



## Small Group Guide – Week of March 15

*Upside Down: The Gospel According to Luke*

**Date:** Week of March 15, 2026

**Focus Passage(s):** Luke 18:9-14 and 19:11-27

**Theme:** Jesus wants us to know Him and wants an authentic relationship with us.

### **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 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:** In this series we are exploring how Jesus turns our assumptions upside down.

Describe a time when you were really interested in getting to know someone. What kinds of questions did you ask? What things about that person intrigued you? Did you then tell others about him/her?

### **Key Message Recap**

We are looking at two short stories (parables) from Luke 18-19 where Jesus teaches about humility, and using what you've been given to love God and serve others. Hearing these parables from Jesus teaches us who He is and how He wants to have a personal, authentic relationship with us.

## **Dig Deeper – Discussion Questions (25 min)**

### **The Parable of the Pharisee and The Tax Collector**

Read Luke 18:9-14

What differences do you notice between the Pharisee's prayer and the tax collector's prayer?

Why does Jesus say the humble man, not the religious leader, went home justified before God?

What are some ways people today can fall into the same trap as the Pharisee?

**Key Truth:** Humility matters to God.

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### **The Parable of the Servants**

Read Luke 19:11-27.

What does Jesus teach about using what we have been given?

What gifts, abilities, resources, or opportunities has God given you?

How could you use those things to love God and serve others in your everyday life?

**Key Truth:** Giving of yourself with what God has given you matters to God.

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### **The End of the Story**

Sometimes, like in the parable of the servants and the angry boss, there isn't a happy ending. Jesus used real examples from real life. He knows and cares about you, and knows the battle you are in.

The message talked about how Jesus wins the ultimate battle over sin and death. How does knowing the end of the story change how we live today?

**Key Truth:** You matter to God, so much so that Jesus died for you.

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

God desires a real and authentic relationship with us.

Humility, not performance, is what draws us close to God.

God has given each person abilities and opportunities to serve others.

Jesus ultimately wins the greatest battle. He has overcome sin, death, and separation from God.

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

Where do you need to approach God with greater humility?

What is one gift or opportunity God has given you that you could use to serve someone this week?

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## **Deeper Dive (Optional)**

### **The Lost Sheep - Matthew 18:12-14; Luke 15:3-7**

A shepherd leaves ninety-nine sheep to search for one that wandered away. When he finds it, he rejoices. Jesus uses this story to show God's heart for those who are lost. Why does God place such value on seeking even one person who is lost?

### **The Lost Coin - Luke 15:8-10**

Jesus tells the story of a woman who has ten silver coins, but loses one. She lights a lamp, sweeps the house, and searches carefully until she finds it. When she does, she calls her friends and neighbors together to celebrate. Jesus explains that, in the same way, there is great joy in heaven when one sinner repents and returns to God. What does this story reveal about God's heart toward people who feel lost or forgotten? How might we reflect God's heart by seeking or caring for people who feel far from Him?

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

Thank God for sending Jesus and for the victory He won on the cross. Ask God to help each person grow in humility and faith and to use their lives to bless others.

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