



***ADULT BIBLE STUDY
IN BASIC ENGLISH***

Gospel of Luke:
Meeting Jesus

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Dallas, Texas

ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN BASIC ENGLISH
THE GOSPEL OF LUKE: MEETING JESUS

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First edition: March 2000.

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The book of Luke is one of the four Gospels. The Gospels tell about the life of Christ. Some have called Luke the most beautiful book ever written. It is the longest book in the New Testament.

Luke, the writer of the book, was a doctor. Paul called him “the dear doctor.” (Colossians 4:14) Luke traveled some with Paul as he started new churches. When Paul was in prison in Rome, Luke was there to help him.

Luke also wrote the New Testament book of Acts. Both books were written between A.D. 60 and A.D. 90. Both were written to a person named Theophilus. His name meant “lover of God.” Luke wrote to one person, but he wanted all people to read what he wrote.

Luke tried to write a true and complete story of Jesus’ life. He talked with many people who had been with Jesus. They had heard Him teach and preach. Many had seen Jesus heal the sick and do powerful works from God. They had been there when Roman soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. Some had seen Jesus after he arose from the dead. Then they watched as Jesus went back to heaven. Luke wanted every person to hear the story of Jesus.

The Gospel of Luke tells us that Jesus is the Son of God. God sent Jesus into the world to save people from their sins. He is the One Who saves the whole world and all people.

Jesus showed great concern for those who had special needs or who could not help themselves. Luke’s Gospel shows Jesus bringing together people who were separated. He mixed with the poor, the sinners, those who gathered taxes, the outcasts and women. Jesus reached out in love to all who came to Him.

In this study of Luke you will come face to face with the greatest person who ever lived. He was a man, but He was also God. If you have never met Jesus, I hope you will

listen to His words to you. If you have met Him before, now is the time to open your eyes and heart to see Him in a fresh, new way.

The lessons for the Gospel of Luke are divided into three units. Unit one shows that some people followed Jesus and some turned away. Learn how we can answer His call. Unit two tells that Jesus loved and helped all kinds of people. We can learn to love and serve others like Jesus did. Lesson seven tells about God raising Jesus from the dead. It can be studied on Easter or at any time. Lesson eight also tells about Easter. Unit three teaches us to be thankful, humble and faithful people.

Unit 1, Our Response to Jesus' Mission

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Gospel of Luke: Meeting Jesus

Lesson 1
God's Grace is for
All People
Luke 4:16-27

Lesson 2
Answering Jesus' Call
Luke 5:1-11, 27-28

Lesson 3
Living As Forgiveness
People
Luke 7:36-50

Lesson 4
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Lord's Work
Luke 10:1-17



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OUR RESPONSE TO THE MISSION OF JESUS

These four lessons from the Bible tell about Jesus' life and work. Luke wanted all people to know Jesus. He wrote a clear and true story of Jesus' life. These lessons answer some important questions: "Who is Jesus?" "Why did Jesus come?" "What did He do and teach?" "How can I follow Jesus?"

Luke showed that Jesus is the Son of God. God sent Jesus into the world for a special purpose or **mission**. That **mission** was to bring God's love and **grace** to all people. Each person can know God as his or her Heavenly Father. Jesus' coming brought hope and joy to the world. In these lessons, you will see how Jesus helped people and how they **responded** to Him.

This unit written by Ann Pitman

Bible Text**Luke 4:16-27****Memory Verse**

**And all men will see God
saving people from the
punishment of their sins.**

Luke 3:6**Word List****baptize****believe****choice****grace****Holy Spirit****mission****Nazareth****respond****save****separates****sins****spiritual****GOD'S GRACE IS FOR ALL PEOPLE**

Where is your hometown? Is it a city, town or small village? Is it in another country? Does someone in your family still live there? When was your last visit? What do you usually do when you go back?

When I visit my hometown, I always go to the Baptist church. There I see old friends who knew me as a child. They remember my family. We went to that church every Sunday for many years. It was our custom or habit. Many good memories of singing, prayer, and worship come to my mind.

At church, I heard about God's love for me. I learned that God loved me so much that He made a way for me to become His child. He sent His Son Jesus to live on earth and even die for me. When I was 13 years old, I told God my **sins** and asked Jesus to be the One Who **saves** me. I **responded** by **believing** and trusting in Him. Now I have God's peace in my heart. I know that I will have a home in heaven one day (read John 3:16). This lesson tells about Jesus visiting His hometown and the way the people **responded** to Him.



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LUKE 4:16-27

- 16 Jesus came to **Nazareth** where He had grown up. As He had done before, He went into the Jewish place of worship on the Day of Rest. Then He stood up to read.
- 17 Someone handed Him the book of the early preacher Isaiah. He opened it and found the place where it was written,
- 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on Me. He has put His hand on Me to preach the Good News to poor people. He has sent Me to heal those with a sad heart. He has sent Me to tell those who are being held that they can go free. He has sent me to make the blind to see and to free those who are held because of trouble.
- 19 He sent Me to tell of the time when men can receive favor with the Lord.”
(Isaiah 61:1-2)
- 20 Jesus closed the book. Then He gave it back to the leader and sat down. All those in the Jewish place of worship kept their eyes on Him.
- 21 Then He began to say to them. “The Holy Writings you have just heard have been completed today.”
- 22 They all spoke well of Jesus and agreed with the words He spoke. They said, “Is not this the son of Joseph?”
- 23 He said to them, “I wonder if you will tell this old saying to Me, ‘Doctor, heal Yourself. What You did in the city of Capernaum, do in Your own country!’”
- 24 He said, “A man who speaks for God is not respected in his own country.
- 25 It is true that there were many women whose husbands had died in the Jewish land when Elijah lived. For three and a half years there was no rain and there was very little food in the land.
- 26 Elijah was sent to none of them, but he was sent to a woman in the city of Zarephath in the land of Sidon. This woman’s husband had died.
- 27 There were many people in the Jewish land who had a bad skin disease when the early preacher Elisha lived. None of them was healed. But Naaman from the country of Syria was healed.”

JESUS BRINGS GOOD NEWS

Jesus grew up in **Nazareth**. It was His hometown. He left to be **baptized** by John the Baptist. He began preaching and healing. Many people heard about His powerful works. Jesus returned to **Nazareth** and went to the Jewish place of worship. He told the people that He was the One Who is coming that God had promised. He came to bring good news to all people.

JESUS RETURNS TO HIS HOMETOWN

Most of Jesus' life was spent in **Nazareth** of Galilee. He was born in Bethlehem of Judea. He lived a few years in Egypt. But **Nazareth** was the place Jesus called home. The people in **Nazareth** knew Jesus well. News of His preaching and teaching spread to **Nazareth**. Luke wrote, "Jesus went back to Galilee in the power of the **Holy Spirit**" (Luke 4:14). God the Father was leading Jesus as He began His public ministry.

In **Nazareth**, Jesus went to the Jewish place of worship as He had done many times. The leader of the Jewish place of worship asked Jesus to read and preach. Usually one man read from one of the first five books and one from one of the books of the early preachers. The leader handed Jesus the book of the early preacher Isaiah. Jesus opened it and found the place and read Isaiah 61:1-2. Jesus stood to read, then He sat down to speak. That was the Jewish custom.

The eyes of the people were all watching Jesus and waiting for His words. The people were surprised at the words which Jesus spoke. He said, "The Holy Writings you have just heard have been completed today" (Luke 4:21). Jesus said that He was the One God would send, the One Who is coming. He brought together the words of God's preachers about the One Who is coming and the Suffering Servant. The Jews understood the One Who is coming. They did not understand the Suffering Servant.

The Scripture from Isaiah said that God would send One who would: (1) have God's Spirit (2) preach good news to the poor (3) heal those with a sad heart (4) free those who are held (5) give sight to the blind (6) set free the troubled (7) and tell of the time when God would **save** His people.

The Jewish people had waited many years for that Scripture to come true. God had spoken through Isaiah more than 700 years earlier. Isaiah used those words to describe the One Who is coming, the Savior of the world. The good news is that Jesus is that promised One. He sets people free from their **sins**. He helps the **spiritually** blind to see. Jesus brought with Him the time when God would **save**. Jesus came to bring God's **grace** to all people.

THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE TO JESUS

Jesus had healed people and done powerful works of God in Capernaum. The people of **Nazareth** wanted Him to do the same there. At first, they all spoke well of Jesus and agreed with His words. Then they became angry. Jesus told two stories from the Old Testament. The stories were about a widow and a man with a bad skin disease. They showed that God sent men who spoke for God to help people who are not Jews. A person's race or country are not important to God. The important thing is for each one to accept His **grace**.

The Jews **believed** that God loved and helped only their people. They did not **believe** that God's **grace** was for all people. They **believed** it was for the Jews alone. Jesus did not fit the idea the people of **Nazareth** had of the One Who is coming. Many people today have their own idea of Jesus. Some cannot accept Him as the One sent by God. They say He was a good man or a prophet, but not the Son of God. The Bible, God's Holy Word, tells the only true story of God and Jesus. As we read the Bible, God leads us and shows us His plan for our lives.

The idea that God would bless Gentiles made the people of **Nazareth** angry. They ran Jesus out of the Jewish place of worship and out of town. They would have killed Him, but He walked through the crowd and went on His way. The story Mark tells about the visit of Jesus to **Nazareth** is very sad. He wrote, "So Jesus could do no powerful works there. But He did put His hands on a few sick people and healed them. He wondered because they had no faith" (Mark 6: 5-6). Does our lack of faith limit what God can do in our lives?

GOD'S GRACE IS FOR ALL

God made every person on earth. He loves each one the same. He sent Jesus to show us God's love and to be the One Who saves us. All people are **sinners**. **Sin separates** us from a holy God. Jesus was willing to die on a cross to pay the price for our **sins**. Jesus was raised from the dead and is alive in heaven with God. One day He will come again. He will take **believers** to heaven to live forever. That is good news!

Daniel was a graduate student at the university. He came each Sunday to the Bible class for internationals in our church. Daniel was pleased to learn that his name was in the Bible. As Daniel listened and studied, he felt God working in his life. One Sunday, he told his **sins** to God and trusted in Jesus as the One Who **saves** him. Later, Daniel joined the church and was **baptized**. Trusting Jesus made Daniel a Christian. Telling what Jesus had done for him in front of others and being **baptized** made him a church member.

Daniel wanted to visit his hometown in China. More than two years had passed since he left. He had only seen pictures of his little boy. After saving his money, Daniel made the trip. He told his family how God had worked in his life. He gave them a Chinese Bible to read. His wife helped him find a church where the family could worship. When Daniel returned, he was very happy. Daniel says that everything in his life changed when he met Jesus. Meeting Jesus can change your life, too.

God gives each person a **choice**. We can become angry and turn away from Jesus. The people of **Nazareth** did that. Or we can choose to **believe** that Jesus is the Savior, the Son of God, as Daniel did. That is a **choice** which will bring peace, hope and joy. I hope you find for yourself that God's **grace** is for all people. I pray you will make the right **choice**. Your life depends on it!

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. What is the good news Jesus came to bring?

2. Why is God's **grace** for all people?

3. How should we **respond** to God's **grace**?

WORD STUDY

baptize - to put a **believer** under water and bring up again, showing the change in the

believer's life; it also pictures the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus

believe - to accept or take at one's word; **believer** - a person who believes in Jesus, a Christian

choice - the act of choosing or picking

grace - mercy, loving-favor, God's gift that we do not deserve

Holy Spirit - the Spirit of God, the third person of the Trinity -- God the Father; God the Son, Jesus Christ; and God the Holy Spirit

mission - a calling or work, the work God sent Jesus to do

Nazareth - a town in north Israel, the childhood home of Jesus

respond - to speak or act in response, to reply or answer

save - rescue, deliver from the price and power of sin

separates - breaks apart, divides, detaches

sins - wrong doing, evil; **sin** - to do wrong, trespass, offend

spiritual - religious, relating to God, concerned with the spirit

Bible Text**Luke 5:1-11, 27-28****Memory Verse**

**Jesus spoke to all
the people saying,
“I am the Light of the
world. Anyone who follows
Me will not walk in
darkness. He will have the
Light of Life.”**

John 8:12**Word List**

**crowds
material
missionary
obeyed
rejected
request
trust**



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ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

This lesson shows a change in Jesus' ministry. In the last lesson, Jesus preached in the Jewish place of worship in Nazareth. Jesus read Holy Writings from Isaiah which told of the One Who is coming. He claimed to be the One Who is coming, the promised One Who saves sent by God. Jesus said that He came to save all people, not just the Jews. The Jews became angry and ran Jesus out of town. The Jewish place of worship was closed to Jesus for awhile.

