Simply
LUKE
To Reassure You of the Truth You Were Taught

simple
church
Bible Study Guide
simplifying life
re-prioritizing life
cultivating a deeper walk with God

All Bible verses are taken from the New Living Translation unless otherwise indicated.

The following people contributed to this study guide.

W. Milton Adams
Carolyn Byers
Cynthia Stigora
Darren Yates

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the WORD among us
simply LUKE

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the WORD among us

“the WORD among us” series is different. These leader's guides capture real group life, where secular and unchurched people's lives are being changed.

People need the Everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ.

People also need safe and authentic friendship with Christians. Most unchurched people will not seek you or your group's friendship. You will have to intentionally seek their friendship.

May God bless you as you simplify and re-prioritize your life, creating time to "spend" with unchurched people.
how to use this leader's guide

This Leader's guide assumes you have:
1. read through the www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com web page.
2. completed the online Phase One and Phase Two Simple Church training.

Simple Church Start-up Guidelines: Download and print this guide to help you start a successful Simple Church. It can be downloaded from the DropBOX found on the Simple Church training web page.

**Message of Hope:** Have this idea crystal-clear in your mind. This is what you want people to remember for the rest of the week.

*Leader’s Tip:* These tips show up here and there.

*Planning Ahead:* These include items coming in future weeks that you may need to plan for ahead of time.

*Needed for Today:* Additional items that you will need.

The Basic 8: Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator’s responsibility).

Welcome: We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

Before we introduce ourselves, let's remember:
- This is a safe place to grow spiritually.
- We are a wide diversity of people—new Christians, long-time Christians, and people who are thinking about becoming Christians. We are glad all of you are here.
- You will notice we do not use a bunch of fancy religious language.
- We do not try to impress people with how much Bible quoting we can do. We are common people.
- Please be sensitive so that everyone has opportunity to share and contribute.
- Please turn cell phones off, or on “vibrate.”

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Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

**Rotation Questions:** Rotate through the following three questions: (Check-In is not used in Growth Groups)
- Week 1: How are you simplifying your life?
- Week 2: How are you re-prioritizing your life?
- Week 3: What would it take to cultivate a deeper relationship with God.
- Week 4: How are you simplifying your life?
- Week 5: etc.

**Children’s Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:** (This part is hard for church people. They will have to learn how to be comfortable with “quiet space.” People will need time to think and encouragement to share. Learn to let Jesus be the leader of your group and see how and where He leads. This time is often a mixture of sharing, singing, praying when people share prayer requests, reflection, praise, joy, and thankfulness to God. This is body-life.)
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

**Kick-off Question:** (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first) text

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**Bridge:** The one sentence transitions the group from the Kick-Off Question to opening their Bibles.

**Read the Bible Story from a modern translation:** Bible story reference
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible during our discussion.)

**Listening & Learning Questions:** (50% of your study time)

**Some helpful pointers**
1. Remember, there are no "right answers" to relational Bible study questions.
2. You DO NOT have to "accomplish" all the the questions listed. Use them as a resource to select from during your discussion.
3. Spend a maximum of 50% of your Bible study time on Listening & Learning Questions.
4. Affirm each answer, no matter what is said, by saying something like, "Excellent, someone

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Did you catch the common denominator, "someone else"? You are always affirming and always inviting others to give input.

6. If someone gets off-focus, I will say (after they have stopped talking), "Thanks. How about someone else?" then restate the question to refocus the discussion.

**Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)**

**Some helpful pointers**

1. Spend a minimum of 50% of your time on Heart Questions.
2. These questions are designed to invite people to share portions of their life story as it engages with the Bible study.
3. This is not a doctrinal study. This is not a life application study. It is a relational Bible study. There is a big difference.
4. At appropriate times, affirm confidentiality and offer reassurance that this is a safe place to share and grow spiritually.

**Wrap Up:**

1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

**Lunch**

1. Keep it simple.
2. Taco Salad (Mexican Haystack).
3. Hostess (one of the CORE 4) provides the beans.
4. During lunch have Taco Salad sign-up sheet available.
**Message of Hope:** God hears and answers prayer.

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**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What is a highlight of your week?
3. And...*[insert rotation question]*?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventures**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
What is something you waited a long time for or something you prayed a long time for?
Bridge: Today's story is an amazing example of someone who did not give up praying and how God answered their prayer.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. What can we learn about Luke from verses 1-4?
3. Read verses 11-13, and 18-20 again. Why do you think the angel was so hard on Zechariah?
4. The angel gives Zechariah a few parenting instructions. What are those instructions, and why do you think they are important?
5. In verses 14 – 17, the words “He will” are used several times. The sentences/phrases that start this way tell us what John the Baptist's life job will be. What are the different parts of his life work?
6. If we as a group were asked by a child what this story was about, how would we answer?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. If an angel were to appear to you, what prayer would you like him to answer?
2. In this story explain which person—Zechariah, Elizabeth, or John the Baptist—would you most, and least, identify with?
3. What fears and doubts are you facing in your life that you would like this group to stop and pray for right now?
4. How do you think God wants to use you during the rest of your life?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, God hears and answers prayer. How can this group pray for God's protection and victory in your life?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
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3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

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angel visits

**outline**
Luke 1:26-38

**Message of Hope:** God also has a plan for your life.

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**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
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**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
What is one thing you have been told about your birth?

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Bridge: Today's story encourages us to keep listening to God, because He has a special plan for our lives.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What verse catches your curiosity? Is any part of this story a bit confusing?
2. Put yourself in Mary's shoes. What part of this story would have been hard for you to comprehend? Why?
3. Put yourself in Joseph's shoes. What part of this story would have been hard for you to accept? Why?
4. In this story, what contrasts do you see between Mary and Elizabeth?
5. What are the differences between Mary's response and Zechariah's response that we studied last week in verse 18?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. In verse 28 the angel Gabriel appeared to Elizabeth and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you.” If an angel was going to visit you, what do you hope he would say?
2. Who is an Elizabeth that God has sent into your life, and how are they helping you?
3. Verse 3 says, “For nothing is impossible with God.” God also has a plan for your life. What do you think part of that plan might include?
4. How did you come to an understanding of who Jesus is?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, **God also has a plan for you life.** How can this group pray for God's protection and victory in your life?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

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blessed by God

outline
Luke 1:39-56

Message of Hope: You are blessed by God.

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Setting the Context:
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- Encourage those who like to talk to give an opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When someone says to you, “How are you doing?” What is your typical answer?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
**Bridge:** Today's story will help us recognize the blessings God is giving you.

**Read the Bible Story from a modern translation:** Luke 1:39-56.
*(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

**Listening & Learning Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*
1. What verse catches your curiosity, or what part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. Put yourself in Mary's shoes, why do you think she is in such a hurry?
3. How does Elizabeth know this is “the mother of my Lord,” verse 43?
4. In verses 46-55, Mary sings a song of praise. What are the different things for which she praises God?
5. Why does Mary stay with Elizabeth for three months? What do you think Elizabeth shared with Mary?

**Heart & Healing Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*
1. Read verse 45 again. How have you been blessed by God?
2. In your life, what step might you take next to receive another blessing from the Lord? What has the Lord said that will help you?
3. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
4. Remember, you are blessed by God. How can this group pray for God's protection and victory in your life?

**Wrap Up:**
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3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

**Lunch**

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**Message of Hope:** God's discipline helps us grow.

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3. And...[insert rotation question]?

