even in seminary, where I heard something taught and I was not sure what they meant and I did not ask a question about it. I was afraid. What was I afraid of? I was afraid of appearing stupid. Nobody else was raising their hands so I was not going to be the only one who did not understand. There was also a part of me that wanted to figure it out on my own without anybody's help. That was pride speaking right there. Sometimes we hear something and we are afraid to ask a question. This happened to those who followed Jesus and today we look at that episode. Ask God to reveal the attitudes of your own heart as you study today.

### **Read Luke 9:43b-45**

What did Jesus mean by, "Let these words sink into your ears"?

How do you think the disciples reacted to that command by Jesus?

What hard thing did Jesus say to them in verse 44?

Why would this be a hard thing for them to hear?

What prevented them from understanding what Jesus was saying to them according to verse 45?

They were afraid to ask Jesus. What is something that you are dealing with in your life, where you are wondering what it means but you are afraid to ask God about it? Why are you afraid to ask?

PRAYER – Ask for boldness to ask God questions in prayer. Pray about the situation you wrote about above.

## Day 19

Which one of the following people is the “greatest”? Explain why.  
President of the United States, 10-time Olympic Gold Medalist, Pulitzer Prize Winner, child.

How we define greatness is a lot of times conditional on our life experiences, our world views and the upbringing of our parents. There are other factors too. I would imagine that in a group of people everybody would have answered the question above differently. The disciples had discussions amongst themselves on who was the greatest. It got heated and Jesus had to intervene. Today we look at that episode. Pray for a heart that would be changed by God’s Word today.

### **Read Luke 9:46-48**

Why do you think the disciples were arguing about who was the greatest?

What kinds of things do you think they pointed out to show why they were the greatest over the other disciples?

Jesus did not ask what they were talking about. It says he knew their hearts. How does it make you feel that God knows your heart? Why?

Why did Jesus use a child to stop this argument? What was his point?

How is the fact that the least is the greatest go against the society norm?

When it comes to how you view yourself, would you fall on the side of thinking you are the greatest, or you are the least? Explain.

**PRAYER** – Ask God for humility and to consider others better than you.

## Day 20

What are ways in which we put down about other Christians?

Why do we do this?

It is easy for us to put down Christians who come from other church backgrounds. They do things that we are not comfortable with or maybe even think is wrong. And though we may be right, we talk down about their whole faith. Many Christians do this. What are some of those issues? People who baptize children. Those who speak in tongues. Churches who sing without any instruments. The list goes on. It is easy to pick on these Christians and think they are less of Christians than us because they are not like us. It is hard to not do this. The disciples struggled with this too. Ask God to do a work on your heart in this area of your faith as you read the scriptures today.

**Read Luke 9:49-50**

Why did the disciples try to stop the man casting out demons?

What point does Jesus make to them in verse 50?

What is Jesus saying about the diversity within the body of Christ through his statement?

How should this make you think differently about Christians from other church backgrounds?

I want you to list 3 people you know from a different church background. Next to each person write one thing you appreciate about them.

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Pray for your 3 friends you listed above.

## Day 21

How would you deal with rejection in the following areas of your life:

1. A parent saying you cannot hang out with friends –
2. A person you asked out, saying no –
3. A college not accepting your application –

We all will deal with rejection at some point in our lives. It is going to happen. How will you deal with it? Some people become angry and do and say some pretty horrible things in the midst of their rejection. Others will become depressed and start thinking bad things about themselves and maybe even do some bad things to themselves. There are some people who might take it in stride and realize as someone told me once, “man’s rejection is God’s protection.” I hope we can realize in the face of rejection that God has a plan for us and that rejection factors into that plan. Let us look at an incident in the life of Christ when he was rejected. Ask God to grow you in your faith as you study the Bible today.

### **Read Luke 9:51-56**

Think about who the Samaritans are and their hatred for the Jews. Why do you think they rejected Jesus according to verses 51 to 53?

What was the disciples' reaction to the Samaritans rejection? Why do you think they reacted this way?

How was Jesus reaction to his disciples? Why do you think he reacted that way?

What was Jesus showing about who he was in what he said and did?

How does Jesus example of dealing with rejection encourage and challenge you to react differently to rejection?