After Nazareth, Jesus went to Capernaum. He taught the people and healed many who were sick. They wondered about Jesus' teachings because His words had power (Luke 4:32). Jesus went to Simon's house where He healed his wife's mother. Jesus was **rejected** in Nazareth, but in Capernaum they begged Him to stay. Wherever He went, people **crowded** around Him.

Jesus met people wherever He found them -- on the road, by the sea or at the market. In the first century, people slept inside. Most of the other activities took place outside. The lesson for today shows Jesus at the sea shore. He is teaching and calling fishermen to follow Him. See how they answered His call. Think of the way you will answer.

LUKE 5:1-11, 27-28

- 1 While Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, many people pushed to get near Him. They wanted to hear the Word of God.
- 2 Jesus saw two boats on the shore. The fishermen were not there because they were washing their nets.
- 3 Jesus got into a boat which belonged to Simon. Jesus asked him to push it out a little way from land. Then He sat down and taught the people from the boat.
- 4 When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Push out into the deep water. Let down your nets for some fish."
- 5 Simon said to Him, "Teacher, we have worked all night and we have caught nothing. But because You told me to, I will let the net down."
- 6 When they had done this, they caught so many fish, their net started to break.
- 7 They called to their friends working in the other boat to come and help them. They came and both boats were so full of fish they began to sink.
- 8 When Simon Peter saw it, he got down at the feet of Jesus. He said, "Go away from me, Lord, because I am a sinful man."
- 9 He and all those with him were surprised and wondered about the many fish.
- 10 James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were surprised also. They were working together with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will fish for men."
- 11 When they came to land with their boats, they left everything and followed Jesus.

(12-26)

- 27 After this Jesus went out and saw a man who gathered taxes. His name was Levi (Matthew). Levi was sitting at his work. Jesus said to him, "Follow Me."
- 28 Levi got up, left everything and followed Jesus.

SHOWING THE FISHERMEN HOW TO FISH

A large crowd followed as Jesus walked by the lake of Gennesaret. Jesus saw two boats on the shore. He got into the one which belonged to Simon. Jesus asked Simon to push the boat out from the shore. He sat in the boat and taught the people. We do not know what Jesus taught that day, but it was good news to the people.

After fishing all night, Simon and his friends had caught no fish. They washed their nets and were ready to go home. Jesus told Simon to go out to sea and let down his nets. Simon had fished for many years. He thought Jesus' idea was not a good one. But Simon **obeyed** what Jesus told him to do. He **trusted** Jesus and believed He had power to do anything. After all, Jesus had healed his wife's mother. Simon knew He could **trust** Jesus, even though he did not agree with His request.

Simon said, "...because You told me to, I will let the net down" (Luke 5:5). Simon **obeyed** Jesus with his actions. Then he caught so many fish that the nets began to break. He had to call to the other boat for help. Both boats were full and began to sink. If Simon had not **obeyed** Jesus, he would have missed the good and powerful work of God that Jesus did for him. Can we **trust** Jesus, even though we do not understand or agree with what He tells us to do? Simon did, and Jesus was able to bring good to him and use him.

THE FISHERMEN LEFT EVERYTHING BEHIND

Simon saw the large catch of fish on the sinking boats. It was the greatest catch ever! Simon and his friends were surprised and amazed. Simon knew the powerful work of God had come from Jesus. He fell at the feet of Jesus. Simon spoke without pride to Jesus. He said, "Go away from me, Lord, because I am a sinful man" (Luke 5:8). Simon knew that he was in the presence of the Holy God. He wanted to worship and tell God his sins. First John 1:9 tells what God does when we tell Him our sins.

Jesus told Simon not to be afraid. He said that Simon and the others would fish for men. Jesus gave them a new job! The fishermen took their boats to land. Then they “left everything and followed Jesus” (Luke 5:11). Do you think it was hard for those men to leave their jobs, boats and families and follow Jesus? They were willing to answer Jesus’ call and go with Him wherever He went. They had faith in Jesus. They knew that Jesus loved them and wanted only the best for each of them.

I remember hearing Jesus’ call to go to Africa as a **missionary** nurse. My husband, a medical doctor, had also heard that call. We took our three little girls and went to live there. We left families, jobs, and **material** things to follow Jesus’ call. When times were hard, we remembered our call. We never doubted that we were in the right place. And Jesus kept His promise to guide and direct us.

NO LONGER A MAN WHO GATHERS TAXES

Another person Jesus called to go with Him was Levi, a man who gathered taxes. Men who gathered taxes were hated by the Jews. They were put on the same level as murderers and robbers. They agreed with Rome to gather the taxes in a town. They paid some of the money to Rome, but they would charge the people extra. Poor people who could not pay were put in jail. The men who gathered taxes were rich people, but they were not wanted by the Jewish people.

Jesus knew all about Levi and how others thought he was bad. Why would Jesus call someone like Levi to be His follower? Jesus knew what Levi could become. When Jesus called Levi, he left all and followed Him. When Levi knew that Jesus was the Savior, he changed his life. He could no longer cheat and steal. He had to leave it all behind. What do we need to leave behind? Could it be anger, jealousy or sin you have not told to God? Think about it.

A man who had been an athlete lived in our town. He worked for a beer company.

As he was driving home one night, he saw a car accident. Two young people were killed. On the floor of the car were empty beer cans. He was sad and knew that he had to make changes in his life. He decided to leave his job because he was a follower of Jesus. Levi did that, too.

JESUS CALLS ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE

The call of Jesus in the first century and today are the same. He calls us to follow in faith, to leave our old life and to put Him first in our lives. Jesus not only comes to us where we are, He leads us to places we could never go without Him. He sees in us what we can become and he gently pushes us forward and upward. Jesus calls ordinary people like you and me to follow Him. My prayer is that you will listen to His call. Perhaps He wants you to leave your old life and follow Him. His way is always the best way.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. How did Jesus show God's power to Simon and the other fishermen?
2. What did Simon and the other fishermen do?
3. Was it hard for Levi to follow Jesus? Why?

4. Does Jesus call people to follow Him today? How? Is He calling you?

WORD STUDY

crowds - large numbers of persons gathered together

material - worldly, what money can buy

missionary - one sent to do religious or charitable work, one sent to tell people about

Jesus

obeyed - to carry out an order or instruction

rejected - turned down, refused to accept or believe in someone

request - to ask for, or to tell a desire for something

trust - believe completely, depend on

Bible Text

Luke 7:36-50

Memory Verse

He said to the woman,
“Your faith has saved
you from the
punishment of sin.

Go in peace.”

Luke 7:50

Word List

ashamed

customs

devotion

forgive

gratitude

insult

international

proud

religious

respect



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LIVING AS FORGIVEN PEOPLE

Customs are different around the world. My **international** friends have taught me some of their **customs**. When I visit in a Japanese home, I take off my shoes. I do not tell a Saudi woman I like her dress. I did that once and she gave me the dress! In Nigeria we learned never to give a gift with the left hand. Also, we used a different Yoruba word to greet an older or **respected** person.

In our country, men greet each other with a hand shake or a simple “Hello.” In some countries, men greet each other with a kiss on both cheeks. For Lebanese men, the greeting has three kisses. A visitor or guest in most cultures is always welcome in a home. Today’s lesson shows some first century **customs**. It also shows what a man and a woman thought about Jesus. Their actions showed much about their hearts.

We have studied about Jesus preaching in the Jewish place of worship. We saw Him at the seashore calling fishermen. We also saw Him calling Levi, a man who gathered taxes. In the Bible verses today, we see Jesus in the home of another Simon. He was a **proud religious** law-keeper. Simon did not honor Jesus with the usual polite **customs** of that day. He also judged Jesus because He let a sinful woman touch Him. Jesus showed Simon that being **forgiven** leads to being thankful.

LUKE 7:36-50

- 36 One of the **proud religious** law-keepers wanted Jesus to eat with him. Jesus went to his house and sat down to eat.
- 37 There was a woman in the city who was a sinner. She knew Jesus was eating in the house of the **proud religious** law-keeper. She brought a jar of special perfume.
- 38 Then she stood behind Him by His feet and cried. Her tears wet His feet and she dried them with her hair. She kissed His feet and put the special perfume on them.
- 39 The **proud religious** law-keeper who had asked Jesus to eat with him saw this. He said to himself, "If this Man were One Who speaks for God He would know who and what kind of a woman put her hands on Him. She is a sinner."
- 40 Jesus said to him, "I have something to say to you, Simon." And Simon said, "Teacher, say it."
- 41 "There were two men who owed a certain man some money. The one man owed 500 pieces of silver money. The other man owed 50 pieces of silver money.
- 42 Neither one of them had any money, so he told them they did not have to pay him back. Tell Me, which one would love him the most?"
- 43 Simon said, "I think it would be the one who owed the most." And Jesus said to him, "You have said the right thing."
- 44 He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house and you gave Me no water to wash my feet. She washed My feet with her tears and dried them with the hairs of her head.
- 45 You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has kissed My feet from the time I came in.
- 46 You did not put even oil on My head but this woman has put special perfume on My feet.
- 47 I tell you, her many sins are **forgiven** because she loves much. But the one who has been forgiven little, loves little."
- 48 Then He said to the woman, "Your sins are **forgiven.**"
- 49 Those who were eating with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this Man Who even **forgives** sins?"
- 50 He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you from the punishment of sin. Go in peace."

SHOWING THANKS IN HER OWN WAY

The meal at Simon's house was served outside in the courtyard. The guests did not sit at the table in chairs. Instead, each one lay on a low couch, resting on his left arm. Their feet were stretched out behind them. People came in from the street to see and hear what was going on. Many had heard of Jesus' teaching and powerful works of God. There must have been a large group of people in the courtyard that day.

Luke tells the story of only one person. It was "a woman in the city who was a sinner" (Luke 7:37). She stood quietly at Jesus' feet while He ate. She had a costly jar of perfume. At the right moment she would put the perfume on Jesus' feet. Then the woman began to cry. She could not stop her tears. They fell on Jesus' feet. Crying, she forgot the Jewish **custom**. A married woman never let her hair down in public. The woman let her hair fall around her shoulders. She bent over and wiped Jesus' feet dry with her hair. Then she began kissing His feet. Finally, she put the perfume on His feet. Such an act of **devotion** could only come from a thankful heart!

This woman had probably met Jesus at an earlier time. It is thought that He had already **forgiven** her sins. Her act of **respect** and love showed that she did not have a **proud** attitude. Caring for the feet was usually a servant's job. Jesus did not stop the woman. He knew that her actions showed her deep **gratitude**. This woman found a way to thank Jesus for **forgiving** her. How can we say thanks?

SIMON'S PROUD ATTITUDE

Simon, the host at the dinner, was a **proud religious** law-keeper. These law-keepers did not mix with common people. They were the "separated ones" of Jesus' day. Simon would never speak to or touch a woman in public. He thought it would make him "unclean." Most **proud religious** law-keepers did not follow Jesus. Jesus did not agree with many of their teachings. We do not know why Simon invited Jesus to his house. Was Simon a true seeker or did he want to argue with Jesus?

Simon did not like what the woman did. He was surprised that Jesus did not stop her. Simon wondered how Jesus could let a sinful woman touch Him. “If this Man were One Who speaks for God, He would know who and what kind of woman put her hands on Him,” Simon said to himself (Luke 7:39). Jesus knew Simon’s thoughts. Jesus also knew everything about the woman.

The woman did for Jesus what Simon should have done. Following the usual polite **customs** of that day was important. Three things were always done when a guest entered the house. First, the host put his hand on the guest’s shoulder. Then he gave him a kiss of peace. The kiss showed **respect** and was always given. Second, the guest’s sandals were taken off. Cool water was poured over the feet to wash off the dust. Then the feet were dried. Third, a drop of oil or perfume was put on the head of the guest. Simon had done none of those things. Not following the custom was an **insult** to a guest.

NEITHER ONE COULD PAY

Jesus told Simon a story or parable about two people. They each owed money to a money lender. One owed two months’ pay and the other one owed two days’ pay. Neither person could pay him back. The man could have put them in prison. Instead, he **forgave** both of them the money they owed to him. Jesus asked Simon, “Which one would love him the most?” Simon said, “I think it would be the one who owed the most” (Luke 7:42-43). Simon showed no love. He thought he did not owe anything.