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**Children go to Adventurers**

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- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
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**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
When was a time that you were “disciplined?”
Bridge: Today's story invites us to ponder the “hard times” in our lives to see what lessons God is trying to teach us.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Let's summarize the last couple of week's studies. How was Zechariah being disciplined?
2. What verse in the story caught your attention? Why?
3. We are not told how John became strong in the Spirit, but based on this story what helped Zechariah become strong in the Spirit?
4. What are Zechariah's big ideas found in verses 67-79?
5. Put yourself in Zechariah's shoes. If God made it so Zechariah could not speak for nine months, what do you think God wanted Zechariah to think about during the nine months? (as a father, as one of Israels leaders, etc.?)
6. Verse 77 says, “John will tell his people how to find salvation.” If John were alive today, what do you think he would tell us?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Verse 58 says, “and everyone rejoiced with her.” During the last few weeks how has God showed His kindness to you?
2. On the flip side of the coin, where do you see God disciplining you?
3. Read verse 76 again, John was to prepare the way for Jesus. What work do you sense God is inviting you to do? And how might you go about that?
4. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
5. Remember, God's discipline helps us grow. How can this group pray for God's protection and victory in your life?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
**God goes looking**

*outline*

Luke 2:1-20

**Message of Hope:** God sent Jesus to look for you.

**Planning Ahead:** Next week follows up on today's Bible study discussion. Next week show the movie called The Harvest. You will need to download both the Open Chair Worksheet and Open Chair Worksheet Video from the DropBOX which is located on the Simple Church training web page. This video is one you have already watched as part of your Simple Church training. It is called The Harvest.

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**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
When was a time when you had a special trip not go as planned?

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**Bridge:** Today's story is about a trip which seemed to go bad, but it ended up changing the world forever.

**Read the Bible Story from a modern translation:** Luke 2:1-20.
*(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

**Listening & Learning Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*
1. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. If you had been in Joseph and Mary's shoes and could not find a motel, what would you have done?
3. If God were to send angels in our day to announce Jesus' birth, to whom would He send them? Why do you think so?
4. According to this story, how were the shepherds to recognize baby Jesus?
5. Read verse 17-18. Why do you think this verse is included in the Bible?

**Heart & Healing Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*
1. Who was the “shepherd” who first told you about Jesus? Explain how it happened.
2. Read verses 11-12. In these verses the shepherds were told how to recognize Jesus. If an angel was to come to this group today to help you recognize Jesus, what clues do you think he would tell us?
3. If you were to go looking for Jesus, whether for the first time or in a deeper way, how would you start?
4. In today's world, what is the “competition” that Satan uses to keep people from finding Jesus?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?

**Next Week** we are showing a short movie called *The Harvest* which is based on a true story.

6. Remember, **God sent Jesus to look for you.** How can this group pray for God's protection and victory in your life?

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**Lunch**

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special video: The Harvest

Message of Hope: There are people who are ready and waiting to follow Jesus.

*Leader’s Tip:* Today's discussion is to help your group identify specific ways they can both plant seeds and help with the harvest.

*Needed for Today:* 1) Open Chair Worksheets, 2) Open Chair Video, The Harvest. Download both from the DropBOX found on the Simple Church training web page.

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2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[*insert rotation question]*?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

**Kick-off Question:** (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When you hear the word “harvest,” what comes to your mind?

Visit [www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com](http://www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com) for more study guides.
**Bridge:** Today we are going to start with an inspiring video called *The Harvest.*

**Watch Video – bring the children back in for this video.** It is about 18 minutes in length.
1. Children's Question: What part of the video did you like?
2. Adult's Questions: What part of this video inspired you?
3. Does anyone remember the Bible text the video is based on?

**Children go back to their activities.**

**Read the Bible Story from a modern translation:** John 4:34-38.
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Listening & Learning Questions:** (50% of your study time)
1. Does anyone remember what lesson of the harvest the father taught his children? (When the harvest is ready, we must be ready.)
2. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
3. What is the message Jesus is trying to teach in verse 35?
4. Let's get real practical and come up with some ways simple ways we can do seed sowing and harvesting.
5. Distribute Open Chair Worksheets and Simple Church invitation cards. Give people 10 minutes to ask God, “God, who is ready to be invited to our group?”

**Wrap Up:**
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

**Lunch**
ancient prophecy
outline
Luke 2:21-40

**Message of Hope:** God has a plan for your life, but He will not force it upon you.

**Needed for Today:** *Seed sowing materials your group discussed last week.*

**The Basic 8:** Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

**Welcome:** We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

**Setting the Context:**
- This is a safe place to grow spiritually.
- We are a wide diversity of people. We are glad all of you are here.
- You will notice we do not use a bunch of fancy religious language.
- We do not try to impress people with how much Bible quoting we can do. We are common people.
- Encourage those who like to talk to give an opportunity for everyone to participate.

**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...*[insert rotation question]*?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)* Today's study is called *Ancient Prophecy.* When you hear the words “ancient prophecy,” what comes to your mind?

Visit [www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com](http://www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com) for more study guides.
Bridge: Today's story tells some amazing ancient prophecies that are coming true in our day.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Who is the child in this story?
2. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
3. It seems that in a prophecy like this one, Jesus is taking away freedom of choice. How do you make sense of this?
4. Let's take a close look at Simeon and Anna's prophecy. What is it telling us, and what does it mean? Read verses 32, 34-35.
5. What do we notice that is the same or different about Simeon and Anna?
6. If you were going to make this into a movie, what would you want people to learn from this story?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Simeon contrasts two groups of people—those who reject Jesus and those who will accept Christ. Why do people choose to accept or reject Jesus?
2. How is Satan trying to pull you away from Jesus?
3. Spiritual growth does not happen over night. It happens one step at a time. What would you say is your next step away from Satan and toward Jesus?
4. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
5. Remember, God has a plan for your life, but He will not force it upon you. How can this group pray for God's protection and victory in your life?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Jesus is lost

outline
Luke 2:41-52

Message of Hope: When we lose sight of Jesus, it is always possible to find Him again.

Needed for Today: have more Bible study cards ready for people to take home and distribute in their neighborhood.

The Basic 8: Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

Welcome: We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

Setting the Context:
• This is a safe place to grow spiritually.
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• We do not try to impress people with how much Bible quoting we can do. We are common people.
• Encourage those who like to talk to give a opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
• Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When was a time you got lost, separated, or ran away from your parents?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: This story is the only story in the Bible that tells us about how at one point in His life Jesus was lost. That may seem odd, but it is true. Let's read the story.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. What is the Passover festival? (Read the original Passover story in Exodus 11.)
3. Jesus' behavior seems out of the norm. Why do you think He was acting this way?
4. In verse 50, what do Jesus' parents not understand?
5. What parenting lessons can we learn from this story?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. If you were to come up missing, where is the first place people would start looking for you?
2. What was an experience in life where you realized that you were growing up and carried adult responsibilities?
3. When Jesus' parents lost sight of Jesus, it took them three days to find him again. When you ‘lose sight of Jesus,’ how can you, or how can anyone, go about finding Him again?
4. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
5. This last question in not a question. Let's look up a verse in the Old Testament, Jeremiah 29:13. Let's read it from all of our translations and then I'll read it from the Message Bible.

“When you come looking for me, you'll find me. Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed.” GOD's Decree. “I'll turn things around for you. I'll bring you back from all the countries into which I drove you” --GOD's Decree--  Jeremiah 29:13-14

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
straight talk

Message of Hope: God loves you so much that sometimes He sends someone to “tell it like it is.”

Leader’s Tip: This story will give you a natural opportunity to invite people to prepare for baptism. At the end of the story distribute the Connection Card Envelopes and invite them to check the “prepare for baptism” box.

Needed for Today: Enough Connection Card Envelopes to give one to each person.

The Basic 8: Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator’s responsibility).