PRAYER – Pray about a situation you or a friend is dealing with in regards to rejection.

## Day 22

What is something that you really wanted and it cost you a lot to get it?  
What kinds of things did you have to do or give up to get it?

In the movie *Lion*, Saroo, a five-year-old boy is separated from his mother and brother in India. He is taken into an orphanage and ultimately adopted by Australian parents. In his 20's he decides he wants to try to find his mother and brother but he does not remember where he was born or grew up. All he has is images. So he starts to try to piece those images together to find his birth mother. He gave up school, put stress on his relationship with his girlfriend and his adoptive parents. This was the cost he was willing to pay to find his mother and brother. The sacrifice paid off. He found his mother, it brought him closer to his adoptive parents and girlfriend. The sacrifice paid off. What are you willing to sacrifice to serve the Lord? This is the question for you to wrestle with as you read the Bible today.

### **Read Luke 9:57-62**

What does a person say to Jesus in verse 57? Think about his statement, what is he really saying to Jesus?

What did Jesus say to that man in verse 58? What did he want to make sure the man knew about the cost of following him?

What is the cost of following Jesus in verses 59 and 60?

What is the cost of following Jesus in verses 61 and 62?

If you take serious following Jesus, what will be 4 things it will cost you?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

PRAYER – Those 4 things & your attitude to sacrifice all to follow Jesus.

## Day 23

What mission trip have you been on? If you have not been on a mission trip, why not?

What are some of the things you do when you are on a mission trip?

Part of following Jesus Christ, and living out the Christian life is we are to be involved with the work of missions, starting right at home. Jesus understood this to be important in that he sent his disciples out to do the work of missions away from him. If Jesus sent his disciples out, how much more does he want to continue to send us out today to do the work of missions? Ask God to reveal your attitude towards missions as you consider His word today.

### Read Luke 10:1-12

What are three important things we need see about the disciples' mission in verses 1 to 3? Next to each write why that is important?

1.

2.

3.

In what ways are we still today sent like lambs among wolves? How does that make it hard for you to want to do the work of missions?

Jesus then gave his disciples a bunch of instructions about how they were to carry out their mission. What are 5 things he tells them to do or not do?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

How does God show in verses 11 to 12 that we are not to judge but that God will judge those who reject him?

What are 2 things you can be doing to take serious your call to do the work of missions?

1.

2.

PRAYER – Ask God to open your eyes to mission opportunities you need to take advantage of.

## Day 24

What kinds of warnings have your parents given you if you were to disobey them? What did they say they would do to you?

We get warnings from parents, teachers, youth leaders and the list can go on. I remember my mom telling me that if I ever got a piercing she would rip it out in my sleep. She also said if I tried to grow my hair too long, she would cut it while I slept. I never wanted to sleep. I can remember teachers saying if you don't do this work you will never get into college and you will never amount to anything. Yikes. And then there was that youth leader growing up who said if you did not do all these things, God would send you to hell. I wanted to do everything so I could earn my way to heaven. We are motivated to do a lot of things when we have a horrible picture of death, destruction and untold consequences. May this be a picture you have in your mind as you read the Bible today. Ask to know how apply the word to your heart.

### **Read Luke 10:13-16**

How would you summarize what Jesus is saying in verses 13 to 15?

What did the people reject that will bring about this horrible destruction?

Think about what Jesus is saying in verse 16. When people reject what you say about God, who are they really rejecting? How should that comfort you?

When people reject Jesus, who are they really rejecting? Why is that dangerous ground to be on?

Who are 3 people you know that are rejecting Christianity, so rejecting Christ and so rejecting God the Father. What is one way you can pray for them?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

PRAYER – Pray for the 3 people you wrote above.

## Day 25

Have you ever been given authority to lead or do something? What was it? What were given authority to do?

What do people in authority do? Some look only to their own interests and try to do everything to further themselves. Sometimes that means they hurt and put others down so they can assert their authority. There are others who are pushover authoritative figures. They give in to what the people under them want no matter how good or bad that may be. Then you have those in authority who want to lead their people and look out for their interests as well as their own interests. It is a good balance. Jesus sent out his disciples to lead with authority. Today we see a little picture of what that authority should look like. Ask God to grow you today through His Word.