No one can pay what they owe to God. No one can pay for his or her own sins. If they are many or few, it is the same. Simon believed that he had no sin. He tried to keep every law of God. He thought his good works were enough. He felt no need of God’s **forgiveness**. First John 1:8 says, “If we say that we have no sin, we lie to ourselves and the truth is not in us.” Other verses say, “No person will be made right with God by doing what the law says” (Romans 3:20). “Men become right with God by putting their trust in

Jesus Christ. God will accept men if they come this way” (Romans 3:22). Simon trusted in his works to make him right with God. Many people do that today.

HOW THEN SHOULD WE LIVE?

The woman knew that she had sinned. She was thankful that Jesus had **forgiven** her sins. The act of washing Jesus’ feet with her tears and drying them with her hair showed her **gratitude**. Jesus did not say the woman had not sinned. He said her sins were many. Some think Jesus said the woman was **forgiven** because of her love. Others believe that her love showed that she had already been **forgiven**. Jesus said to her, “Your faith has saved you” (Luke 7:50).

Jesus praised the woman’s act of love which showed a **grateful** heart. The woman’s act of love cost her something. Simon had not given Jesus oil for his head. The woman put costly perfume on His feet. Simon had not greeted Jesus with the usual kiss. The woman kissed Jesus’ feet. No water was poured over Jesus’ dusty feet. Tears from her eyes washed His feet. She was not **ashamed** to show her love and **devotion** to Jesus. The woman was thankful and she showed it by serving Jesus.

As **forgiven** people, we should serve Jesus with thankful hearts. The first step to being **forgiven** is asking. Remember, there is no sin so great that it cannot be **forgiven**. Believing in Jesus as the Son of God is next. Telling others of your faith in Jesus is an important step. We serve Jesus by helping others. Think of some ways you can help others this week.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. How were guests welcomed to a home in Jesus' time?
2. Why did Simon not like the woman?
3. How did Jesus treat the woman and what did he tell her?
4. Which story did Jesus tell Simon? What was its meaning?

WORD STUDY

ashamed - feeling shame or guilt

customs - practices of a group of people

devotion - love, deep affection

forgive - make free from the feeling of shame for our sins

gratitude - thanks, being **grateful**

insult - to treat with rudeness

international - from another country

proud - thinking too highly of oneself

religious - having or showing strong belief in a religion (Judaism)

respect - to feel or show regard for, honor

Bible Text**Luke 10:1-17****Memory Verse****This is the work of God,
that you put your trust
in the One He has sent.****John 6:29****Word List****courage****danger****enemy****faith****guilt****heaven****hospitality****kingdom****messenger****promise****represent****training***Adult Bible Study
in Basic English***SENT TO DO THE LORD'S WORK**

One of our favorite missionaries in Nigeria was Hattie . Hattie was five feet tall, had gray hair and always wore a smile. She felt that God had sent her to Africa to do His work. She lived in the Okuta area. The roads there were very bad. At times she drove her jeep on paths. Men from the villages went ahead of Hattie to cut the elephant grass. They told the people that Hattie was coming. Wherever she went many people were waiting for her.

Hattie was not a nurse, but she gave medicine to the sick. Then she taught them from her Bible. Hattie told the people that God's love sent Jesus into the world and Jesus was willing to die for their sins. She told them to get ready for Jesus to come again. Many people believed in Jesus. Today, the Okuta area has churches and schools. The people are glad that God sent someone to tell them about His love.

The call to be a Christian is a call to do the Lord's work. God has special work for each of us. Not all are called to go to Africa as Hattie was. Our work may be next door or down the street. This lesson shows Jesus sending out some of His followers. He sent them to every city and place where He would later go. They told the people that Jesus was coming soon.

LUKE 10:1-17

- 1 After this the Lord chose seventy others. He sent them out two together to every city and place where He would be going later.
- 2 Jesus said to them, “There is much grain ready to gather. But the workmen are few. Pray then to the Lord Who is the Owner of the grain-fields that He will send workmen to gather His grain.
- 3 Go on your way. Listen! I send you out like lambs among wolves.
- 4 Take no money. Do not take a bag or shoes. Speak to no one along the way.
- 5 When you go into a house, say that you hope peace will come to them.
- 6 If a man who loves peace lives there, your good wishes will come to him. If your good wishes are not received, they will come back to you.
- 7 Stay in the same house. Eat and drink what they give you. The workman should have his pay. Do not move from house to house.
- 8 “Whenever a city receives you, eat the things that are put before you there.
- 9 Heal the sick. Say to them, ‘The holy nation of God is near.’
- 10 Whatever city does not receive you, go into its streets and say,
- 11 Even the dust of your city that is on our feet we are cleaning off against you. But understand this, the holy nation of God has come near you!”
- 12 I tell you, on the day men stand before God, it will be easier for the city of Sodom than for that city.
- 13 “It is bad for you, city of Chorazin! It is bad for you, town of Bethsaida! For if the powerful works which were done in you had been done in the cities of Tyre and Sidon they would have turned from their sins long ago. They would have shown their sorrow by putting on clothes made from hair and would have sat in ashes.
- 14 It will be better for Tyre and Sidon on the day men stand before God and be told they are **guilty** than for you.
- 15 And you, Capernaum, are you to be lifted up into **heaven**? You will be taken down to hell.
- 16 Whoever listens to you, listens to Me. Whoever has nothing to do with you, has nothing to do with Me. Whoever has nothing to do with Me, has nothing to do with the One Who sent me.”
- 17 The seventy came back filled with joy. They said, “Lord, even the demons obeyed us when we used Your name.”

JESUS SENDS OUT THE SEVENTY

Chapter nine of Luke shows that Jesus sent out his 12 special followers. In chapter ten, Luke wrote that Jesus called and sent out 70 other followers. They were His **messengers**. They took Jesus' words or **message** to the people. Jesus **trained** them before He sent them out. He told them what they were to do and where they were to go. We can learn from the things Jesus taught His followers.

First, Jesus sent them out two by two. That was an old Jewish custom (Deuteronomy 19:15). It was safer to travel in twos, and they could help each other.

Second, Jesus told His followers to go in prayer. He told them a farm story. The fields were full of ripe grain, but there were few workers to gather it in. They were to ask God to send workers into the fields. Jesus knew that His time on earth was short. There was so little time to finish His mission. Today, the field is the world. There are many people who have not heard of Jesus, the One Who saves people from the punishment of their sins. Many workers are needed to go and tell.

Third, the seventy followers of Jesus had to have **courage**. Jesus sent them out as lambs among wolves. They would face **danger** on the road and in the cities. Jesus' **enemies** were trying to stop his teachings and powerful works of God. They would try to stop His workers, too.

Fourth, the followers had to have **faith**. Jesus told them not to take extra money or clothes. They must trust Him for their needs. They should not talk with anyone on the road. The Jewish greetings were long. The **message** they were taking was very important and the time was short.

GOING INTO HOUSES AND CITIES

Jesus gave His followers other **training**. As they went into a house, they were to give a greeting of peace. If they were welcomed into a home they should stay there. They were not to move from house to house. Also, they were to accept **hospitality**. Jesus told the followers to eat the food given to them. Jewish people did not eat certain foods. That could cause a problem in a non-Jewish home.

Jesus told His followers to heal the sick. Also, He said that some people would reject their **message**. The **message** was, “The **kingdom** of God has come near you” (Luke 10:9 TEV). The **kingdom** of God was present in Jesus Christ. The people could enter God’s holy nation by trusting in Jesus. Some hearers would not believe the **messengers** or the One Who sent them. If the **message** was not accepted, Jesus told them what to do. The followers should leave that city and go on to another place. He said the cities and people who reject Jesus will one day be told they are **guilty**.

Jesus named three cities which would be told about their **guilt** (Luke 10:13-15). They were all cities where Jesus had preached and done powerful works of God. One city was Capernaum. It was the home of Simon and the other fishermen. Jesus told them it would be better for Tyre and Sidon than for Capernaum on the day people stand before God with their **guilt**.

Sodom, Tyre and Sidon were old cities. They were known for their sinful, wicked ways. They were told about their **guilt** by God and destroyed (Genesis 19:1-29). If the powerful works of Jesus had been done there, the people would have changed. They would have been sorry for their sins. Those people had a way to show they were sorry. They wore clothes made of goat’s hair and put ashes on their heads. Today, persons who are sorry for their sins do not need to do that. They can ask God to forgive them (First John 1:9).

The **messengers** were sent to **represent** Jesus. Jesus said, “Whoever listens to you, listens to me. Whoever has nothing to do with you, has nothing to do with me” (Luke 10:16). Turning away from Jesus and his **message** is the same as turning away from God.

THE MESSENGERS RETURN

The **messengers** returned from their trip with great joy (verse 17). They had gone in prayer. They had followed Jesus’ teachings. They had spoken in Jesus name. They had healed in Jesus’ name. They had even done powerful works in Jesus’ name. The seventy had done the work Jesus sent them to do.

Hattie spent more than 40 years in Nigeria doing God's work. She shared God's love with every person she met. The lives of many were changed. In life, she gave her all to God. In death, she gave all that she had. The money Hattie left was used to send others to do God's work. Was her life easy? No. Did she have great joy in her work? Yes. Did God use her to help and bring good to others? Yes. God led Hattie all the way to **heaven**. He must have said to Hattie, "You have done well. You are a good and faithful servant... Come and share my joy" (Matthew 25:21).

Believers are still sent to do God's work today. There is still a lot of work to be done. The fields are full of hurting and hopeless people. We must pray to God for more workers. Can God use you in His work? Are you willing to be **trained**? Are you willing to go wherever God wants to send you? God does not **promise** easy work or an easy life. He does **promise** to be with us in all things and in all places. Will you decide to follow Him and work for Him today?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. Why did Jesus send out the seventy followers?
2. What did Jesus say they needed for their trip?
3. What **message** did the followers take to the people?

4. What did the followers tell Jesus when they returned?

5. How does God call people to follow Him today?

WORD STUDY

courage - to have no fear, bravery

danger - possible harm, risk

enemy, enemies - those who feel hatred for another

faith - trust, belief that does not ask for proof

guilt, guilty - the bad feeling that one gets after doing something wrong, being wrong

heaven - God's home which is promised to believers after death

hospitality - a warm welcome given to a guest or visitor

kingdom - a place or country ruled by a king; kingdom of God - God's rule

message, messenger - an important idea or news, one who takes news or a **message**

promise - an agreement to do or not do something, give a reason to expect something

represent - to speak for or to stand for another person

train, training - to teach or give practice in, the practicing of what was taught

Gospel of Luke: Meeting Jesus

Lesson 5

What can I do?

Luke 10:25-37

Lesson 6

What Is More Important -

Rules or People

Luke 13:10-17

Lesson 7

Jesus Lives!

Luke 24:13-35

Lesson 8

Who is invited?

Luke 5:29-32

14:12-15

Lesson 9

What Are You So Happy About?

Luke 15:11-32



*Adult Bible Study
in Basic English*

LOVING EVERY PERSON

Jesus was a person like you and me. But He was much more. He was the Son of God. He came to earth from the Father to show God's love for us. His death on the cross was God's greatest act of love for all of us. Jesus showed through his life how we should love every person.

In Lesson Five we can learn to help a hurting stranger. Lesson Six shows that people are more important than rules. Lesson Seven explains the resurrection of Jesus. It shows that we must share the story of the risen Christ with all people everywhere. Lessons Eight and Nine study those that we invite into our group of friends and how we are so happy when others are saved. These lessons will help us to study about how we think and act toward others.

It is good to know that we can try to love and serve people like Jesus did.

This unit written by Carolyn Cree

Bible Text

Luke 10:25-37

Memory Verse

The man said, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart. You must love Him with all your soul. You must love Him with all your strength. You must love Him with all your mind. You must love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Luke 15:27

Word List

afraid

glad

neighbor

parable

robbers

Samaria

trap

worried

wound



*Adult Bible Study
in Basic English*

WHAT CAN I DO?

Zelka and Jovo Hadziasic are from Bosnia. They came to this country last summer. They were **glad** to be in the United States. They were glad to be away from all the killing and the fighting in their country. But they were very **worried**. They were **afraid** for their daughter and her grandfather. The two were still in Bosnia.

Dr. Scottie Gray is a member in our church. He has been a good **neighbor** to many **international** people. He was a good **neighbor** to Vlatka and Jovo. He made many phone calls. He talked to many important people. A month later the young girl and her grandfather came to our city.

Dr. Gray shows how we should love people.