Welcome: We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

Setting the Context:
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• Encourage those who like to talk to give an opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children’s Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God’s invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
   Who is someone in your life you knew loved you and would “tell it like it is”?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: In today's story we meet someone who will “tell it like it is.” He addresses an important decision all of us have to make in life. I want you to see this in the Bible for yourself.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 3:1-23. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. This is a quiz, what have we learned about John in the past few weeks? What additional information does this story tell us?
3. How would you summarize his message and why do you think it is important?
4. How do you think people would respond if John were alive and preaching this message today?
5. Would someone volunteer to write down a list as we summarize the topics found in verses 11 – 14? What are the different topics John talks about?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Reread verses 13 and 14. Which of these temptations is a weakness for you? Which is a strength?
2. What does it mean to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire?
3. If Jesus did not sin, why do you think He chose to be baptized?
4. Who has been a John the Baptist in your life and has encouraged you to follow Jesus?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. One last question, if you were to ask John, “What should I do?” What do you think he would tell you?
   Leader's Tip: This is your opportunity to invite people to check the “prepare for baptism” box on the Connection Card Envelope. Distribute one to everyone. They can fill it out and put it in the Oatmeal Can.
7. Remember, God loves you so much that He sent John to “tell it like it is”.

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
overcoming temptation

outlnie


Message of Hope: God always provides a way to escape Satan's temptations.

The Basic 8: Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

Welcome: We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

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- Encourage those who like to talk to give an opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
How would you explain the word, temptation?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: The Bible tells us that Jesus was tempted in every way that we will be tempted, but Jesus did not sin. In other words, Jesus knows what you are going through. Today's story will look at three temptations that Satan gave Jesus. This story tells us how to overcome every temptation like Jesus did. Of course this does not mean it is easy to overcome. There is a struggle because Satan wants to destroy you, and Jesus wants to save you.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. Jesus' first temptation deals with “physical appetite” items. What is going on in this temptation?
3. Jesus' second temptation deals with “mental pride” items. What is going on in this temptation?
4. Jesus' third temptation deals with “spiritual worship” items. What is going on in this temptation?
5. What is unique about this third temptation that you do not see in the first two?
6. In each temptation Jesus gives us a very practical way to overcome it. What is the secret to overcoming it and what does this mean for us today?
7. Why do you think this story ends with the words, “until the next opportunity came”?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Which of these temptations do you think Satan uses most often in today's world?
2. If Satan had three shots at you, what three temptations do you think he would choose?
3. Notice how Jesus was tempted when He took a spiritual step towards God. In your life, when is Satan most likely to try to take you down?
4. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
5. Jesus quoted a Bible promise to overcome Satan. I want to give you one Bible promise you can claim every time Satan tempts you. Let's find 1 Corinthians 10:13 and read it in every translation represented here.
   
   Leader Tip: Talk about what is meant by, “He will show you a way out.” Make this real practical. You could use the example of being caught in a burning building. When the fireman shows you how to get out of the burning building, what should I do? It is the same with God. He will show me a way out, but what must I do?

6. I have an idea. God always provides a way to escape Satan's temptations. What if we were to try to memorize this one verse this week so that when we are “in the wilderness” without our Bibles, we can quote a promise like Jesus did and be able to successfully meet Satan's temptations. Who wants to do this with me?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
living your real life

Message of Hope: Just like God had a plan for Jesus' life, He also has a special plan for your life.

Leader’s Tip: This Bible story references, verses 25-27 and some Old Testament Bible stories. Go back to the Old Testament and read these stories. Remember your job is NOT to be an answer person. Use your background study to add meaning to the group's discussion.

The Basic 8: Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

Welcome: We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

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• Encourage those who like to talk to give an opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When was a time you did something (for a good reason) that you knew would make someone upset or mad at you for doing it?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: Today's story is one of those happy/sad stories, but it gives you and me hope. Let's read the story together.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. In verses 18-20 Jesus tells everyone who He is and what His mission is about. Let's take some time to look at the five parts of this mission. In today's world what is included in the five areas Jesus talks about?
3. In verses 18-22 the people love Jesus. In verses 23-27 they hate him. What factors do you think contribute to such a drastic change?
4. So, why do you think Jesus decided to use the words recorded in verses 23-27 when He knew it was going to make everyone so mad?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. In verse 30 Jesus walks away. When was a time you walked away from a “fight”?
2. Jesus' mission talked about five areas. If you were to choose one of the five, which one catches your personal interest? Why does it catch your interest?
3. How do you think God could use you in this area?
   Leader's Tip: As people share, encourage the group (you lead the way) to affirm different ways in which they see God is fulfilling His mission in their life. Be creative and authentic. Each person, whether or not they share, needs to be affirmed. For example: Darren, it is okay that you have been thinking about these questions, but I want you to know that I am seeing God carrying out His mission in your life by .... We are just glad you are here with us today.
4. Remember Just like God had a plan for Jesus' life, He also has a special plan for your life. What is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
cast out

Outline
Luke 4:31-44

**Message of Hope:** Jesus has the power to set you free from demon harassment and demon possession.

**Leader’s Tip:** It is very possible that there may be someone who is attending your Simple Church who is possessed with a demon(s). They may not want to admit it or even realize it. At times demon possession has been diagnosed as a mental disorder. At sometime in your gathering pray a command, in the name of Jesus, that anyone who has been (or is being) harassed or possessed by demons, would have the demons “come out” and set that person free. Today's story is about the power of God to cast out demons.

**The Basic 8:** Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

**Welcome:** We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

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**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

**Children’s Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
When some people talk, everyone listens. Do you know someone like that? Who is it?

Visit [www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com](http://www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com) for more study guides.
Bridge: Today's story is about authority – something that today's world does not like very much. But this authority is the power to set you free from sin. It is also about demon possession, which is another topic about which people are nervous.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 4:31-44.  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. What do you think Jesus is talking about when, in verse 43, He talks about the Good News?  
   Leader's Tip: Verse 18 talked about “captives will be released.” The next two stories show people being set free from demon possession. This is part of the Good News that Jesus' word is strong enough to cast out demons and set people free.
3. Let's read between the lines. Based on these two stories, let's list all the things these demons know and believe about Jesus?
4. What do you think the real reason is for Jesus going to a solitary place in the country?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. When you need peace and quiet, how do you get away to hear God?
2. God had a long-range goal for Jesus' life. If you were to guess, what do you think are some of God's long-range goals for your life?
3. Why does it seem that these kinds of stories of healing and casting out demons do not happen very often in today's world?
4. If you could ask Jesus for healing and to be set free from anything, for what would you ask?  
   Leader's Tip: This is a key time to help them realize that Jesus is here among us. As people share, go to God and be very specific in your request for healing and to be set free.
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, Jesus has the power to set you free from demon harassment and demon possession.

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
radical calling
outline

Message of Hope: The very fact that you are here today says you are listening to God in your life.

The Basic 8: Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

Welcome: We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

Setting the Context:
• This is a safe place to grow spiritually.
• We are a wide diversity of people—new Christians, long-time Christians, and people who are thinking about becoming Christians. We are glad all of you are here.
• You will notice we do not use a bunch of fancy religious language.
• We do not try to impress people with how much Bible quoting we can do. We are common people.
• Encourage those who like to talk to give a opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
• Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
Think of a time when you made a radical change in your life. Share with us a summary of what happened.

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: Today's story is about making a radical change in your life. If you have been a long-time Christian, you are not exempt from this radical change. Let's read this story together.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 5:1-11. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. If you had been net fishing all night, then Jesus comes along and tells you to throw your net one more time into the water, what do you think you would have done? Answer honestly.
3. What do you think it was about Jesus that inspired great crowds to take time to go listen to Him?
4. Why did Jesus get into Simon's boat and ask him to move it out into the water a little when He taught the crowds?
5. What do you think Simon Peter's motives were when he said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm too much of a sinner to be around you.”
6. What is Jesus really talking about at the end of this story when He says, “Do not be afraid!”

