

NT365

The New Testament in a Year

Read the entire
New Testament in a year.

- *One Chapter each day, Monday-Friday.*
- *Daily reading notes & reflection questions.*
- *Excellent for Small Group discussion.*

Guide #3

Weeks 9-12
Mark Chapter 13
to Luke Chapter 1-16



NEW HORIZON
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3002 W. Bloomington Rd., Champaign, IL, 61822, NewHorizonChurch.org

WELCOME TO NT365

As you read this week...

- *What stands out as remarkable, intriguing, or challenging?*
- *What did you discover that you've never noticed before? What raises questions?*
- *In what ways do you feel God is speaking to your heart?*

WEEK #9: MARK CHAPTER 13-16; LUKE

CHAPTER 1

Chapter 13

1. Jesus teaches that we must be watchful of who and what we believe (vs.21-23). In what ways have God and others affirmed faith in Christ as genuine and true?
2. In vs.31, Jesus teaches, "*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will not pass away.*" In what ways have you discovered God's promises to be steadfast? In what ways are you purposely growing in your understanding and trust of Scripture?

Chapter 14

1. The story in vs.3-9 reveal a person who openly and generously honored Christ. When have you gone above and beyond in devotion to Jesus? When have you stopped short?
2. Jesus institutes Holy Communion in vs.22-25. When have been meaningful times of Communion for you? How does Communion benefit your walk with Christ?
3. Beginning in vs.32, Jesus prays in Garden of Gethsemane before His death. He closes with, "*yet not what I will but what you will*" (vs.36). What are examples of when have you have successfully turned your will over to God? When have you failed to do so?

Chapter 15

1. In vs. 6-15, Pilate offered the crowd a choice: Jesus or Barabbas. They chose Barabbas, and Jesus was taken off to be crucified. Why do we often choose evil over good? When have you done so? When have you been able to resist?
2. In vs. 31, the chief priests and teachers of the law jeered Jesus for not saving Himself like He saved others. They witnessed Christ's power, but would not believe. Has Christ demonstrated Himself sufficiently for you to believe?

Chapter 16

1. Several women who had followed Jesus went to His tomb and found it empty (vs.6-8). An angel instructed them to tell others, but they did not obey because of their fear. When has fear kept you from speaking to others about Christ? Who would God have you speak to today?
2. In vs.15, Jesus gives His final instructions to His disciples: "*Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to all people.*" What are some ways you have done so? How are you involved presently?

Luke—The Third of the Four Gospels.

The Gospel of Luke is the third of the three Synoptic Gospels. Luke is highly educated and the only Gentile (non-Jewish) author in the New Testament. He is presumed to be a physician who traveled with the Apostle Paul. He served as an evangelist, theologian, linguist, and historian, and carefully dated events and interviewed firsthand witnesses. Luke presents Jesus as the Savior of all people, especially the poor, the outcast, and women. His gospel is marked by joy, a keen interest in the Holy Spirit and prayer, and Christ's suffering. Luke portrays Jesus as Savior, fully God and fully Man, offering His life for the world's salvation.

Chapter 1

1. God chooses a young woman from a poor family in the remote village of Nazareth to give birth to the Savior of humankind (vs.26-27). How do you feel knowing that God chooses ordinary people to do extraordinary things?
2. Mary humbly submits to God's call (vs.38). When have you sensed God urging you? When have you submitted? When have you resisted?

WEEK #10:LUKE CHAPTER 2-6

Chapter 2

1. Instead of announcing the birth of Christ to diplomats, an angel delivers the good news to lowly shepherds (Luke 2:8-9). How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus came for everyone in all walks of life?
2. In vs. 25-32, a man named Simeon believed and received the child Jesus as the promised Savior. In what ways is your faith in Christ like Simeon's? In what way is it different?

Chapter 3

1. John the Baptism sternly warns the crowds, "*Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire*" (v.9) What is evident of God's fruitfulness in your life?
2. We learn in vs.21 that Jesus was baptized before beginning His public ministry. Do you understand baptism as the beginning of God's purpose for your life? Have you received baptism in this way?

Chapter 4

1. Jesus defeats the devil's temptations by quoting scripture (vs. 1-13). What is evidence in your life that you are growing in your knowledge and understanding of Scripture?
2. People to keep Jesus from leaving their vicinity, but He replied that He was sent to preach the good news of God's kingdom to other towns as well (v.42). Notice that to remain with Jesus means that we must *follow* Jesus. What is evidence in your life of following Jesus?

Chapter 5

1. When Simon Peter encounters Jesus, his first response is, "*Depart from me for I am a sinful man!*" (vs.8) Has the shame

of past sins caused you to feel unworthy of Christ? Are you able to receive Christ's invitation and follow Him?

2. Vs. 16 tells us that Jesus would often withdraw to desolate places and pray. How do you make room in your day for quiet, uninterrupted time with God? Does that Jesus' demonstration encourage you to do so?