Luke 10:25-37

- 25 A man stood up who knew the Law and tried to **trap** Jesus. He said, “Teacher, what must I do to have life that lasts forever?”
- 26 Jesus said to him, “What is written in the Law? What does the Law say?”
- 27 The man said, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart. You must love Him with all your soul. You must love Him with all your strength. You must love Him with all your mind. You must love your **neighbor** as you love yourself.”
- 28 Jesus said to him, “You have said the right thing. Do this and you will have life.”
- 29 The man tried to make himself look good. He asked Jesus, “Who is my **neighbor**?”
- 30 Jesus said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to the city of Jericho. **Robbers** came out after him. They took his clothes off and beat him. Then they went away, leaving him almost dead.
- 31 A religious leader was walking down that road and saw the man. But he went by on the other side.
- 32 In the same way, a man from the family group of Levi was walking down that road. When he saw the man who was hurt, he came near to him but kept on going on the other side of the road.
- 33 Then a man from the country of **Samaria** came by. He went up to the man. As he saw him, he had loving-pity on him.
- 34 He got down and put oil and wine on the places where he was hurt and put cloth around them. Then the man from **Samaria** put this man on his own donkey. He took him to a place where people stay for the night and cared for him.
- 35 The next day the man from **Samaria** was ready to leave. He gave the owner of that place two pieces of money to care for him. He said to him, “Take care of this man. If you use more than this, I will give it to you when I come again.”
- 36 “Which of these three do you think was a **neighbor** to the man who was beaten by the **robbers**?”
- 37 The man who knew the Law said, “The one who showed loving-pity on him.” Then Jesus said, “Go and do the same.”

LOVING PEOPLE BEGINS WITH LOVING GOD

Jesus' time on earth was soon to be finished. Fewer people came to hear Him. The teachers of the Law and proud religious Law-keepers did not trust Him. They tried to find ways to make people stop believing Him.

Jesus was teaching. A man who knew the Law stood up. He was looking for a way to **trap** Jesus and make Him be quiet. He said, "Teacher, what must I do to have life that lasts forever" (Luke 10:25)?

Jesus said to him, "What does the Law say" (Luke 10:26)?

The man said, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart... soul... strength...and mind. You must love your **neighbor** as you love yourself" (Luke 10:27).

Jesus said, "You have said the right thing. Do this and you will have life" (Luke 10:28).

But the man tried to look good. He asked another question. "Who is my **neighbor**" (Luke 10:29)?

Jesus did not give a quick answer. Instead, He told a picture-story. He told about a man going down a road. It was a road with much danger. Anyone who went on that road knew that it was a dangerous road.

Robbers stopped the man. They took everything he had, even his clothes. They beat him and left him near death. He lay in the sun and the wind. How could he live?

A religious leader came by. He knew the Law. He knew that we are to love our **neighbors**. The religious leader saw the poor man at the side of the road. But he looked the other way. He did not help.

Next came a man from the family group of Levi. The people from the family group of Levi were religious people. They helped the religious leaders in the house of God. Like the religious leader, he would have known the Law. He did not help the man by the side of the road. He, too, passed by on the other side.

Why do you think the religious leader and the man from the family group of Levi did not help the man? Put yourself in their places. If we had been there, we might have said, "I don't want to get into this. I don't have time. The man knew he was walking on a dangerous road. Someone will come along who can help him more than I can."

They did not think about the man. They did not think of him as one of the **neighbors** they were told to love.

Was the man to die by the side of the road? No! A man from **Samaria** came down the road. He saw the **wounded** man. He felt pity for him. He saw the need and did what he could. He was as busy as the others. But he took the time to help.

LOVING PEOPLE MEANS MEETING THEIR NEEDS

"He had loving-pity on him" (Luke 10:33). The man from **Samaria** had pity for the man who was hurt. Pity is the way we feel when we see hungry children on TV. Pity is what we feel when we hear that someone has lost a job or has cancer. But pity does not mean much unless we DO something to help. We can feel badly for people and not do anything to help them. We must be caring helpers. When people are hurting, we must help.

The man from **Samaria** got off his donkey and went up to the man. He took out medicine and bandages. He cleaned the **wounds** as well as he could. He put oil and wine on the bad places to make them better. Then he helped the man onto the back of his donkey.

When they reached a place where people stay for the night, the man from **Samaria** stayed with the man through the night. He paid the bill the next day. He had helped the man, but he had not done enough. He told the owner of that place to look after the man. He promised to pay more money if it was needed. He made sure that he had done all he could.

Jesus asked, "Which of these three do you think was a **neighbor** to the man who was beaten by the **robbers**" (Luke 10:36)?

We can feel sorry for people and never do anything to help them. What we must do is to help people. Anyone who needs me is my **neighbor**. We must go and do in Jesus' name.

WORD STUDY

afraid - the feeling one has when pain, danger, or trouble is near

glad - the feeling of being happy or pleased; having or showing joy

neighbor - a person who is helpful to others

parable - a short story that teaches a truth or lesson, a picture story

robbers - people who take others' things by hurting them or saying that they will hurt them, people who steal from others

Samaria - a district in long-ago Palestine or Israel, between Galilee and Judea

trap - to try to trick someone to make others see that person as bad or a fool

worried - a troubled feeling, made to feel uneasy or anxious

wound - a hurt in which some part of the body is cut, torn, broken, etc.

Bible Text

Luke 13:10-17

Memory Verse

Whatever you do, do every-
thing to honor God.
I Corinthians 10:31

Word List

carpenter

crippled

embarrassed

relation

relationship

suffer

surprise

synagogue

traditions

virgin

WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT -- RULES OR PEOPLE?

At the end of a worship service in our church, a young man began to sing a religious song. It was a **surprise**. He sang like a person singing a popular song on TV. About half of the people were happy. They clapped their hands. The rest of the people were not happy. They were silent. They were **embarrassed**. It was not the kind of music they liked in church. Who was right?

Christians are in the people business. We must not be bound by rules and **traditions**. We must always ask, "What would Jesus do?" The answer is clear: Jesus would put people first. What is most important is what we do for people in Jesus' name.



*Adult Bible Study
in Basic English*

Luke 13:10-17

- 10 Jesus was teaching in one of the Jewish places of worship on the Day of Rest.
- 11 A woman was there who had **suffered** for eighteen years because of a demon. She was not able to stand up straight.
- 12 Jesus saw her and said, “Woman, you are now free from your trouble!”
- 13 Then He put His hand on her. At once she stood up straight and gave thanks to God.
- 14 The leader of the Jewish place of worship was angry because Jesus healed on the Day of Rest. The leader said to the people, “There are six days in which work should be done. Come on those days and get healed. Do not come to be healed on the Day of Rest.”
- 15 The Lord said to him, “You pretend to be someone you are not! Do not each of you let his cow or his donkey out and lead them to water on the Day of Rest?”
- 16 Should not this Jewish woman be made free from this trouble on the Day of Rest? She has been Chained by Satan for eighteen years.”
- 17 When He said this, all those who were against Him were ashamed. All the many people were glad for the great things being done by Him.

HELPING PEOPLE

Jesus grew up in a religious family. His father, Joseph, was a **carpenter** in the town of Nazareth. He was a godly man. He obeyed the Law and followed all the rules important to Jews. Mary was religious, too. She did what God asked. She was still a **virgin** when she gave birth to Jesus. The local **synagogue** (Jewish church) would have been very important to such a family.

The **synagogue** became very important in Jewish life in the sixth century B. C. The great house of God had been destroyed. The Jews had to find new ways to worship and serve God. When they rebuilt the special house of God, they kept on worshiping in the **synagogues**. By the time Jesus lived, **synagogues** were everywhere. They served as schools. They were centers for the people. But their main purpose was for worship on the Day of Rest.

Jesus went to the Day of Rest worship time. He often taught in the **synagogues**. He read the Holy Writings and explained them. He was well-liked. And then, one day he read from Isaiah 6:1-2. He told the people that He was the One Who is coming. They did not like that. They became angry. They were ready to throw Jesus off a cliff. But Jesus made His way through the crowd. He went on His way.

The Day of Rest was very important for Jews. God created the heavens and the earth in six days. Then God rested on the seventh day (Genesis 2:2-3).

Jesus obeyed God on the Day of Rest. But He did not accept the limits the teachers of the Law put on the Day of Rest. The teachers of the Law had added rule after rule. The rules made life hard for the people. When Jesus healed people on the Day of Rest, the teachers of the Law said He was not obeying the Law. They did not understand why Jesus went against the rules. He was trying to show them that they should put aside human rules that did not help people in need.

The Bible verses for today find Jesus teaching in the **synagogue** on the Day of Rest. A very **crippled** woman was there. She was bent over and could not straighten up. She had been this way for eighteen years. Luke, a doctor, says that her problem was from a

demon. He saw that in some cases there is a **relation** between problems of the body and the mind.

Jesus stopped teaching when He saw her. He said to her, “Woman, you are now free from your trouble!” He put His hands on her. She stood straight and thanked God. Jesus clearly showed he was more interested in people than in rules.

God’s first concern is for people. People are more important than religious rules. God did not make a special day and make people for that day. God made people and then gave them a day to rest and to worship. People were not made for the church. The church was made for people.

RULES CAN MAKE IT HARDER TO HELP PEOPLE

The **synagogue** leader was angry that Jesus had healed on the Day of Rest. You would think that He would have been happy for the woman. But we can see that his anger was more toward Jesus than toward the people. These men who did not like Jesus were looking for ways to make Him look bad.

How does this story apply to us today? We might not think much about it. We do not worship on the Jewish Day of Rest, Saturday. Sunday, the first day of the week, is our day of worship. We have churches not **synagogues**.

God gave us this day as a day of rest. It is a day when we think about religious things. This one day out of seven gives us time to think about our special **relationship** with God. The Lord’s Day is special. God’s concern is for people. Both the church and the Lord’s day are for God’s great honor. They are for the good of the people. Order is not bad. At the right time, it is good. But it is not the main thing. People are the most important. The church that follows God’s leadership will put its rules to the “people test.” Never think the way we have always done things is the best way. This does not mean you should change everything. Change just to change is a mistake. Changing to help people is wise.

Think about how you would act if someone like this woman was in the service in your church. Would you be **embarrassed**? Would you think, “This could wait until the service is over?” Or, would you think, “This is a chance to help someone.”

HELPING PEOPLE HONORS GOD

Our calling as God’s people is to honor God. Paul wrote, “Whatever you do, do everything to honor God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). This applies to churches and to church members. We honor God when we help people. He is honored when we show mercy to others.

Jesus **embarrassed** the **synagogue** leader. But the people were happy. They saw that Jesus had done something wonderful. God was honored. God was forgiving sinners, feeding the hungry, and healing the sick through Jesus.

The early church was God-centered and people-centered. People came. The church grew. God was greatly honored.

HELP PEOPLE THE JESUS WAY!

Our church helps people. Our clothes closet is open two mornings a week for people in need. We have food for people who are hungry. We have three store rooms of furniture for people from other countries who are here to study. We have an International House. People can come there just to visit, talk, and feel at home in this country. We have dinners once a month to help them meet new friends. Many have been won to faith in Christ. Many are active in church.

God will bless a church which puts people before rules. Love God! Love people!
Honor God! Help people!

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. How should we worship God on Sunday?
2. Must some people work on the Lord's day? Who? Why? Why not?
3. What does our church do that could be changed? What should not be changed?

WORD STUDY

carpenter - A person who works with wood

crippled - one who is disabled

embarrassed - to be ashamed or self-conscious

relation - a connection, a joining of two things that are part of each other

relationship - a connection between people and God, joined together

suffered - felt or had pain or was very uncomfortable

surprise - something that causes wonder because it is unexpected

synagogue - Jewish place of worship, Jewish church

traditions - the handing down of beliefs and customs from parents to children

virgin - a woman who has never had a man, has never had sex

Bible Text**Luke 24:13-35****Memory Verse**

**They said “For sure the
Lord is risen and was seen
by Simon.”**

Luke 24:34**Word List****disciple****resurrection****stranger****tomb****victory****JESUS LIVES!**

If Jesus had not risen from he dead, you would not be reading this lesson today. When Jesus died and came alive again, the whole world was changed. Such a wonderful thing could never be forgotten.

The good news of the **resurrection** went around the world. The Christian church grew to become the church it is today.

Christ’s **victory** over sin and death means that our lives were changed, too. No longer must human beings be afraid of death. We know that we will live forever with Him in Heaven.

This lesson is about two people who were once with a stranger. After a while, the stranger told them who He was. They had a story to tell. People are still telling that story today.



