



## Small Group Guide – Week of March 22

*Upside Down: The Gospel According to Luke*

**Date:** Week of March 22, 2026

**Focus Passage(s):** Luke 19:28-48

**Theme:** Remember what God is like, remember what He has done, and remember what He has promised

### **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.

What is something in life that has never made sense to you, but you have just learned to accept?

Have you ever gone through a situation where you kept asking “Why?” What made that season difficult?

### **Key Message Recap**

We are talking about something deeply real: what do we do when God doesn’t make sense? In Luke 19, we see people responding to Jesus in confusion, emotion, and even resistance.

Choose compliance over clarity. In other words, obey and trust God even when you don’t understand.

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

### **The Disciples – Obedience Without Understanding**

Read Luke 19:28-35.

What stands out to you about the disciples' response to Jesus' instructions?

Why do you think it was difficult or confusing for the disciples to follow Jesus' instructions about the colt?

Have you ever felt God leading you to do something that didn't fully make sense? How did you respond?

What makes obedience difficult when we don't have clarity?

**Key Truth:** Choose compliance over clarity.

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### **The Crowd – Misunderstanding God's Plan**

Read Luke 19:36-38.

The crowd believed Jesus was coming as a conquering king.

Why do you think people often misunderstand what God is doing in their lives?

Have you ever expected God to work one way, but He worked differently?

How do unmet expectations affect your faith?

**Key Truth:** God's plan is often different than our expectations.

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### **Jesus – Emotion and Perspective**

Read Luke 19:41-42.

Why do you think Jesus wept during what seemed like a celebration?

What does this reveal about God's heart toward people who don't understand Him?

How does it encourage you to know that Jesus sees the bigger picture when we cannot?

**Key Truth:** God sees what you cannot.

## **The Pharisees – Resistance to God**

Read Luke 19:39 and 45-46.

Why do you think the Pharisees resisted Jesus so strongly?

How can familiarity with religion sometimes lead to missing what God is doing?

Are there areas where you might be resisting what God is trying to do in your life?

**Key Truth:** It is possible to be close to religion and far from God.

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

All three groups in this story were confused in different ways. The disciples obeyed without understanding. The crowd misunderstood what God was doing. The Pharisees resisted it altogether.

Where do you see yourself right now?

Are you trusting, confused, or resisting?

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

Write or share one step you can take this week to trust God even when you do not understand.

What is one situation in your life where you are asking “Why?” What would it look like to trust God in that situation instead of trying to control it?

What is one way you will choose trust over understanding this week?

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## **Deeper Dive**

### **Job and Peter**

Job 1–2; Job 38–42

Luke 22:31–62; John 21:15–19

Both Job and Peter experienced moments where life did not make sense. Job faced deep suffering without explanation. Peter faced failure and confusion when everything he believed about Jesus seemed to fall apart. Their stories show us that even when we do not understand what God is doing, He is still working, and our response matters.

## Job – Trust Without Answers

Job lost his wealth, his health, and his children in a short period of time. From his perspective, there was no clear reason why any of it happened. Yet Job continued to wrestle with God instead of walking away.

Job 1:20-21 “The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!” Job responds with worship even in grief.

Job 3 Job expresses deep sorrow and confusion. He is honest about his pain.

Job 38–41 God responds, not with explanations, but with reminders of His power and wisdom.

Job 42:5 “I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes.” Job’s understanding of God deepens, even without full answers.

## Peter – Failure and Restoration

Peter was confident in his faith, but when things became confusing and difficult, he denied Jesus. His expectations of what would happen did not match reality.

Luke 22:33 “Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, and even to die with you.” Peter is confident in his understanding and commitment.

Luke 22:57 “I don’t know him!” Peter denies Jesus in fear and confusion.

Luke 22:62 “And he broke down and wept.” Peter experiences deep regret.

John 21:17 “Yes, Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.” Jesus restores Peter and gives him purpose again.

Which story do you relate to more right now, Job or Peter? Why?

What stands out to you about how each of them responded to confusion and pain?

How does Job’s story challenge the way you think about needing answers from God?

How does Peter’s story encourage you when you feel like you have failed or fallen short?

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## Prayer Time (10 min)

Thank God that His ways are higher than ours. Confess areas where you have struggled to trust Him. Ask for faith to obey even when things do not make sense.

Reflect on the cross as the ultimate example of something that did not make sense in the moment but was God’s perfect plan. The cross didn’t make sense to Jesus’ followers in the moment. But it was God’s greatest act of love and redemption. When you don’t understand God, go back to what you know. Remember what God is like, remember what He has done, and remember what He has promised.