Chapter 6

1. Vs.31 may sound familiar to you. Some call it "The Golden Rule." What can you do *today* to put this into practice?
2. Jesus teaches us not to judge or condemn others (v.37). When have you been judged by others? When do you struggle with being judgmental towards others? Who are you presently judging? Have you asked God to help you love instead?
3. "*Each tree is known by its own fruit*" (vs. 44). The fruit of our lives identifies our heart. In whom have you experienced tremendous fruit for God? What fruit do you suppose others experience in you?

WEEK #11: LUKE CHAPTER 7-11

Chapter 7

1. In vs. 2-10, we read the story of the centurion whose faith caused Jesus to marvel. The man believed both Who Jesus was and what Jesus was capable of. When do you struggle with believing Who Jesus is and what He can do? What situation in your life is calling for great faith?
2. Vs. 11-15, we see both Jesus' compassion and His ability to raise the dead. How does His love and power comfort you in the loss of a loved one? How could you share this comfort with someone who is grieving?

Chapter 8

1. The "Parable of the Sower," found in vs.5-15, illustrates various conditions of the human heart. Which of these conditions have you experienced in your own heart? In what ways is God changing your heart to become "good soil?" In what ways does this parable challenge your faith and affections?
1. In vs.43-48, we read a compelling story of a woman who is healed simply by touching the fringe of Jesus' garment. Jesus speaks to her: "*Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace.*" When has faith alone been your hope in a given situation? What are ways you purposely reach out to Jesus as she did?

Chapter 9

2. In vs. 23, Jesus uses a metaphor: "*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*" In what ways do you deny yourself to follow Jesus? What are examples of how you embrace Jesus' cross—yielding to God's will, even if it means hardships—in your daily life?
3. As Jesus' Disciples argue about who will be the greatest, Jesus challenges them to cultivate and demonstrate a servant's heart (vs.46-47). When do you humble yourself and serve? When do you seek notoriety and greatness?

Chapter 10

1. Beginning with v.1, Jesus sent out 72 of His followers to the towns He would soon visit. He prepared them for their mission in vs.3: "*Behold I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.*" How have you felt vulnerable as a Christ-follower, like lamb in the midst of wolves? What things our lives and cultures challenge our faith in Christ? How has Jesus strengthened you for such challenges?
2. In the "Parable of the Good Samaritan" (vs. 30-37), Jesus teaches that being a neighbor requires *actions* as well as good intentions. Reflecting on Jesus' parable, how have you served others in this way? How have you been served by others?

Chapter 11

1. In teaching about prayer, Jesus says, "*For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened*" (v.9-10). What are examples of how you ask, seek and knock, as you offer your prayers to your Heavenly Father? What are examples of God responding to your asking, seeking and knocking?
2. Jesus teaches, "*Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it*" (vs.28). What are ways you listen to God's Word—His voice and leadership in your life? What are examples of your obedience to God?

WEEK #12: LUKE CHAPTERS 12-16

Chapter 12

1. Jesus teaches His disciples not to be anxious: "*And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?*" (vs.25) What are examples of things that worry you? How does faith in Christ address your worry?
2. Jesus teaches, "*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*" (vs.34). What are your "treasures?" How do they tend to distract you from your relationship with God?

Chapter 13

1. In vs.1-5, Jesus stresses the message of "repent or perish". How have you seen sin in your life and others' result in pain and difficulties? When have you responded to God's call of repentance? How might God be calling you to repent today?
2. Jesus weeps for Jerusalem because of their unfaithfulness (vs. 34-35). For what reasons might Jesus weep over our city, state or country? In what ways do you sense His compassionate heart for those who reject Him?

Chapter 14

1. In The Parable of the Wedding Feast (vs. 7-11), Jesus teaches, "*Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*" When are you successful in humbling yourself? When do you struggle with humility? In what ways does Jesus both encourage and challenge your humility?
2. Sometimes our tendency is to make comfortable associations. Jesus calls us to risk relationships with people who might not

be our first choice (vs.12-14). How might you practice Jesus' teaching in your immediate context?

3. What excuses do you make that keep you from following Christ without reservation (vs.18-20)?

Chapter 15

1. The Parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Lost (Prodigal) Son, Jesus teaches that heaven rejoices when sinners repent and turn to God (vs.7&10). How would you explain the message of these parables to someone who feels they've done too many sinful things to be accepted by God? Who might you share this Good News with?
2. Vs.31-32 speak of all who return to God. What are our Heavenly Father's emotions when a son or daughter comes home? Do you sense God's emotional response over you?

Chapter 16

1. In vs.13, Jesus teaches, "*No servant can serve two masters... you cannot serve God and money*". What are examples of how the pursuit or worry over money and riches has detoured you in your relationship with God?
2. What are some of the things that are highly valued by our culture that may be "*detestable in God's sight*" (vs.14-15)? How have these things influenced your relationship with God?
3. In the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (vs.19-31), the rich man is worried about the fate of his brothers who don't follow God. Who in your life burdens your heart in this same way? How would God have you help them not experience the Rich Man's fate?