### **Read Luke 10:17-20**

What do we see about the disciples' authority in verse 17? Why would that have given them joy?

Jesus saw Satan's fall. What does this tell us about the person of Jesus?  
Who is he?

What does Jesus say about the authority he gave to his followers in verse 19? How would this have given them confidence?

Yet, what does Jesus challenge them about in verse 20? Why?

What kinds of things should you be rejoicing in when you think about your faith? Think about 4 things and write them below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

PRAYER – Give thanks for what you wrote above.

## Day 26

What is one thing you would love to understand, that has escaped understanding? Why do you want to understand that?

What a list this would be if we took every person's answers from why God has done certain things, to what makes a woman tick, to what drives people to do certain things that hurt other people. I just got done watching a live news special of a 65-year-old gunman who broke a 32<sup>nd</sup> floor window of a hotel and starting firing an automatic weapon at an outdoor concert where about 22,000 people were. He killed at least 58 and injured over 100. Then he took his own life before SWAT broke into his room. I want to understand what leads a person to commit this kind of act of violence. I know sin. But what is going through their heart and mind. Today we look at things that stump us and what God does with them. Ask for a spirit of understanding today.

### **Read Luke 10:21-24**

What does Jesus say about who he reveals his truths to? What is it about these people that God would reveal his truth to them?

According to verse 22, how can we know who the Father is? What does this say about our ability to seek and find God on our own?

What blessing did the disciples have compare to many other people in verses 23 and 24?

What kinds of things did they see and hear that others would long to see and hear?

If you know Jesus, you are like the child Jesus talked about. What are 2 things that you have seen or heard that non-Christians long to see and hear?

1.

2.

PRAYER – Thank God for the helping you see the truth and know Jesus.

## Day 27

Who are 2 people God has put in your life that you like? Why?

1.

2.

Who are 2 people God has put in your life you don't like? Why?

1.

2.

Who is my neighbor? Is it just the people who live next door to me? Some might answer that way. Is it just the person in my class? Yes. But your neighbors are so much. They are the people you interact with every day. They are friends and enemies. They are frienemies. They will be people you would give the shirt off your back to and people who you would love to see just go away and find a shirt somewhere else. These are all our neighbors. Today we read a famous story Jesus used to illustrate who our neighbors are and how we are to act towards them. Ask for God to pierce your heart with His word today.

### **Read Luke 10:25-37**

We have this lawyer saying we need to love God and our neighbor to inherit eternal life. He then asks who is my neighbor. Think about verses 25 to 28 and this question. What is this lawyer really asking Jesus?

Jesus tells his story. What facts in Jesus story would have angered his Jewish listeners? Why?

How did the Samaritan sacrifice of himself to help his “enemy”? Why would this be such a big deal?

Think back again to the question of the lawyer and Jesus telling this story. What is Jesus point to the man and to us?

Who are three “neighbors” that God has put in your life that you need to treat better and be an example of Christ to? Next to their names put how you can do this in the days to come.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

PRAYER – Pray for these 3 people and your actions towards them.

## Day 28

What kinds of things distract you from spending time with the Lord? List as many as you can.

Look at your list. Circle all the ones that are legitimate reasons to not spend time with the Lord, that he would say you are good. We have lots of excuses as to why we don't spend time with the Lord. In our minds they are all "good" reasons. Yet, if we are not spending time with our Lord and King, time in which he wants to spend with us, then we are living a life that in the long run is like chasing after the wind. It is meaningless. Today we look at two women who had different priorities when it came to spending time with the Lord. Ask God to show you if your priorities are good or bad as you read the Bible today.

### Read Luke 10:38-42

Think about the few things we are told about Martha here. Based on that what kind of person do you think she is?

Now think about Mary and what we are told about her. What kind of person do you think she was?

According to Martha, whose priorities were messed up? What did she think should be done?

According to Jesus, whose priorities were messed up?

When you think about what Jesus said to Martha, what does He want most from those who follow Him?

What is so hard in following Jesus like Mary?

What are 2 things you can change in your life so you can be sitting before Jesus more often, learning from Him and getting to know Him?

1.

2.

PRAYER – Ask for help in the two things you listed above.