*Adult Bible Study
in Basic English*

Luke 24:13-35

- 13 That same day two of His followers were going to the town of Emmaus. It was about a two-hour walk from Jerusalem.
- 14 They talked of all these things that had happened.
- 15 While they were talking together, Jesus Himself came and walked along with them.
- 16 Something kept their eyes from seeing Who He was.
- 17 He said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk?" They stood still and looked sad.
- 18 One of them, whose name was Cleopas, said to Him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who has not heard of the things that have happened here these days?"
- 19 Jesus said to them, "What things?" They answered, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth. He was the great One Who spoke for God. He did powerful works and spoke powerful words in the sight of God and the people.
- 20 And the religious leaders and the leaders of the people gave Him over to be killed and nailed Him to a cross.
- 21 We were hoping He was the One Who was going to make the Jewish people free. But it was three days ago when these things happened.
- 22 "Some of the women of our group have surprised us and made us wonder. They went to the grave early this morning.
- 23 They did not find His body. They came back saying they had seen angels in a special dream who said that He was alive.
- 24 Some of those who were with us went to the grave and found it as the women had said. But they did not see Him."
- 25 Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish men. How slow you are to believe what the early preachers have said.
- 26 Did not Christ have to go through these hard things to come into His shining-greatness?"
- 27 Jesus kept on telling them what Moses and all the early preachers had said about Him in the Holy Writings.
- 28 When they came to the town where they were going, Jesus acted as if He were going farther.
- 29 But they said to Him, "Stay with us. It will soon be evening. The day is about over." He went in to stay with them.
- 30 As He sat at the table with them, He took the bread and gave thanks and broke it. Then He gave it to them.
- 31 And their eyes were opened and they knew Him. Then He left them and could not be seen.
- 32 They said to each other, "Were not our hearts filled with joy when He talked to us on the road about what the Holy Writings said?"
- 33 Then they got up at once and went back to Jerusalem. They found the eleven followers together and other with them.
- 34 They said, "For sure the Lord is risen and was seen by Simon."
- 35 Then they told what had happened on the road and how they came to know Him when He broke the bread.

THEY WERE NOT SURE

“That same day” was the first day of the week (Luke 24:13). It was what we call “**resurrection** Sunday.” Two followers of Jesus were going home. They had been in Jerusalem. But, they did not know Jesus had come alive again from the dead.

As the two walked, they talked about what had happened in Jerusalem. Perhaps they talked about what it meant. Suddenly, Jesus, whom they believed to be dead, began walking with them. He listened to what they were saying.

Something kept them from knowing who Jesus was. They did not expect to see Him. They thought He was dead. They talked about what had been going on in Jerusalem. They were very sad.

They believed that Jesus was a great man who spoke for God. He was a great teacher. They had hoped that He would be the one who would lead Israel. They had looked for Him to lead Israel in a fight with Rome. They had hoped for a mighty leader. And now He was dead.

They were not sure about what had happened on that third day. Women who were followers of Jesus had gone to the **tomb**. They were surprised. The **tomb** was empty. The body was gone.

But that was not all. The women saw angels. The angels told them Jesus was alive.

Other **disciples** then went to the **tomb**. The **tomb** was empty. Jesus was not there.

Jesus had talked to His **disciples** about coming alive from the dead. But they could not believe it had really happened. Cleopas and the other **disciple** said their sad good-byes. They left the other disciples. They began the sad trip home.

Is it a surprise that they doubted? The fact of the **resurrection** is hard not to doubt. Even Jesus' **disciples** did not believe at first. It was later that they had proof that Jesus lived again.

RUN TEP'S LIFE WAS CHANGED

My friend, Run Tep, likes to tell how the good news of Jesus' death and **resurrection** changed her life. Run grew up in Cambodia. Her parents were Buddhists.

The terrible war in Cambodia changed Run's life. Many members of her family were killed. There was little food. Every day, Run's mother prayed to Buddha for help. But Buddha did nothing.

Run stopped believing in Buddha. She stopped believing in anything.

Finally, what was left of her family ran away. They went to a camp in Thailand.

Run heard that Christians could sometimes come to the United States. Run started to come to Christian meetings. She began to learn about Jesus. Her life was changed.

Run told me, "I went for a selfish reason. I did not expect to believe in Jesus."

A strange thing happened. Run began to see things in a different way. She saw how happy the Christians were. Their belief in Christ caused them to be better people. She began to want to have what they had.

Run began to listen and study. At last, she accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. She felt that she was a different person.

I met the family when they came to our city. I helped them learn English. I helped when Run was baptized.

Run is a happy Christian. She has not had an easy life. She has no husband to help her. She works very hard. She told me, "God helps me every day. He is all around me. I could not have lived if God did not answer prayer. I depend on the Lord for my strength."

Many Cambodian people have come to know the Lord because of Run Tep.

THE GREATEST BIBLE STUDY

Jesus and the two **disciples** went on walking. Jesus explained how the Old Testament pointed toward Him. This must have been the greatest Bible study of all time. Wouldn't it have been wonderful to listen to that great teacher?

The fact is, we do have that Bible study. We have the New Testament. From Matthew through Revelation we learn about Jesus. We know that He is the Son of God.

At the end of the trip, the men asked Jesus to stay with them. Jesus stayed and they ate together. Then it happened. Their eyes opened. They knew it was Jesus. How happy they must have been!

The living Lord comes to us just as He did to those on the road. He comes to us when we are unhappy. He is there when we are in pain. He calms our fears. He brings us peace.

He really is alive!

Every Sunday is **resurrection** Sunday for the Christian. We meet on the first day of the week because that was the day Jesus was raised from the dead. When we meet in churches large and small we sing His praises. We hear His word.

We have a message to tell. We want to share His promises. We want to tell everyone!

GO . . . TELL!

The story of the **resurrection** must not be kept in the church. It is for the world, all nations, every person. The Book of Acts is the second Bible Book written by Luke. It tells how the **disciples** spread the word near and far. The heart of the message was the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead.

That is our message for a lost and waiting world.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. Why did the two **disciples** not recognize Jesus?
2. What, for you, is the strongest reason for believing in the **resurrection** of Jesus?
3. What are some ways we can share the good news of our risen Lord?

WORD STUDY

disciple - A follower of Jesus Christ in his lifetime

resurrection - The act of rising from the dead

stranger - a person not known, a new person

tomb - A burial place, the grave in a cave

victory - winning the battle over something, success in defeating an enemy

Bible Text

**Luke 5:29-32,
14:12-15**

Memory Verse

“I have not come to call good people. I have come to call sinners to be sorry for their sins and to turn from them.”

Luke 5:32

Word List

Alcoholics Anonymous

banquet

challenge

evangelism

humility

introduce

neighborhood

outcast

outsider

passage

unchurched

virtue



*Adult Bible Study
in Basic English*

Who Is Invited?

There is a church in our city which has a dinner each week for homeless, street people. The Thursday night dinners started several years ago. At first, only twelve people came. Now, almost 225 street people come.

A good meal is served. There are linen table cloths and napkins. A church member sits at each table. He helps people feel at ease. After the meal the pastor speaks. He gives a short religious lesson. The people sing. Sometimes a person sings a solo.

Now many churches help. Some of their members come to the dinners. Many churches send helpers. After the dinner, **Alcoholics Anonymous** meets in the worship room.

When we include unwanted people in our circle of friendship we are doing what Jesus would do. We can be sure of His good favor.

Luke 5:29-32, 14:12-15

29 Levi made a big supper for Jesus in his house. Many men who gathered taxes and other people sat down with them.

30 The teachers of the Law and the proud religious law-keepers talked against the follower of Jesus. They said, “Why do You eat and drink with men who gather taxes and with sinners?”

31 Jesus said to them, “People who are well do not need a doctor. Only those who are sick need a doctor.

32 I have not come to call good people. I have come to call sinners to be sorry for their sins and to turn from them.”

5:33-14:11...

12 Then Jesus said to the man who asked Him to eat in his house, “When you have a supper, do not ask your friends or your brothers or your family or your rich neighbors. They will ask you to come to their place for a supper. That way you will be paid back for what you have done.

13 When you have a supper, ask poor people. Ask those who cannot walk and those who are blind.

14 You will be happy if you do this. They cannot pay you back. You will get your pay when the people who are right with God are raised from the dead.”

15 When one of those eating at the table with Jesus heard this, he said, “Everyone is happy who will eat in the holy nation of God.”

JESUS INVITES EVERYONE

The two scripture **passages** we study today, Luke 5:29-32 and 14:12-15, are about two dinners. The first was a **banquet** given in honor of Jesus. The host was a new disciple named Levi (Matthew).

The second dinner was given by a proud religious law-keeper. We will study about who was invited to each dinner. We will see who was welcome. Both dinners turned out to be times when the **outsider** and the unwanted were invited.

These two dinners teach us more about Jesus. They teach lessons about the holy nation of God. They teach us lessons for the church. Sharing a meal, even today, is a way to get close to another person.

You may wonder why Matthew is called Levi in these **passages**. In the first century, people would often have an Aramaic or Hebrew name. They also had a Greek name. That is the case with Matthew. He was also known as Levi.

Matthew (Levi) was a man who gathered taxes. Jesus passed by his office one day. He invited Matthew. "Follow Me" (Luke 5:27). Matthew followed right away. He became a disciple of Jesus.

When Jesus called to Matthew, He showed that He was open to people who were **outcasts**. Many men who gathered taxes were not honest. People did not trust them. But Jesus loved everyone. He gave everyone the chance to do his or her best.

Matthew invited his friends to the **banquet**. He wanted his old friends to meet his new friend, Jesus. This is **evangelism** at its best. New followers of Jesus will know more people they can **introduce** to Jesus than at any other time in their lives. What better way is there than to share food and friendship? What better way to learn about Jesus?

The proud religious law-keepers and teachers of the Law were watching Jesus. They saw that He was a friend to Matthew. They did not like it that He ate with men who gathered taxes and “sinners.” Those sinners were probably what today we would call “**unchurched.**” They did not follow the rules as understood by the teachers of the Law.

Jesus answered His critics. He said, “People who are well do not need a doctor” (Luke 5:31). He had come to help sinners.

We do not know how the sinners and men who gathered taxes reacted to Matthew’s dinner. But we know the difference it made in Matthew’s life. This is an example for us. We can open the doors to all who will come. We know that God will call sinners to be sorry for their sins and turn from them. He will use us for His purpose.

JESUS AND THE PROUD RELIGIOUS LAW-KEEPERS

Turn now to Luke 14. Verses 1-24 tell about a day when Jesus was invited to a dinner in the home of a proud religious law-keeper. It was a holy day. It was the Day of Rest. The proud religious law-keepers were watching Jesus. They hoped He would make a mistake.

A man was there with a sickness called dropsy. His arms and legs were swollen. The proud religious law-keepers thought that it was against the Law to heal anyone on the Day of Rest. But they did not say anything to Jesus.

Jesus healed the man. Then He told them they would help a child or animal that fell in a well on the Day of Rest. The proud religious law-keepers could not answer Him.

Jesus began to watch the people at the dinner. Then He told two important lessons. One was for guests and one was for the host.

The guests had tried to get the best seats. Everyone wanted to be important. Jesus told them to take the lowest seat. Then, if the host wanted, he could ask the guest to move to the best place.

Jesus was telling the people not to be proud. The person who tries to be important will not be. But the person who is not proud will be made important. True **humility** is a **virtue** for those in God's holy nation.

The host had invited his friends and relatives. Jesus and the man with dropsy were the only guests who were not like the host. Jesus gave the host a **challenge**. He said, "When you have a supper, ask poor people. Ask those who cannot walk and those who are blind" (Luke 14:13).

The people who were at this dinner could pay the host back. Jesus was saying we should include those who cannot pay us back.

The teachers of the Law had rejected Jesus. They would not be invited to God's **banquet**. The story Jesus told was about that **banquet**. The poor, the crippled, the blind would be there. Servants would go out into the streets to bring others in to share in the holy nation of God.

This lesson shows that we should not ignore any person or group of persons. We should see every person as a child of God. We must be able to say, "God loves you and so do I."

THINGS YOU CAN DO

1. Reach out to a person in your church who needs a friend.
2. Reach out to a handicapped person who needs a friend.
3. Be active in your church's ministry to visitors and new members.
4. Be a friend to new people in your **neighborhood**.

WORD STUDY

Alcoholics Anonymous - a group that helps those addicted to alcohol

banquet - a special dinner

challenge - to demand something due or right

evangelism - the preaching of the good news about Jesus

humility - the act of being not proud

introduce - to help two or more people know each other

neighborhood - the area where you live

outcast - a person who is cast out of home or society

outsider - a person who does not belong to a certain group

passage - a part of the written word

unchurched - people who do not belong to a church

virtue - goodness

Bible Text

Luke 15:11-32

Memory Verse

“I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven because of one sinner who is sorry for his sins and turns from them, than for ninety-nine people right with God who do not have sins to be sorry for.”