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Think back to one of the early times when you sensed Jesus calling you to follow Him. What were the circumstances going on in your life at that time?
2. In verse 5 Simon says, “But if you say so, we'll try again.” What is God asking you to do for the second time?
3. What are people today afraid of when they consider following Jesus in a radical way?
4. If you were to radically follow Jesus all the way, what is your next step?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Take courage, the fact that you are here today says you are listening to God's radical calling in your life. How can this group pray for God's protection and victory in your life?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
healed

Message of Hope: Jesus uses your friends to heal you. That is one reason why we need each other.

Leader's Tip: Notice, it was because of the friend's faith (verse 20) that Jesus healed this person. There is huge power when a group of people combine their faith and pray for healing of any kind. May today be a day for pray and healing – for God's glory.

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Welcome: We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

Setting the Context:
• This is a safe place to grow spiritually.
• We are a wide diversity of people. We are glad all of you are here.
• You will notice we do not use a bunch of fancy religious language. We are common people.
• We do not try to impress people with how much Bible quoting we can do.
• Encourage those who like to talk to give a opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
• Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When was a time your friends did something very meaningful for you?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: In today's Bible story, it is amazing what a group of friends did for one person. Maybe we can do the same for each other today, but let's start by reading the story.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 5:12-26. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. Verse 20 says, “Seeing their faith.” What does this mean? What does “their” faith have to do with a paralyzed man?
3. It seems so out of place in this story for Jesus' first words to the paralyzed man to be, “Son, your sins are forgiven,” especially when he came for healing. How do you explain and make sense of this?
4. When people realize that Jesus knows our silent thoughts, people tend to focus on the down side. How can it be a good thing for Jesus to know what we are silently thinking?
5. In verses 23 and 24, how does this story prove that Jesus is the Son of Man?
6. We hear the word “blasphemy,” but what do you think it actually means?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What circumstances or events in your life have helped you see Jesus as much more then just a “good moral man”?
2. What part of this story is the most helpful to you? Why?
3. Where have you seen God bring healing into your life?
4. There are different kinds of paralysis: spiritual, relational, emotional, marital, and physical. If your friends were to take you to Jesus to be healed, how would you like Jesus to heal you?
   Leader Tip: Don’t be afraid of silence; be slow to rush on. When someone shares, be sure to invite the group to intercede on behalf of this person and spend some time in prayer asking God for this healing in their life. You will probably have to model a prayer that goes beyond the “God please help them, Amen.” Claim the promise of this story as your basis for going before God with special healing requests.
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, Jesus uses your friends to heal you. That is one reason why we need each other. How can this group pray for God's protection and victory in your life?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
help, I'm sick

Message of Hope: Jesus invites you to follow Him, no matter how horrible your past has been.

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2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
A famous person you admire is coming to see you tomorrow. How would you prepare for their visit?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
**Bridge:** If you think you have lived a bad life, then today's story will bring you hope.

**Read the Bible Story from a modern translation:** Luke 5:27-39. *(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

**Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)**
1. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. Several little questions: Why are tax collectors grouped with sinners? What is fasting? Why do people fast?
3. Use your imagination: From what did Levi walk away in order to follow Jesus? What do you think motivated Levi to hold a banquet for Jesus?
4. According to this story, what is the one requirement to become a follower of Jesus? See verses 31-32.
5. Why do you think Jesus is questioned about fasting?
6. What is Jesus trying to say in verses 34-35?

**Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)**
1. When was one of the early times in your life when you felt like Jesus was inviting you to follow Him?
2. There will always be Pharisees around who try to discourage you when you try to follow Jesus. How do we stay focused on Jesus during difficult times?
3. What in verses 31-32 gives you hope?
4. It does not take long for us to know when we are physically sick and want to get better. In today's world, why do people prefer to stay spiritually sick?
5. Take a moment to reflect on your spiritual growth. What is a “new wine” that Jesus is wanting to pour into your life?
6. The very fact that we are here today says we are sick and need a spiritual doctor. The good news is that **Jesus invites you to follow Him, no matter how horrible your past has been.** Levi had a horrible past. That is why he is so grateful to be able to follow Jesus.
7. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?

**Wrap Up:**
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

**Lunch**
an odd healing

**Message of Hope:** Jesus wants to bring healing—physical, mental, spiritual, emotional healing—to your life today.

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**Check-In:**
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2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...*[insert rotation question]*?

**Children’s Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
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**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
If you could do one miracle for someone, what would it be?
Bridge: We are going to read about a very odd miracle that Jesus did. Most of the time the people came to Jesus and asked Him to heal them. Only on Sabbath did Jesus seek out people to heal. That means that today, on a Sabbath, Jesus wants to bring some kind of healing—physical, mental, spiritual, or emotional healing—to your life. Let's read the story.


(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. Why do you think the Pharisees are so down on Jesus?
3. If this story was the only story you had ever read about the Sabbath, what items would we know about the Sabbath? Which verses tell us this?
4. Jesus could have stopped with verse 4. But He adds verse 5. Someone read verse 5 again. Why do you think He added this verse? What is Jesus trying to say?
5. If it is legal to do good deeds on the Sabbath (verse 9), is it ever wrong to do good deeds on the Sabbath?
6. Why does Jesus provoke the Pharisees by healing on the Sabbath when He could have waited until the next day?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. When you see someone or a group of people picking on someone, what feelings well up inside of you?
2. Let's be honest now, if you had been Jesus, how would you have responded to the critics?
3. Sabbath is a day for healing—spiritual, mental, physical, emotional healing. What kind of healing do you feel you most need today?
   Leader's Tip: Take this opportunity to specifically pray for healing as each person shares.
4. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
**if the shoe fits**

**outline**

Luke 6:12-26

**Message of Hope:** Jesus loves you so much, He will talk honestly with you.

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**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
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**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
When was the last time you stayed up all night? What kept you up?
Bridge: Believe it or not, Jesus pulled all-nighters, but they were for very different reasons than most people do. Best of all, today's story begins one of Jesus' most well-known sermons. It is sometimes called the “Sermon on the Mount” because Jesus was on a mountain or hillside when He shared it with the people.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 6:12-26. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. Let's start with an easy question, Why did Jesus pull an all-nighter?
3. Let's spend some time digging into the four blessings of verses 20-23.
   1. Is God saying that I have to be poor, hungry, crying, and hated to be blessed?
   2. What can be learned by looking at the verbs “is,” “will be,” and “are”?
   3. Identify each promise that comes with each blessing?
4. Now dig into the four sorrows in verses 24-26. Is God saying that if I'm rich, prosperous, enjoying life, and liked by people, there is no hope for the future? What is God saying?
5. What do you notice as you compare and contrast the blessings and sorrows?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Some say rich Americans and poor Americans have three values 1) Status – How do I compare with others? 2) Entertainment – What will make me happy? And 3) Comfort – What will make me feel good? How do the values Jesus talks about in this story compare with the values sold every day on TV?
2. If you were to pick one or two blessings, which ones do you feel God is giving to you at this time in your life?
3. Which sorrow do you have, or might have in the future?
4. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
5. Remember, Jesus loves you so much He will talk honestly with you.

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
living in enemy territory

**Message of Hope:** God can change your attitude towards your enemies. Ask Him.

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**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...*[insert rotation question]?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
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**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
How do you define an enemy?
Bridge: When it comes to advice about enemies, today's story is totally backwards and upside-down, but it is worth considering.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. In the first five verses (27-31) Jesus gives several commands. Let's identify them and then summarize them into one all-encompassing sentence?
3. Let's be careful as we discuss this next question because we might be tempted to try to justify ourselves. What is Jesus getting at when He talks about “cheek-slapping”?
4. According to this story, what does Jesus say distinguishes Christian living from un-Christian living?
5. What counsel would you have for someone who is a new Christian and says to you, “How do I live this way when I don't feel like it?”

