



## Small Group Guide – Week of February 22

*Upside Down: The Gospel According to Luke*

**Date:** Week of February 22, 2025

**Focus Passage(s):** Luke 6:20-23, 6:27-31, 6:46-49|

**Theme:** Our dependence on God is better than our dependence on finding happiness in stuff we want.

### **Suggested Schedule (60 minutes total)**

Segment	Time	Description
Icebreaker	10 min	Get comfortable, begin connecting
Intro/Recap	5 min	Read the key passages for the week
Group Discussion	25 min	Dive into Scripture and discuss real-life application
Deeper Dive Option	5–10 min	Deeper Bible study or individual challenge
Prayer & Requests	10–15 min	Close in prayer for growth + personal needs

### **Welcome + Icebreaker (10 min)**

**Prompt:** These questions help us begin thinking about the theme of depending on God for blessings, our relationships and following Him, instead of relying on things we **think** will bring us true joy.

Have you ever been completely convinced you were right about something, only to later realize you needed to change your perspective? What happened?

What is something small that people seem to have strong opinions about? Why do you think we hold tightly to certain viewpoints?

## Key Message Recap (5 min)

**Read aloud:** Luke 6:20-23 When you hear the word “blessed,” what normally comes to mind? How does Jesus redefine blessing in this passage?

*Example Answer: “I usually think of blessing as comfort or success. Jesus connects blessing to dependence on God, even in difficult seasons.”*

Our dependence on God is better than our dependence on stuff. We think we find happiness in having what we want, when we want, how we want. But when everything else fades, when the comfort is interrupted, when the reputation is shaky, the one thing that remains steady is the God who never fails.

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## Dig Deeper – Discussion Questions (25 min)

### Upside Down Blessing

Jesus says the poor, hungry, and weeping are blessed. Why do you think dependence on God creates deeper joy than self-sufficiency?

What are you most tempted to depend on for security right now? Money, success, relationships, approval?

Have you ever experienced a season where something was taken away, but your faith grew stronger? What changed in you?

**Key Truth** Our dependence on God is better than our dependence on stuff.

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### Upside Down Relationships

Read Luke 6:27-31 aloud.

Treat people not as they deserve, but as God has treated you. We don't treat people in the right way so that they change. We treat them right because of how God has treated us.

What makes loving your enemies so difficult in real life?

Is there someone in your life right now who is hard to love? What would it look like to pray for them this week?

How does remembering how God has treated you change the way you respond to people who hurt you?

**Key Truth** Treat people not as they deserve, but as God has treated you.

## **Upside Down Obedience and Foundation**

Read Luke 6:46-49 aloud.

Don't just agree with Jesus. Obey Him. If we are going to call Him Lord, then our actions should start to line up with our words. Not perfectly, but intentionally.

Why is it easier to agree with Jesus than to obey Him?

What might be an area where you are calling Him Lord, but resisting His direction?

Jesus compares obedience to building on rock. What foundations do people commonly build on instead of Him? Comfort? Success? Approval? Religion without relationship?

**Key Truth** Jesus is our firm foundation.

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### **Real Life Reflection** (5 min)

If a storm hit your life tomorrow, what foundation would be revealed?

Allow a few people to share honestly. Encourage transparency and grace.

### **Next Steps Challenge** (5 min)

Invite each person to identify one intentional step this week:

- One area where you will depend on God more than yourself
- One relationship where you will extend grace instead of retaliation
- One area of obedience you have been delaying

Encourage participants to write it down or share with the group for accountability.

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### **Deeper Dive (Optional)**

**Beatitudes Comparison** Compare Luke 6:20-23 with Matthew 5:3-12.  
What similarities and differences do you notice?

#### **Joseph – Genesis 37-50**

Wronged deeply by his brothers yet chose forgiveness and trusted God's greater plan. How does Joseph demonstrate dependence on God in hardship?

#### **David – 1 Samuel 24**

Refused to harm Saul even when he had the opportunity. Chose mercy over revenge. What does David's restraint teach about trusting God with justice?

#### **Peter – Luke 22; John 21**

Failed publicly yet was restored by Jesus. A picture of grace shaping obedience. How does Peter's restoration encourage you when you fail?

## **Prayer Time (10 min)**

Thank God that His kingdom works differently than the world. Ask Him to help you depend on Him more than comfort or control. Pray for strength to love difficult people. Ask for courage to obey even when it is uncomfortable.

Invite group members to share personal prayer needs that are spiritual, relational, or practical. Encourage confidentiality and care.