Luke 15:7

Word List

decision, decided

estate

inheritance

irresponsible

makeup

marry, marriage

rebel

responsible

ruin



Adult Bible Study
in Basic English

WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT?

One Sunday morning at our International Sunday School class, a young girl came. She seemed upset. As we taught the lesson she began to cry. At the end of the lesson we talked with her.

Her family was new to this country. They believed in the customs of their old country. The daughter was learning new ways. She was like many of our daughters. She wanted to wear special clothes and **makeup**. She liked the boys in her school.

Her father was worried. He was afraid his daughter would get into trouble. So he made a **decision**. He **decided** that his daughter would **marry**.

There was a problem. The man she would **marry** had a wife and two children. They were not in this country. But the father thought this **marriage** was the best thing for his daughter. That explains why the girl was crying.

The Sunday School teacher and I thought and thought. We were not sure what we should do. We **decided** to talk to the father.

My husband and I went to see the family. We had a friend who could speak the language. The three of us went to the house. The family had almost no furniture. The house was very cold but very clean.

We talked to the father. After a time, the father agreed to let the girl stay in school. He would not make her **marry** the man. But she would have to be good.

The girl was happy. And the father seemed relieved. He wanted to be proud of his daughter. He loved her very much.

We felt as if we were part of the picture-story of the foolish son.

LUKE 15:11-32

- 11 And Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons.
- 12 The younger son said to his father, 'Father, let me have the part of the family riches that will be coming to me.' Then the father divided all that he owned between his two sons.
- 13 Soon after that the younger son took all that had been given to him and went to another country far away. There he spent all he had on wild and foolish living.
- 14 When all his money was spent, he was hungry. There was no food in the land.
- 15 He went to work for a man in this far away country. His work was to feed pigs.
- 16 He was so hungry he was ready to eat the outside part of the ears of the corn the pigs ate because no one gave him anything.
- 17 "He began to think about what he had done. He said to himself, 'My father pays many men who work for him. They have all the food they want and more than enough. I am about dead because I am so hungry.
- 18 I will get up and go to my father. I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
- 19 I am not good enough to be called your son. But may I be as one of the workmen you pay to work?"'
- 20 "The son got up and went to his father. While he was yet a long way off his father saw him. The father was full of loving-pity for him. He ran and threw his arms around him and kissed him.
- 21 The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am not good enough to be called your son.'
- 22 But the father said to the workmen he owned, 'Hurry! Get the best coat and put it on him. Put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet.
- 23 Bring the calf that is fat and kill it. Let us eat and be glad.
- 24 For my son was dead and now he is alive again. He was lost and now he is found. Let us eat and have a good time.'
- 25 "The older son was out in the field. As he was coming near the house, he heard music and dancing.
- 26 He called one of the servants and asked what was happening.
- 27 The servant answered, 'Your brother has come back and your father has killed the fat calf. Your brother is in the house and is well.'
- 28 The older brother was angry and would not go into the house. His father went outside and asked him to come in.
- 29 The older son said to his father, 'All these many years I have served you. I have always obeyed what you said.
- 30 But as soon as this son of yours came back, you killed the fat calf. And yet he wasted your money with bad women.'
- 31 "The father said to him, 'My son, you are with me all the time. All that I have is yours.
- 32 It is right and good that we should have a good time and be glad. Your brother was dead and now he is alive again. He was lost and now he is found.'"

GOD'S LOVE

This picture-story of a foolish son who spent all his money is the best loved of all Jesus' parables. It shows God's love for all people. It is the story of a loving father. It is a parable of a forgiving father. The father is the main person in this story.

Jesus told three parables in Luke 15. The first is about a lost sheep (Luke 15:3-7). The second is about a lost coin (Luke 15:8-10). The third is about a son who was lost (Luke 15:11-32).

These parables answered the proud religious law-keepers and teachers of the Law. They did not like it that He was a friend to sinners. Jesus showed them that God loves those who are away from Him.

We can see ourselves in these parables. We can see ourselves in the two sons. First in the foolish son who spent all his money and too often in the older brother. The younger son represents those who are away from God. The older son represents the proud religious law-keepers and teachers of the Law. They were the ones who were not happy with God's love for lost sinners.

The Old Testament Law said that the older son should get two thirds of his father's **estate**. In a family of two sons, the younger would get one third.

The younger son wanted his share before his father died. He thought he would be happy away from his family. He wanted to be in control of his own life. His father had loved him and taken care of him always. But he decided that he did not need his father.

The father did not argue. He divided his **estate**. We can understand this if we know the way God deals with his people. We are created in God's image. That means we must

be **responsible**. To be **responsible** we must be free. God created people who have the power of choice.

We have the power to accept God or to reject Him. The story of the foolish son who spent all his money is our story. God loves us so much that He lets us **rebel** against Him.

GOD'S LOVE REACHES OUT TO US

The son took his **inheritance**. He went far away. He wanted to be away from anything that made him think about his home and family. He would do what he wanted. He would run his own life. He would spend his time and money as he pleased.

He wasted what his loving father gave him. His time was spent in wild living. Wild living is **irresponsible** living. And his wild living led to his **ruin**.

His money was gone. His friends left him. He was so poor he took a job taking care of pigs. A good Jewish person would not have anything to do with pigs. The Jews thought pigs were unclean.

The foolish son was very hungry. He was so hungry that the pig's food looked good to him. He was as low as he could get. He was lost.

"He began to think about what he had done" (Luke 15:17). He saw himself for what he had become. He knew that there was more to life. He thought of his father. His father's slaves had more than enough to eat.

He made a hard **decision**. It is never easy to admit you are wrong. He **decided** he would go back to his father. He would ask to be hired as a servant. He would be a slave

at the house where he had once been a son. Would his father help him? He could not know the answer.

The father had not forgotten his son. He had watched and waited. He had hoped his son would come home. The son was far up the road when the father saw him. He knew him. He ran to throw his arms around him.

Here we have a word picture of God's forgiving love for a sinner who repents.

GOD'S LOVE FOR SINNERS

The father did not wait for the son. He went to him. He did not walk. He ran. The son began to tell his father about his sin. He asked to be a slave. But the father stopped him. He asked the servants to bring clothes and a ring for his son.

Can you see yourself in the foolish son? The fact is, we are all sinners. All of us have sinned. Your "other country" is wherever you are until you are forgiven. You must be received into the family of God.

But in the story, everyone is not happy. The elder son is not happy. He is jealous. The older brother represents the proud religious law-keepers and teachers of the Law. They had a bad feeling against sinners. Are we like them?

We need to learn to celebrate with those who are saved. We need to share the Heavenly Father's joy over sinners who are sorry for their sins and turn away from them.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. Does the parable of the lost son tell your story? How? How is your story different?

2. Why did the proud religious law-keepers and teachers of the Law feel the way they did?

3. What can we do to show our happiness for people who come to Christ?

4. Do you see yourself in the older brother?

WORD STUDY

decision, decided - the act of making up one's mind, made up one's mind

estate - everything a person owns, this includes money, land and other things

inheritance - usually property given by one who dies

irresponsible - one who does not respond to higher authority

makeup - powder, lipstick, etc. worn by women to make their faces look nice

marry, marriage - to join a man and woman as husband and wife, the act of marrying

rebel - to fight against higher authority or any kind of control

responsible - one that can be trusted and that will take credit or blame for one's actions

ruin - anything that causes downfall, great damage or to make poor

Gospel of Luke: Meeting Jesus

Lesson 10

Using Money

Luke 16:13, 19-31

Lesson 11

Thanking God

Luke 17:11-19

Lesson 12

Knowing Our Need

Luke 16:9-14

Lesson 13

Living as Followers of Jesus

Luke 22:39-48, 54-62



*Adult Bible Study
in Basic English*

CHOOSING WHAT IS BEST

Each person must choose what is right. This can be hard to do. We need help. We have the Bible to show us what God wants. Think about what you want and make sure this is the same thing that God wants. We also have God's Spirit to help us.

Our world is changing. We can see this when we look at families, friends, schools, or churches. People have many questions about what is important. What can we do to help them? We look at what God wants. We look at what we want. We change so we can help others.

We need to make the right choices. These four lessons tell what the Bible says about:

* using our money and the things we have in the right way

(Luke 16:13,19-31)

* thanking God for all He gives instead of thinking we should have more and more (Luke 17:11-19)

* knowing how much we need God's love and favor (grace). (Luke 18: 9-14)

* living as God wants us to live as followers of Jesus

(Luke 22:39-48, 54-62)

To best help our world we must look at God's **plan**, change our choices so they are the same as God's **plan**, and learn to help others. It is not enough to just try to be happy. Study God's **plan** to find the right **plan** for our lives.

This unit written by Phyllis Merritt

Bible Text

Luke 16:13, 19-31

Memory Verse

“You cannot be faithful to God and to riches at the same time.”

Luke 16:13b

Word List

Abraham

beggar

faithful

hell

Moses

plan



*Adult Bible Study
in Basic English*

Using Money

Money is important. It helps buy the things we need. We can use money to help others learn about God. Today, Americans often put money above people. Some even think that having lots of money tells others that God is pleased with them. The story of the rich man and Lazarus (LAH zuh rus) helps us see what is important about money and how we use it. Remember: Never let money become more important than loving God and loving people.

My grandfather taught me a good way to look at money. He took care of his family by working hard on his farm. He gave one tenth of his money each month to his church. He also gave money for missionaries. Years later, I met a woman from China who had become a Christian. My grandfather had sent money to the same missionary who went to this woman's village and told her about Jesus. My Grandfather knew that buildings and things do not last. God's love is forever.

Jesus taught us that we cannot love God and love money at the same time. We can serve God if we use money in the right way. No one can have two bosses. We will hate one and love the other. We will be **faithful** to one and **unfaithful** to the other. Jesus says you cannot be **faithful** to God and to riches at the same time (Luke 16:13).

LUKE 16:13, 19-31

13 No servant can have two bosses. He will hate the one and love the other. Or, he will be faithful to one and not faithful to the other. You cannot be faithful to God and to riches at the same time.”

14-18...

19 “There was a rich man who dressed in purple linen clothes everyday. He lived like a king would live with the best of food.

20 There was a poor man named Lazarus who had many bad sores. He was put by the door of the rich man.

21 He wanted the pieces of food that fell from the table of the rich man. Even dogs came and licked his sores.

22 “The poor man who asked for food died. He was taken by the angels into the arms of **Abraham**. The rich man died also and was buried.

23 In hell the rich man was in much pain. He looked up and saw **Abraham** far away and Lazarus beside him.

24 He cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, take pity on me. Send Lazarus. Let him put the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in much pain in this fire.’

25 **Abraham** said, ‘My son, do not forget that when you were living you had your good things. Lazarus had bad things. Now he is well cared for. You are in pain.

26 And more than all this, there is a big deep place between us. No one from here can go there even if he wanted to go. No one can come from there.’

27 “Then the rich man said, ‘Father then I beg you to send Lazarus to my father’s house.

28 I have five brothers. Let him tell them of these things, or they will come to this place of much pain also.’

29 **Abraham** said, ‘They have the Writings of **Moses** and of the early preachers. Let them hear what they say.’

30 But the rich man said, ‘No, Father **Abraham**. If someone goes to them from the dead, they will be sorry for their sins and turn from them.’

31 **Abraham** said to him, ‘If they do not listen to **Moses** and to the early preachers, they will not listen even if someone is raised from the dead.’ ”

JESUS' STORY

Jesus told a picture-story to teach about those who love money and do not care about anyone who is having a hard time. People who love money more than God do not love God. They are too busy getting more money. We can learn from Jesus' story.

TWO DIFFERENT PERSONS: THE RICH MAN AND THE BEGGAR

The Rich Man ate the best food every day and dressed in the best clothes. He could buy anything he wanted. He had servants working in his house. He seemed to have everything. His problem? He used all this money for himself. He did nothing for the sick **beggar** at his front door. He thought only of himself and nothing of others. Jesus did not even tell us the name of this rich man. We only know that he did not help the **beggar**.

Lazarus was the **beggar**. He was put at the front door of the rich man. He had no money. He had no food. His body had sores on it. Only the dogs came to lick his body. He wished to eat pieces of food that fell from the rich man's table. He was helpless, homeless, and sick. Jesus tells us his name. It means "God is his help."

TWO DIFFERENT DEATHS

The rich man died and was buried. Perhaps many people came and spoke. He and his money would be missed.