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. When was a time you showed love to an enemy?
2. When was a time an enemy/someone treated you with kindness and love that you did not deserve?
3. Who is someone that you admire because they lived their life as described in this story?
4. Someone read verses 27-31 again. Which one of these is easier for you, and be honest now, which one is harder for you?
5. Without naming any names, what part of this story on how to treat your “enemies” will you have an opportunity to practice in the near future?
6. Remember, God can change your attitude toward your enemies. Ask Him. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
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3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
most famous verse

Message of Hope: We can expect to be treated like we treat others.

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2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
What do you think the most famous Bible verse is?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: Today's story is about the most famous Bible verse, but be prepared for a surprise, because it is not the verse most people think it is.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. These verses seem like a random collection of sayings that are loosely connected, but there must by some rhyme and rhythm in them. What common themes do you see?
3. The most popular Bible verse in today's work is Luke 6:37. But verse 44 assumes that you “judge” the fruit to determine whether it is good or bad fruit. How do you make sense of these two verses when they seem to say the exact opposite?
4. Take a look at each of the commands or statements in verses 37-38. What is the message and implications of each one?
5. What is Jesus' main point in verses 46-49 and how does it apply to people?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. When was a time when you were inappropriately or unfairly judged?
2. You may have heard this quote by William Ward, “Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the handcuffs of hate.” If were were honest, why is it that we humans have a hard time forgiving?
3. This may feel a bit odd at first but let's try. Let's take a few minutes to identify and affirm the good fruit we have seen in each others life. I will go first.
4. Think about the last storm that hit your life. What did you learn about your life's foundation?
5. Remember, We can expect to be treated like we treat others.
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?

Wrap Up:
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3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

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amazing faith

outline
Luke 7:1-17

Message of Hope: Faith is living action.

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Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
These two questions go together: Who is someone in your lifetime that has had faith in you? How did you know they had faith in you?

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**Bridge:** Today's story is about some amazing faith. “Faith” is often a confusing and elusive word. Put on your thinking caps and let's try to better understand what faith is, how it works, and find a way to explain it to a five-year-old child.

*(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

**Listening & Learning Questions:** *50% of your study time*
1. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. In specific terms, what makes this Roman officer's faith so amazing?
3. What clues do you see in this story that tells us about this Gentile Roman officer's spirituality?
4. The Jewish leaders go to find Jesus. In verse 5 they give very interesting reasons why Jesus should help this Roman officer. Someone read verse 5 again. What do their reasons tell us about the Jewish leader's spiritual beliefs?
5. How does this Roman's understanding of leadership and power shape how he relates to Jesus?
6. These two stories are very different in many ways. Let's refresh our memory by reading the second story again. What are all the differences we can identify between these two stories?

**Heart & Healing Questions:** *50% of your study time*
1. In today's world, why do people have a difficult time with faith?
2. If you were walking and Jesus saw you and had compassion on you, what miracle do you wish He would do for you?
3. If you were to explain “faith” to a five-year-old, how would you do it?
4. What do you sense is your next step towards a deeper, more simple, more practical and real faith?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, faith is living action.

**Wrap Up:**
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**Lunch**

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counted among the greatest

outline
Luke 7:18-35

Message of Hope: God counts you among the greatest.

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Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
In today's world, what determines if a person is considered great?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: Today you will learn that no matter what you think about yourself, or what others think about you, God says that you are among the greatest. This has nothing to do with what you think. You are among the greatest because God said so. But don't believe my words without studying the topic for yourself from the Bible. Let's read this story together.

Read the Bible Story **from a modern translation**: Luke 7:18-35.
*(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

**Listening & Learning Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*
1. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. Why do you think John sends two people instead of going himself?
3. Why does Jesus give such an odd answer in verses 22-23?
5. What does Jesus say that John's job description was?
6. If verse 28 is true, what does it mean for anyone who follows Jesus?
7. What is Jesus trying to point out in verses 31-34?
8. What is Jesus' message in verse 35?

**Heart & Healing Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*
1. If you had been John, wondering if Jesus was the Messiah, what evidence would you have used to make your decision?
2. Verse 23 said, “God blesses those who are not offended by me.” In today's world, how are people offended by Jesus?
3. From your experiences with Jesus during the past six months, what evidence could you give that might convince others that Jesus is the true Messiah?
4. What is one thing, small or big, that you sense makes a person great?
5. Remember, **God counts you among the greatest**. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?

**Wrap Up:**
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

**Lunch**
silent hope of every sinner

outline
Luke 7:36-50

Message of Hope: God is willing to forgive your entire history, just ask.

The Basic 8: Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

Welcome: We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

Setting the Context:
- This is a safe place to grow spiritually.
- We are a wide diversity of people. We are glad all of you are here.
- You will notice we do not use a bunch of fancy religious language.
- We do not try to impress people with how much Bible quoting we can do. We are common people.
- Encourage those who like to talk to give a opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When you hear the word “forgiveness,” what thoughts and feelings come to your mind?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
**Bridge:** Have you ever wondered why people let others live “rent-free” in their head? Lots of people suffer physically and emotionally because of forgiveness issues. Today's story has the ability to set you free and give you an amazing peace of mind, so let's read it.

**Read the Bible Story** from a modern translation: Luke 7:36-50.

*(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

**Listening & Learning Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*

1. What verse catches your curiosity? What part of this story is a bit confusing?
2. What are the possible different reasons why this Pharisee invited Jesus to attend this meal?
3. Do any of your Bibles have footnotes or comments about the perfume and how expensive it was?
4. How does Jesus answer the Pharisee's silent accusations that Jesus is not a prophet?
5. What is the main point of Jesus' story in verses 41-42?
6. Jesus gives three promises in verses 48 and 50. What are these promises? Which one most meets the needs in your life?

**Heart & Healing Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*

1. In today's world, what are some practical ways people can show their love for Christ?
2. What kinds of things keep people from experiencing God's peace which comes by knowing their sins are forgiven and their salvation is secure?
3. What needs to happen in your life for you to feel the kind of forgiveness and peace this woman felt?
4. What are some of the reasons why people are not willing to forgive others?
5. How does God's willingness to forgive your entire past history shape the way you treat others?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, God is willing to forgive your entire history, just ask. How can this group pray for God's protection and victory in your life?

**Wrap Up:**

1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

**Lunch**
time for reflection

**Outline**
Luke 8:1-15

**Message of Hope:** Jesus continually plants spiritual seeds in your life.

*Leader's Tip:* Read today's stories in stages, as explained on the next page. This study is designed to lead people into honest reflection. In today's world it is easy, especially for Christians, to play a game with Christianity and lose their salvation. Let the Holy Spirit do His work in the hearts of each person as together you explore this story. Try not to talk too much. Give time for personal reflection and interaction.

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**Check-In:**
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2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)* If you have a garden, or if you would like to grow a garden, what do you think is the most important part of gardening?

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Bridge: Did you know that God's Kingdom has gardening secrets? Jesus says it does in today's story. If you are willing to do some honest personal reflection as we explore this story, you will greatly benefit from the secrets you will learn today.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Jesus ended this story by saying, “Anyone who is willing to hear should listen and understand.” If you had been in the crowd that day, what do you think Jesus was trying to say with this story?
2. Let's summarize the different soil conditions that the seed falls on. What are they? Why did Jesus describe the soil condition?
3. Now read verses 9-10. It seems troubling that Jesus would quote from Isaiah 6:9 to say that God's Kingdom has secrets. How do you make sense of these two verses?
4. Now read the rest of the story, verses 11-15. Which soil conditions do you think are the most prevalent among people today?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Read verse 12. How does the Devil go about stealing God's messages from people today?
2. Read verse 13. How does Satan try to keep you from putting down deep roots?
3. Read verse 14. What are some of the cares, riches, and pleasures that Satan tries to tempt you with to keep you from really growing as a Christian?
4. Read verse 15. Let's be honest. It is easy not to like this verse, because we discover that Christianity is not a cute game one plays one day a week. It is for real, seven days a week. What does it mean to hear God's Message, cling to it, and steadily produce a huge harvest?
5. What soil represented you today? What soil represented you five years ago?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, Jesus continually plants spiritual seeds in your life.

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
three short stories

Message of Hope: You are safest when you obey Jesus.

Leader's Tip: Help people discover the progression of thought in these three stories.
Story 1: Personally hearing Jesus' teaching;
Story 2: Hearing and obeying Jesus' teaching;
Story 3: Even the winds and waves hear and obey Jesus. Where is your faith?

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3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
This question might be a bit difficult, but give it your best. When you hear these three words, "flashlights, family, and storms," what comes to your mind?

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Bridge: Today we are going to look at three short stories that Jesus tells. The first story is about flashlights; the second story is about family; and the third story is about storms. These might seem totally unrelated, but Jesus weaves a golden thread through these stories. Let see if we can find it. The first story is found in Luke 8:16-18.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. In this story Jesus gets right to the point. Read verse 17 in the different translations we have here. Why is Jesus so blunt? What are the implications of this statement for our lives?
2. What are the different excuses people give for not hearing Jesus' teachings in today's world?
3. Now read the second story in Luke 8:19-21. It seems like Jesus is being very unkind to His family in this story. If you were to dig deeper than the surface, what do you think Jesus' real message was?
4. What do you think the common link is between the first and second story?
5. In verse 21, what does hearing and obeying have to do with each other?
6. Now read the third story, Luke 8:22-25. What do you think Jesus is trying to teach His disciples with the wind and waves?
7. What do you think the common link is between the second and the third story?
8. What is the golden thread in these three stories?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Go back and read verse 18. What is a spiritual growth teaching have you been hearing from Jesus?
2. Go back and read verse 21. What is a teaching from Jesus that you have been hearing and now need to obey?
3. Go back and read verse 25. If you had been in that boat, how would your perception of Jesus changed?
4. What is a storm in your life that you want to trust Jesus with?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, You are safest when you obey Jesus.

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
risky words

Message of Hope:  Because Jesus loves you so much, He will honor your requests.

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Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
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• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
What are you hooked on or addicted to?

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Bridge: Today's story is about a man who seemed to be so strong that he could not be bound by chains. But he was bound by something else. There is good news found in this story. Let's read it.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Is there anything in the first five verses that would suggest this is the second time Jesus has met this man and cast out the demons?
2. Verse 28 & 29 (NLT) suggests that Jesus had encountered this man earlier. We do not know this for sure, but let's assume in our discussion this is the second time. Why do you think the demons had come back and were living in this person again?
3. Why does Jesus ask for the demon's name?
4. When the people living in that city ask Jesus to leave, He does. What does this tell us about Jesus?
5. Read verses 38 & 39 again. There are several reasons why Jesus says “No.” How many can we think of?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. In today's world, how do people ask Jesus to “go away”?
2. Satan uses all kinds of ways to destroy and possess people today. What are some of the obvious ways? And what are some of the not-so-obvious ways Satan slowly destroys people?
3. God blesses us in so many ways, for example, being set free from demon possession, providing a new job, or giving the chance to live healthier lives. What are some things that God has done or provided for you?
4. Complete this sentence, I am at risk of telling Jesus to “go away” by ___________________.
5. If you could be “free” from one thing in your life right now, what would you request?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, Because Jesus loves you so much, He will honor your requests.

Wrap Up:
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3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
persistence pays

**outline**
Luke 8:40-56

**Message of Hope:** Spiritual persistence (spending lots of time with God) works.

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**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
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**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
What is one thing in life that required your persistence?

Visit [www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com](http://www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com) for more study guides.
Bridge: Today's story is about persistence. Did you know it takes persistence to build a relationship – including a relationship with God? Today's study is entitled “Persistence Pays.” And as you learn to be persistent with God, amazing things will happen, just like they did in this story. So let's read it.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 8:40-56.
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. As we dig into this story, let's compare two verses, one from last week's story and one in today's story. Someone read verses 36 -37 and someone else read verse 40. What do you think contributed to the different responses of these two cities which were on opposite sides of the lake?
2. What are the differences you see between these two people? What are the similarities you see (man/woman, rich/poor, etc.)?
3. What is Jesus' purpose in making this quiet lady a public attraction?
4. Read verse 50 again. How did Jesus build Jairus' faith to prepare for his daughter's “sleep”?
5. Why do you think Jesus calls this girl's death, “sleep”?
6. Why do you think Jesus tells Jairus not to tell anybody when He has just made the quiet lady public?
7. Of all the people crowded around Jesus, why is it that these people get through to Jesus?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. With which of these people do you resonate the most? Why?
2. Share a time when you recognized your own desperation and fell on your knees to plead with God?
3. These two stories are about physical healing, but there is also spiritual, mental, and emotional healing. If you were to go to Jesus and ask Him for healing, for what would you ask?
4. How would you explain spiritual persistence to someone?
5. What ways have you developed spiritual persistence with God?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, Spiritual persistence (spending lots of time with God) works.

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
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Lunch

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tag! you are it

Message of Hope: You are here because someone told you about Jesus. Pass on this blessing to one more person.

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Check-In:
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3. And...[insert rotation question]?

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Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
What is a fairly recent “good deal” you received AND told someone else about so they could get the same “good deal”?

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Bridge: Have you ever stopped to think about the blessings you have received from what other people did for you? Today's story reminds us of how blessed we are and how important it is to pass on the blessing to others. That is why this story is called, “tag! you are it.” So, let's read the story in the Bible.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Let's go back a few chapters and read Luke 6:12-16. Who were these apostles?
2. What was the job description of these apostles?
3. Now let's read Ephesians 4:12-14. What is the job description of these apostles?
4. If there were apostles in today's world, what do you think their job description would look like?
5. Why do you think today's story includes the power to heal people, but the Ephesians 4 job description does not include the power to heal people?
6. Someone read verses 2-6 again, but read them one verse at a time. What thoughts do you have about each verse?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. If you had been one of Jesus’ disciples, and He picked you to be an apostle, what would have been the best, and also the hardest, part of your job description?
2. In your heart, how do you sense Jesus inviting you to work with Him?
3. What are some of the hardest things for people to “leave” as they follow Jesus?
4. There are many ways to share Jesus with others. What is one way in which you are comfortable and like sharing Jesus with others?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, You are here because someone told you about Jesus. Pass on the blessing to one more person.

Wrap Up:
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Lunch
mission impossible

Message of Hope: All things are possible with God.

Leader's Tip: Notice the BIG picture: 1) Jesus has been doing a lot of healing. 2) Jesus sends out His apostles and tells them to go tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal. 3) The apostles come back and tell Jesus all they have done. 4) Jesus asks the apostles to feed the big crowd. 5) The apostles claim it is “impossible.” 6) Jesus does not argue or condemn them. He feeds the crowd. 7) The apostles pick up the leftover food.