Lazarus died and was taken by angels to **heaven**, to the arms of **Abraham**. Probably he had no funeral. But in heaven he received a special welcome. He was given the place of honor at the side of **Abraham**.

TWO DIFFERENT REWARDS

The rich man was in pain in **hell**. He found that death was not the end. It was the start of everlasting suffering. He was separated from all that was his before and alone. All his

money was left on earth. He had nothing. He looked up and saw Abraham with Lazarus beside him.

Lazarus was now in a place of great happiness in heaven.. He was in a place of great honor. He had everything. The bad things that had been a part of his life were all over.

THREE PRAYERS

1. The rich man cried out to Abraham to take pity on him. He wished for the same joy and comfort and happiness that Lazarus now had in heaven.
2. He wanted Abraham to send Lazarus to bring water to cool his tongue. He wanted something to help him with the pain of the fire.
3. He wanted Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his five brothers who were still alive.

Abraham could not send Lazarus to bring water to the Rich Man or leave heaven to return to earth to warn the rich man's brothers. It was impossible. It was too late.

Between the two places there is a deep place. No one can go from one place to the other. Abraham told the rich man that his brothers had **Moses** and the Early Preachers in the Bible. The brothers knew the words of the Old Testament to warn them. They had the choice to obey God.

The rich man asked for someone who had already died to go warn his brothers. Abraham told him that his brothers would not listen to Lazarus or anyone, even if that person were raised from the dead. Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead to save us from our sins. Some still choose not to believe. Many love darkness more than light. That choice brings life that lasts forever in pain.

When he was on earth, the rich man had much time to help others. He had spent everything on himself. In life he had everything money could buy. He did not have faith in God. In death he had nothing but pain and memories of what might have been. It was too late.

TWO CHOICES

We can choose to serve money or serve God. Having money was not the problem for the rich man. How he used his money was his problem. Learn from Jesus' story.

Serve others while there is still time.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

What is the place in our lives for wanting money?

Which is more important to you?

/_/ loving God

/_/ loving money

We can see how much we love God by how we use our money. Do we help those in need with our money or use it only for ourselves?

We show that people are not important to us if we do not feel their hurt. They are not important to us if we turn away when they are needy. We can change by putting God and others first and using our money to help them. Now is the time to use our money to do good for others.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Learn about needs where you live:

* Almost one million Texans go hungry every day. Texas is number three in the nation in the number of homes where people are hungry or do not have a way to get enough food.

* "Our country has more than enough food to feed our people," said the director of a food bank. The food does not get to poor people.

2. Choose to think about others before yourself. Feel their hurt, find ways to help them:

3. Help your church take an offering for the poor and hungry.

4. Give time to work in a clothes closet where people can come and get clothes they need.

TO REMEMBER

1. Riches here on earth do not last forever.
2. Peace and joy come to those who have their treasure in heaven.
3. Now is the time to be sorry for sins and help people: it is too late after death.
4. If we use money only for ourselves we are not putting God first.

WORD STUDY

Abraham - had obeyed God and become the Father of all Jews. His story is in the Old Testament, in the book of Genesis chapters 11-25.

beggar - a person who asks for food from others.

faithful - staying loyal to someone or something, showing responsibility

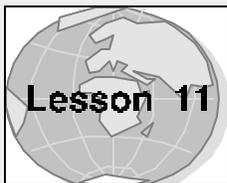
hell – the place of punishment that lasts forever for those who do not obey God

Moses - the one who brought the Jewish people out of slavery in Egypt. He received the Ten Commandments from God. Read more about Moses in the Old Testament book of Exodus.

plan - a way of doing something that has been thought out ahead of time

Bible Text**Luke 17:11-19****Memory Verse**

**Always give thanks for
all things to God the Fa-
ther in the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 5:20**Word List****grateful****joy****leper, leprosy****miracle****thanksgiving**

*Adult Bible Study
in Basic English*

THANKING GOD

Jesus said it is important to learn to be thankful. Jesus healed ten men (**lepers**) with a bad skin disease (**leprosy**). Only one came back to say thank you and to worship. Jesus healed many people. There was not enough room to write about all of them in the Bible. We have this story that so we can learn from the one who returned to say thank you. This shows we understand what God has done for us. All things come from Him. We cannot live without God's help. To really live is to know God's love. **Thanksgiving** is a way of life for the follower of Christ.

Children learn to say "me want" and "mine!" faster than "thank you." This is true for many adults also. Instead of saying "Why did a bad thing happen to me? It would be better to say, "What can I learn from this to be thankful for?"

Some people keep wanting more and more. They do not remember that God gives all good things. When we say thank you to God we live in **joy**.

LUKE 17:11-19

- 11 Jesus went on His way to Jerusalem. He was passing between the countries of Samaria and Galilee.
- 12 As He was going into one of the towns, ten men with a bad skin disease came to Him. They stood a little way off.
- 13 They called to Him, “Jesus! Teacher! Take pity on us!”
- 14 When Jesus saw them, He said, “Go and show yourselves to the religious leaders.” As they went, they were healed.
- 15 One of them turned back when he saw he was healed. He thanked God with a loud voice.
- 16 He got down on his face at the feet of Jesus and thanked Him. He was from the country of Samaria.
- 17 Jesus asked, “Were there not ten men who were healed? Where are the other nine?”
- 18 Is this stranger from another country the only one who turned back to give thanks to God?”
- 19 Then Jesus said to him, “Get up and go on your way. Your trust in God has healed you.”

A CALL FOR HELP

This Bible lesson tells us that Jesus would soon go to Jerusalem. There he would die on the cross for our sins. He was close to the border between Samaria and Galilee. There He met ten men with a bad skin disease. They were **lepers**.

I once taught a Bible study in Nigeria, Africa for people who were **lepers**. Some did not have parts of their hands, or feet, or faces. This disease caused them not have any feeling in their hands or feet. They would hurt themselves and not know it. I was not sure I wanted to go teach them. I was not afraid I would catch this disease. I was afraid the people would all be sad. They were not. They were Christians and they loved to sing songs of praise and study the Bible. We took a picture of everybody. When I looked at it later, they were all smiling. They had learned to say, “Thank you, God for all the good things You give.” I learned to be **grateful** from them.

In the times of the Bible, people were very afraid to be close to anyone with this disease. People with this disease had to live outside the city and live far from their families. **Lepers** had to warn others not to come near them. They also knew they would never get well.

The **lepers** called out for Jesus to help them. They called again and again. They had heard about Jesus’ power. They knew that no one else could help them.

A KIND COMMAND FOR TEN MEN

Jesus heard the call for help. He told them to “Go, show yourselves to the religious leaders.” They obeyed. They had faith that they would be well. As they went on the road, they were healed. They had no more disease. Their skin was all clean. According to the laws of Moses (Leviticus 13:-45-46; 14:1 -9) they would receive a paper which said they were now well. The **lepers** obeyed Jesus’ command and their faith made them well. Jesus had answered their loud cries for help with a heart of love.

At another time, Jesus had touched a **leper** and made them well. This time he spoke and the **miracle** happened. They were made well when they obeyed and were walking away.

ONE RETURNS

Ten men were made well. Ten men had a chance to live with their families again. Ten men now had clean skin. Nine went on their way. Only one man came back to give thanks. He received the gift of healing and did not forget Who gave it to him. He knew Who made him well. He took the time to come back. “He thanked God with a loud voice. He got down on his face at the feet of Jesus and thanked him.” He was happy and thankful. All the **lepers** were glad to be made well, only one was **grateful** and came back to show his thanks.

It is not always easy to give thanks. It may take time and work. Words are not the only way to say thank you. This man showed how he felt by what he did. It is not enough just to be a thought. This one man may have had a family, friends, and children he wanted to see. But, first he stopped and returned to thank Jesus.

When we pray it is important to say thank you. When we only ask for things from God, we are like the nine who did not come back to tell Jesus thank you.

Jesus asked:

“Were not ten men healed?”

“Where are the other nine?”

“Is this stranger from another country the only one who turned back to give thanks to God?”

The man who returned to Jesus was a man from Samaria. Usually, he would not be part of a group with the others. The skin disease these men had brought these different men together. The man from Samaria understood God better than the Jews who worshiped in Jerusalem. His heart of **thanksgiving** was more important than where he was from.

Jesus taught that it is important to be thankful. Being thankful just some of the time is not enough. Like our attitude toward money, we must place thankfulness in the right place in our lives. Sometimes we are thankful for good things, like this man who was healed. It is also important to learn to be thankful for times that are hard.

Being thankful is a way of life. The person who is a follower of Christ should find it easy to be thankful. Jesus has made us whole. God's Spirit lives in us. Choose to be thankful. We can best show how thankful we are to God by giving ourselves back to Him.

A CLEAN BODY AND A CLEAN HEART

Jesus said, "Your trust in God has healed you."

All the men were healed of their bad skin disease. Only the man from Samaria had the kind of faith that gave him a changed heart. We read in the Bible that God's kindness leads people to being sorry for sins (Romans 2:4). All ten men showed they had faith in Jesus to heal them. Only the one who said thank you showed he had love for Jesus as well. "They did know God, but they did not honor Him as God. They were not thankful to Him and thought only of foolish things. Their foolish minds became dark" (Romans 1:21).

Life is a gift from God. The greatest gift He gives is life that lasts forever. For this we live a life of thankfulness.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. In what ways are worship and gratitude part of each other?
2. How can gratitude turn trouble into something good?
3. What ways can I show thankfulness in action-- not just thoughts and words?

Ten Things I am Thankful For	The One I am grateful To	Place a ? if I Have Said Thank You For This
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

WORD STUDY

grateful - to be thankful

joy - a deep and lasting very happy feeling

leper - a person with a bad skin disease. The disease is called **leprosy**

miracle - special, powerful work of God

thanksgiving - to give thanks to God

Bible Text

Luke 18:9-14

Memory Verse

I ask each one of you not to think more of himself than he should think. Instead, think in the right way toward yourself by the faith God has given you.
Romans 12:3b

Word List

blessing

elected

governing

humble

import

mercy



*Adult Bible Study
in Basic English*

KNOWING OUR NEED

God is very good to us. We feel **humble** when we think about His goodness. This should not make us act proud and feel we are better than others. This is important to our prayer life and to the way we act. Only with humility can we ask God for **mercy** and forgiveness. Then He saves us and is our Lord.

Max is an example to me of a person who does not act proud. Max is a truly **humble** man. He and his wife, Dot, have done many good things for people. Every week people from many different countries come to their house. They study painting with Dot. They learn to make things out of wood with Max. They play with puzzles. They cook together.

Max takes them to places to fix their cars. He helps them with their immigration papers. He listens to them talk about problems with their husband or wife or children. He even “babysits” their dogs when they go on vacation.

He is surprised that so many people come to him to talk about God. They want to talk with him because he is **humble** and not proud. God uses him because he is a servant.

There is a song that says “Isn’t hard to be **humble** when you are perfect in every way?” Most people today would rather have power than humility. But Jesus is our example of humility. Jesus taught us more about this with a picture-story of two men who went to pray.

Jesus was talking to some people who were not **humble**. They trusted in themselves and thought they were right with God. This is what he said:

LUKE 18:9-14

- 9 Jesus told another picture-story to some people who trusted in themselves and thought they were right with God. These people did not think well of other men.
- 10 Jesus said, “Two men went up to the house of God to pray. One of them was a proud religious law-keeper. The other was a man who gathered taxes.
- 11 The proud religious law-keeper stood and prayed to himself like this, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men. I am not like those who steal. I am not like those who do things that are wrong. I am not like those who are wrong. I am not like those who do sex sins. I am not even like this tax-gatherer.
- 12 I go without food two times a week so I can pray better. I give one-tenth part of the money I earn.’
- 13 But the man who gathered taxes stood a long way off. He would not even lift his eyes to heaven. But he hit himself on his chest and said, ‘God have pity on me! I am a sinner!’
- 14 I tell you, this man went back to his house forgiven, and not the other man. For whoever makes himself look more important than he is will find out how little he is worth. Whoever does not try to honor himself will be made important.”

TWO MEN WHO WENT TO PRAY AND WORSHIP

Faithful Jews prayed and worshiped three times a day. If possible, they would go to the house of God for this. Jesus tells of two men who came to pray one day. One looked good but he was not. The other knew he was not good but he received God's forgiveness. We look into the heart of each man as we hear each of their prayers.

THE PROUD RELIGIOUS LAW-KEEPER

These were people who kept themselves separate. They wanted to obey every law in the Bible. They taught the laws to others. Others thought highly of them. They were **elected** to the **governing** body of the Jews.

They lived good lives. They taught others to remember to do the right things. They remembered the past history. This man thought himself to be a good man.

THE MAN WHO GATHERED TAXES

These men collected more taxes than Rome wanted. This way they could keep the rest for themselves. They could collect land taxes, voting taxes, house of God taxes, road taxes, bridge taxes, **import** taxes, and more. People often paid thirty to forty percent of what they made as tax.

Those who collected the taxes were not liked at all. They were hated, called traitors and no one wanted to be with them. This man was a sinner.

TWO PRAYERS

The Law-Keeper was not a humble man. He was so proud that he forgot the bad things he did and the good things he had not done. He did not speak about his sins. He did not ask for anything. He did not ask for forgiveness, or **mercy**, or grace. He only said thank you to God that he was not like the man who gathered taxes. He did not pray for the man who gathered taxes. His religion was centered on himself and not on God.

Some say that prayer is talking with God. This man talked just with himself. He is not praying. He is telling himself how good he is.

He tells of going without food two times a week so he can pray better. The law told people to do this one time a year and he did it two times a week. He was good, but that goodness he had kept him from God.

Look at Luke 18:11-12 and count how many times he uses the word, "I." He talked about himself and to himself. He knew there was a God, but he worshiped himself.

He compared himself with the man who gathered taxes. It is not possible to make yourself good by making other people look bad. He depended on his own goodness. He did not know that what he needed most was God.

He did not realize that God was not looking at the outside, but at what was in his heart.

The man who gathered taxes called himself a sinner. He asked for **mercy**. His words were few. They came from his heart. God approved of his prayer. His prayer is very short.

Because he knows he has great need, he is the one who receives the **blessing**.

This man showed that he did not think of himself more than he should.

Whom did he talk to? He prayed to God. He prayed so he could be heard by God and not people. He was honest.

He also stood far off from the others. His eyes were looking down. He did not even look up. He only looked down. He feels pain and is sorry for his sins.

His prayer was short and simple and honest.

He asks for God to take away his sins.

TWO ANSWERS TO PRAYER

When Jesus began this story, the people, who were listening thought they knew which person was good and which one was not. They were surprised that Jesus said the prayer of the man who gathered taxes was accepted by God but the prayer of the proud religious law-keeper was not accepted. The man who gathered taxes was forgiven and the law-keeper was not forgiven.

To understand ourselves and to understand God we must know that sin is the most important problem in our life. Because the man who gathered taxes knew he had sin and asked for **mercy**, he met God at the house of God. The law-keeper never saw himself as a sinner.

He only told God about other people's sins. He did not think he needed God.

“God works against those who have pride. He gives His loving-favor to those who do not try to honor themselves” (I Peter 5:5). God always shows **mercy**. It is ready for us when we are ready to ask for it.

Both the law-keeper and the man who gathered taxes had their prayers answered. The law-keeper was seen by men. That seemed to be all that was important to him.

The man who gathered taxes looked down in humility. He saw himself as a sinner in the eyes of God. When he admitted he had sin, he received **mercy**. He was lifted up by his humility. God answered his prayer and he went back to his home forgiven.

Bible Text

**Luke 22:39-48
54-62**

Memory Verse

**“Father. . .
not what I want,
but what You want.”
Luke 22: 42**

Word List

disturb

faithful

flesh

tempt

temptation



*Adult Bible Study
in Basic English*

LIVING AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

If we want to have strong faith, we must choose to do right. Learn from what happened to Jesus when he was getting ready for His death, and when he knew that Judas and Peter would turn against Him. Those things which helped him to be **faithful** can also help us.

* Kyung worked as a nurse at the hospital. She got home about 4:00 in the morning. Before going to sleep she sat in her favorite chair and prayed and read the Bible.

* Another friend told me that she found a beautiful place to pray one time when she was on vacation. Later, she would think about this place when she needed to be quiet and pray.

* A woman lived in England in the 1800's. She was the mother of thirteen children. When she needed to have a quiet time to pray and read the Bible, she sat in the kitchen and put her apron up over her head. Then her children knew not to **disturb** her so she could have time to pray.

LUKE 22:39-48, 54-62

- 39 Jesus came out of the room. Then He went to the Mount of Olives as He had been doing. The followers went with Him.
- 40 When He got there, He said to them, “Pray that you will not be tempted.”
- 41 He walked away from them about as far as a stone can be thrown. There He got down with His face on the ground and prayed.
- 42 He said, “Father, if it can be done, take away what must happen to Me. Even so, not what I want, but what You want.”
- 43 An angel from heaven came and gave Him strength.
- 44 His heart was much troubled and He prayed all the more. Water ran from His face like blood and fell to the ground.
- 45 When Jesus got up after praying, He went back to the followers. He found them sleeping because of so much sorrow.
- 46 He said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you will not be tempted.”
- 47 While Jesus was speaking, Judas came walking ahead of many people. He was one of the twelve followers. He came near to Jesus to kiss Him.
- 48 But Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you handing over the Son of Man with a kiss?”
- 49-53...
- 54 Then they led Jesus away to the house of the head religious leader. Peter followed a long way behind Him.
- 55 They built a fire in the yard and sat down. Peter sat down with them.
- 56 One of the servant-girls saw Peter as he sat by the fire and looked right at him. She said, “This man was with Jesus also.”
- 57 Peter lied and said, “Woman, I do not know Him.”
- 58 After awhile another person saw him and said, “You are one of them also.” Peter said, “No, sir, I am not.”
- 59 About an hour later another person said the same thing, “For sure, this man was with Jesus also because he is from Galilee.
- 60 But Peter said, “Sir, I do not know what you are saying.” And at once, while he was talking, a rooster crowed.
- 61 The Lord turned and looked at Peter. He remembered the Lord had said, “Before a rooster crows, you will say three times that you do not know Me.”
- 62 Peter went outside and cried with a troubled heart.

RIGHT CHOICES THAT MAKE FAITH STRONG

Jesus knew the time was very close when he would die. There were crowds of people around him but now they were not all friendly. Sometimes they were angry. Jesus needed to be strong. Four things helped him:

1. Place: Jesus had a place to go when he needed to pray. He went to the Garden of Gethsemane. He knew He needed to gain strength. It was a garden on the Mount of the Olives. He and His followers had been there before. He had always found time to go to a quiet place to be alone to pray and be with the Father. We read in Luke 21:37 that Jesus was teaching in the house of God but that each night He would go to the Mount of Olives to sleep and rest. This is why Judas knew where to find Him later (John 18:1-2).
2. Prayer: Jesus had often taught his followers about prayer. He had also shown them how important prayer was when he prayed.

That night He told them two times, “Pray that you will not be **tempted**.” (Luke 22:40 and Luke 22:46). He understood they needed prayer also, even in this time of trouble for himself.

Prayer is the way God gives us his help to live without sin. Prayer helps us so that we are not **tempted** and can overcome trouble. This was true for Jesus at this difficult time. When life is difficult and hard, it is even more important to worship through prayer so that we do not give up or give in.

After Jesus told his followers to pray, he went to pray. He got down with His face on the ground. At this time people usually prayed when they standing up. This was a very difficult time for Jesus. He was on the ground.

When He prayed, it was a short and simple prayer. He started with, “Father” (Luke 22:42). It was good to know He had a Father who loved Him and who would be with Him. We can also pray this way.

Jesus asked if the Father could take away what was going to happen to Him. He was going to have to face death. Death came into the world because of sin. Jesus had no sin, but he would take ours. He would suffer like no one else. Was there any other way that He could save us (Luke 22:42)?

He needed strength to do what must be done. He prayed so hard that water fell like drops of blood. His heart was troubled. What was coming was so difficult. No one else has ever prayed like this (Luke 22:42).

3. Purpose: Jesus knew that he had come to pay for our sins so He could save us. This was His purpose and this helped him to be strong. A seed must be buried in the ground and die in order to grow. He obeyed. He understood the will of God. He would do freely what God willed. He was ready to prove Himself and do what he came to do.
4. God Provides: An angel came to give Jesus strength (Luke 22:43). The power of God would help Jesus through this difficult time. God’s plan would stay the same. Jesus still would need to die. But, the Father would help Jesus do what must be done.

The angel would help give strength for what he must do. We, too, are given strength by God to do what must be done. It is not always easy, but it is possible. Jesus shows us how. Jesus left His Holy Spirit to comfort us with strength (John 14:15-18).

CHOICES THAT KEEP US FROM BEING FAITHFUL

Every day we must decide the right things to do. We learn about three wrong choices in this lesson from Luke. We see how the followers were weak, Judas was wanting money, and Peter was afraid.

1. **Flesh:** When Jesus finished praying, he found that his disciples were sleeping (Luke 22:45-46). They were tired. They were worried. Sometimes sorrow makes people sleep. Some people sleep in church. Others sleep when they should be doing the work of the church. We are not **faithful** when we are lazy, or use drugs or alcohol. These things are part of the **flesh**.
2. **Money:** Judas was the treasurer of the group. He took care of the money. For some reason, he was willing to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver (see Matthew 26:15). It was dark and Jesus had finished praying when Judas came with the house of God police and the Roman soldiers. He greeted Jesus with a kiss, took his money, and later went to hang himself. His money bought a grave.

We think Judas did a terrible thing. But, anytime we disobey Jesus we are like Judas. We say we know Jesus, but often we do not do what He asks.

3. **Fear:** Jesus was arrested on a Thursday night. There were trials, false charges, and hard times for Jesus. During this time, Peter said three times that he did not know who Jesus was. Why? He was afraid. This must have been a time that was hard for Jesus. He had heard Peter tell others that he did not know Him. He looked at Peter. Peter had said he would die for Jesus. Now he is not willing to tell any one that he has been a follower of Jesus. His fear made him say he did not know Jesus.
4. **Time to Choose:** What do you need to do to remain **faithful** to Jesus? We learn from this lesson that it is important to have a special place to be alone and pray. It helps us to know that there is a reason for what we do. And God gives us His strength when we ask. We should look at why we sometimes fail. Are we letting our bodies tell us what to do? Do we want money more than anything else? Are we afraid? If we want to follow Jesus, we must be **faithful**.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Write: Yes or No

Do I do these things which help me to be **faithful**?

___ I have a place where I can feel close to God.

___ I Pray regularly.

___ I know what God wants me to do.

___ I ask God to help me.

Do any of these things keep me from being **faithful**?

___ Weak **flesh**

___ Wanting money

___ Being afraid

THIS WEEK

If you do not have a time and place to pray, start now. Begin with at least fifteen minutes each day.

Pray. Ask for forgiveness for sins. Thank God for His goodness. Thank Him for all He has done for you. Pray for those who have troubles. Pray for missionaries. Find the list of their names and their birthdays. Read Our Missions World in Basic English from Woman's Missionary Union. Call these free numbers 1-800-968-7301, or 1-800-554-PRAY or 1-800-395-PRAY.

Read the Bible lesson again. Study the lesson for next week.

You will find that God helps you to make right choices with your money, with being thankful, being humble and being **faithful** to Him.

WORD STUDY

disturb - bother or interrupt, break up the quiet or calm

faithful - full of faith, **faithfulness** - to have trust, belief.

flesh - the human body as different from the soul

tempt - to try to get to do wrong, **temptation** - something that **tempts**

MEET THE WRITERS

Ann Pitman wrote the first four lessons of the Gospel of Luke: Meeting Jesus. Ann and her husband, Dr. Gene Pitman, were medical missionaries in Nigeria in the 1960's. Because of a health problem, they could no longer serve there. The Pitmans settled in Waco and Ann helped to organize the Neighbors International Program in their church in 1970. She has been director, teacher, or English-as-a-second-language (ESL) coordinator in the program since that time. Gene teaches the Bible Study class for internationals on Sunday. Ann is outreach leader of her adult Bible Study class. She is a member of the missions committee and Women on Mission. She has also written lessons for Lifeway (formerly the Sunday School Board). The Pitmans have three daughters and four grandchildren.

Carolyn Cree wrote Lessons Five through Nine of this study. Carolyn has been a teacher and director of International programs since 1971. She is the author of "Beyond the Golden Door: A Layman's Ministry to International Families." She lives in Fort Worth, Texas, where she is director of International Friends at her church. She and her husband have two daughters and two grandchildren.

Phyllis Merritt wrote the last four lessons of this study. She first began teaching Internationals when she and her husband, Jack, were home missionaries in an apartment complex of 25,000 people in New York City in 1970. She has taught English-as-a-second-language and Bible studies for Internationals in New York City; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Atlanta, Georgia and now at First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas. She writes for Our Missions World, the WMU publication for language missions. For the past three summers she has taught English at a university in China. The Merritts have two sons.