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2. What was a highlight of your week?
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Children’s Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first) What is one thing that you can do, or have done, that you once thought was impossible?
Bridge: Today's story gives us hope because there are many things we think are impossible. This story will show us how God works in our lives to make that which we think is impossible, possible.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What do you think is the main point of this story?
2. From last week's study, read Luke 9:2. Now, in today's story, Jesus takes the apostles to a quiet place. But the crowds learn where they are. If the crowds had not found Jesus, what kind of things do you think Jesus would have discussed with His apostles?
3. Even though Jesus has other plans, verse 11 says, “And He welcomed them.” Read between the lines. What values and priorities does Jesus hold that causes him to “welcome them”?
4. What similarities and differences do you see between verse 2 and verse 11?
5. When the apostles claim, “impossible,” how does Jesus respond by His example?
6. What part of this story do you still find a bit confusing?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. When was a recent time when you had “other plans” and God brought you people in hopes that you would adjust your plans and “welcome them”?
2. Verse 17 says, “They all ate as much as they wanted.” Share a time when you “filled up” on an impossible miracle God did in your life?
3. What is God asking you to do that you are tempted to peg as “impossible”?
4. And why do you think it is “impossible”?
5. If you had helped pick up the leftover food, what would you have been thinking as you walked around picking it up?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, all things are possible with God. How can this group pray for God's protection and victory in your life?

Wrap Up:
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Lunch
the up-side-down gospel

Outline

Message of Hope: When you give up all, you gain all.

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Check-In:
  1. What is your first name?
  2. What was a highlight of your week?
  3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
  • Where did you see God at work this past week?
  • How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
  • How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
  • Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
  What is something you gave up because you knew you would get something better later on?

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Bridge: Today's story is about giving up something so you can get something much, much better later on. But believe it or not, some people are not willing to do this. What are we talking about? Let's read the story

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Why is Jesus interested in this opinion poll?
2. In verse 21, what do you think motivated Jesus to ask them not to tell anyone?
3. Read verse 23 again. Let's spend some time digging deeper and go beyond the easy surface answers.
   1. What does it really mean to set aside your selfish ambition?
   2. What does it really mean to shoulder your cross daily?
   3. What does it really mean to follow Jesus?
4. If a five-year-old child were to ask you, Why does Jesus ask us to give up our lives for Him in order to find our lives? How would you answer the child?
5. What is the “message” Jesus talks about in verse 26?
6. How do we know if we are ashamed or not ashamed of Jesus and His message?
7. At first glance, verse 27 is confusing. What are the different ways we can make sense of this verse?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What “selfish ambitions” are you tempted to hold on to?
2. What does it personally mean for you to pick up your cross daily?
3. When was one of the first times you decided to follow Jesus?
4. Knowing what you know now, why do you want to continue following Jesus?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, when you give it all up, you gain it all.

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
just listen

outline

**Message of Hope:** Jesus made your salvation possible. Now listen and follow Him.

**Leader’s Tip:**
1. *During the singing time read the story Baby Moses.* This will help the adults better understand today's story.
2. *This story is going to lead people to voluntarily talk about their personal devotional time.* But it will be called “listening time.” Long-time Christians have learned how to “play Christianity” really well and are usually very uncomfortable talking about their personal quiet time. Prepare yourself for this. *Don’t push them or embarrass them.* Let their absence of authentic testimony bring conviction to their hearts – maybe for their own salvation.

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**Welcome:** We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

**Setting the Context:**
- This is a safe place to grow spiritually. We are glad all of you are here.
- You will notice we do not use a bunch of fancy religious language.
- We are common people.
- Encourage those who like to talk to give a opportunity for everyone to participate.

**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...*[insert rotation question]*?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?

**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*

When was a time you were talking but should have been listening?

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Bridge: Today's story is going to be very different than what we have been used to. So without trying to explain what is different, let's just jump in and see what it is about.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Does anyone who was here last week remember what Jesus announced in the story? (After someone answers, have someone read it from the Bible, Luke 9:22.)
2. What does verse 31 say is the purpose of Moses and Elijah meeting with Jesus?
3. We will not assume everyone knows about Moses and Elijah so here is a brief summary:
   1. Moses – He was miraculously saved as a baby. Later in life God asked him to lead some two million Israelites out of Egypt where they had been slaves for 400 years. Then He spent forty years leading them to a special land God had chosen for them. (The book in the Bible called “Exodus” tells this story.) As a leader, Moses disobeyed God and was not allowed to go into the promise land. The Bible says (Deuteronomy 34:6) that God buried Moses. We learn from today's story that some time later God raised him and took him to live in heaven. Here is the important part, Moses represents all the people on this earth who loved and obeyed God, and died before going to heaven. In today's story Moses is sent to Jesus to encourage and remind Jesus that he, Moses, is living proof that Jesus' death on the cross WILL make it possible for all of God's followers to be raised and taken to Heaven. (Does that make sense or should I read it again?)
   2. Elijah – There are only two people in the Bible that have gone straight to Heaven without dying. Elijah is one of these people. Here is the important part, Elijah represents all the people who will NOT die on this earth but will go straight to Heaven when Jesus comes back this next time. So in today's story, Elijah is also sent to Jesus to encourage and remind Jesus of all those people who will be alive and waiting for Him when He comes back to take them to Heaven.
4. So in a nut shell, if you were asked why did God send both Moses and Elijah, how would you answer that question?
6. Why do you think Jesus takes three disciples with Him, especially if they are going to fall asleep and miss this amazing event.

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. When was a time when you experienced God in a special way? What happened in your story?
2. This Bible story leaves each one of us with a clear command from God – to listen to Jesus. What are some of the reasons that people give for not taking special listening time each day?
3. On a very personal note, how do you go about “listening to Jesus” each day? Being real and honest about this is more important than giving a nice-sounding answer.
4. Are there ways that we can help each other with a little accountability so that we are taking time each day to “listen to Jesus”?
5. Remember, Jesus made your salvation possible. Now listen and follow Him. How can this group pray for God's protection and victory in your life?

Wrap Up
Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
uncommon greatness

Message of Hope: The small things equal greatness in God's Kingdom.

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Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
• Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
Who are some of the greatest people that have ever lived? Why did you choose them?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
**Bridge:** People measure greatness in all kinds of ways: wealth, how busy they are, how many friends they have, and the list goes on. Today's story will blow you out of the water as it in a matter-of-fact way teaches us how God measures greatness. Everyone needs to read this in the Bible, so let's read the story.

*(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

**Listening & Learning Questions:** (50% of your study time)
1. Why do you think they were not able to do cast out the demons? This story does not tell us why the disciples were not able to cast out the demons, so every answer we offer is “correct.”
2. Read verse 41 again. What happened to the “nice” Jesus? Why does Jesus respond with such a “harsh” response?
3. Compare verse 44 to verse 22 which we read a few weeks ago. Do you notice any differences? Why do you think Jesus comes back a second time to talk about His death?
4. What happened to the “nice” disciples? What is at the core of their fighting?
5. How do the popular values of modern Christianity undercut Jesus' teaching in verse 48, “Whoever is the least among you is the greatest.”
6. What is Jesus' message in verse 49-50? What are the implications of this message for today?

**Heart & Healing Questions:** (50-50% of your study time)
1. In last week's story we saw Jesus transfigured. It was a mountain-top experience for His disciples. Today's story finds them in a spiritual valley unable to cast out demons. When have you recently had a spiritual high that was followed by a spiritual low?
2. It seems out of place to brag on ourselves, but this is a wonderful opportunity for us to affirm each other. So let's take several minutes to share how we have seen others in this circle do that which would make them great in God's Kingdom.
   **Leader's Tip:** Take time for this process. Don't rush through or fill the air with lots of talking. Go around the circle, give the group time to affirm each person.
3. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
4. Remember, the small things equal great things in God's Kingdom. How can this group pray for God's protection and victory in your life?

**Wrap Up:**
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

**Lunch**
high cost, high reward

**Outline**

**Message of Hope:** The personal cost and rewards for following Jesus are out of this world.

**The Basic 8:** Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

**Welcome:** We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

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**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...*[insert rotation question]*?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*

What are your favorite excuses for not doing something? (For example, “the dog ate my homework.”)

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Bridge: Today's story talks about the cost of following Jesus. It is one of those high-cost decisions with rewards that are literally, out of this world.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Why do you think that Jesus, in verse 51, is so determined to go to Jerusalem?
   Leader's Tip: Here in 9:51 Jesus begins His journey to Jerusalem, but Jesus does not arrive until Luke 19:41.
2. Why does Jesus send people ahead to the Samaritan village to prepare for His arrival?
3. In verses 57-62, Jesus will interact with three different people. Let's look at them, one at a time, and ask the following two questions:
   1. How does Jesus respond to the excuses offered by each person?
   2. Read between the lines. What is at the heart of Jesus' response to each of these three people?
4. What three general issues are represented in these verses?
   Leader's Tip: personal comfort, social obligations, family concerns.

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Where in your life is Jesus calling you to give up houses and earthly security for the sake of God's Kingdom?
2. Verse 60 says, “Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God.” What is one area where God is inviting you to join Him to share God's Kingdom?
3. With this next question, let's be honest with ourselves and with each other. Verse 62 gets right to the point, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.” What things in this world trip us up and get us to look back?
4. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
5. Remember, the personal cost and rewards of following Jesus are literally, out of this world. How can this group pray for God's protection and victory in your life?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
registered in Heaven

outline

Message of Hope: You are safe when you follow Jesus.

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Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
• Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
If you were to make a living by going door-to-door selling something, what would you want to sell?

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Bridge: Today's story is NOT about selling something, but it is about sharing something. Remember from last week, Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem where He would die. So in some ways, today's story has a serious side that is much more important than whether or not someone buys what the door salesperson is selling. As you will see in just few moments, today's story has incredible hope and security for all who take it seriously.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Verse 2 records the only prayer in these verses. Why do you think Jesus asks the 72 disciples to pray this prayer?
2. It seems out of place that Jesus would send them out, then in verse 4 tell them, “Don't stop to greet anyone on the road.” What is Jesus getting at?
3. Verses 2-11 contain the heart of Jesus' instructions to the disciples. There are “do's” and “don'ts.” The “do's” are listed as action verbs. Read back through these verses and identify what the disciples were to do and not to do.
   Leader's Tip: Action verbs: vs. 2 - pray; vs. 3 - go; vs. 5 - say; vs. 7 - stay; vs. 7 - accept; vs. 8 - eat; vs. 9 - heal; vs. 9 - tell; vs. 10 - tell. The “don'ts” are easier to identify.
4. Let's think of all the possible reasons why Jesus included verse 16?
5. How does verse 19 compare with what you see in today's Christian world?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. How is God sending you into the harvest? What would it take for you to be more involved in the harvest?
2. “Do not take money, a suitcase, or extra shoes.” How is God stretching your trust in Him?
3. How do you cope with rejection?
4. What are the pros and cons of accepting or rejecting Jesus?
5. “Don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you, rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.” What are common reasons in our world that keep people's names from being registered in Heaven?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, you are safe, when you follow Jesus. How can this group pray you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
**Message of Hope:** Red, brown, yellow, black, and white; all are precious in His sight.

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**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
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**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
Have you ever helped a stranger? What happened?
**Bridge:** Today's story might mess with your way of thinking. Although the Bible story will not use the word “prejudice,” Jesus will zero into the core of this issue. Remember, Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem where He will die. On the way Jesus gets right to the point, so ready or not, here we go.

**Read the Bible Story from a modern translation:** Luke 10:25-37. *(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

**Listening & Learning Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*
1. What would make it right or wrong to text God?
2. If verses 25-28 were the only part of the Bible you had and someone asked you, “How can I have eternal life and live forever in Heaven?” How would you answer their question?
3. What does it look like when someone loves God with all their strength?
4. Since loving yourself is a prerequisite for loving other people, how does someone love themselves in a non-selfish and healthy way?
5. An Israelite did not consider non-Israelites (Gentiles) their neighbors. In fact, they despised them. With this in mind, Jesus answered the lawyer's question with a story that really messed up his way of thinking. How does this story adjust his attitude? What was Jesus trying to teach him?

**Heart & Healing Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*
1. When have you experienced a time when someone passed by you?
2. There is a song that says, “Red, brown, yellow, black, or white; all are precious in His sight.” How has God been changing your attitude on this?
3. Who has overcome cultural prejudice and been a Good Samaritan in your life?
4. Prejudice is not limited to ethnic differences. It also includes differences in social status, financial standing, and the list goes on. How is God inviting you to overcome prejudice and live like the Good Samaritan?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, red, brown, yellow, black and white, all are precious in His sight. How can this group pray for you this next week?

**Wrap Up:**
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

**Lunch**

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priorities

Message of Hope: Re-prioritizing your life can happen, starting now!

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Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
• Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
What were considered the top priorities in your family as you grew up?
**Bridge:** It is said that you can determine what your priorities are by how you spend your time and your money. Today's story is about priorities. We will learn there is one life priority that should surpass all others.

**Read the Bible Story** from a modern translation: Luke 10:38-42. *(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

**Listening & Learning Questions:** (50% of your study time)
1. This is quiz time for those of you who have been here the last few weeks. Why is Jesus on His way to Jerusalem? (see Luke 9:51)
2. In this story Martha gets bad-rap, but what are the positive character strengths we see in her?
3. How do you think this interaction with Jesus might have affected Mary and Martha's future relationship?
4. Jesus seems to say that one does not need to live a worry-filled life. If worry-free is for real, how can we actually live it in real life?

**Heart & Healing Questions:** (50% of your study time)
1. If you were honest with yourself, what pulls you away from spending personal one-on-one time with Jesus?
2. Based on how you spend your time and money, what would you say are your top priorities in life?
3. If Jesus were to stop by your home this evening, how do you think He would encourage you to re-prioritize your life?
4. What is one thing that is weighing you down, stressing or worrying you right now that this group could pray for?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, re-prioritizing you life can happen, starting now! How can this group pray for you this next week?

**Wrap Up:**
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

**Lunch**
prayer hoops
outline

**Message of Hope:** God's promises are absolutely true for those who are absolutely surrendered to Him.

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**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?  

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
What examples of prayer did you grow up with?

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Bridge: Today we are going to look at some incredible promises and ask some hard questions. As we look at this story, we have to recognize that either A) God does not lie and His promises are true, or B) God's promises are worthless and we should throw away our Bible. So with that background, let's jump into our story.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 11:1-13. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Why does Jesus start by talking about keeping His Father's name holy?
2. What are the different forms of social swearing that are “close” to abusing God's name?
3. What are the other themes in this prayer? Why do you think Jesus included them?
4. As you compare verses 9 & 10 to every-day life, how do you make sense of these promises?
5. Is there anything that can nullify verses 9-10? (Are these conditional promises?)
6. Why do you think people get mad at God for not doing what they ask in prayer when they do not do what He asks in the Bible?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Which phrase of the Lord's prayer is the part that is most important in your life right now? Why does it take top priority?
2. What specific prayer requests have you seen Jesus directly answer lately?
3. What specific prayer requests seem to be going unanswered lately?
4. It has been said, “God's promises are absolutely true for those who are absolutely surrendered to God.” What area of your life do you need to absolutely surrender to God?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, God's promises are absolutely true for those who are absolutely surrendered to Him. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
power source choices

Message of Hope: God is more powerful than Satan, hands down.

The Basic 8: Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

Welcome: We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

Setting the Context:
  • This is a safe place to grow spiritually.
  • We are a wide diversity of people. We are glad all of you are here.
  • You will notice we do not use a bunch of fancy religious language.
  • We do not try to impress people with how much Bible quoting we can do. We are common people.
  • Encourage those who like to talk to give an opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:
  1. What is your first name?
  2. What was a highlight of your week?
  3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
  • Where did you see God at work this past week?
  • How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
  • How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
  • Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
  • Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
  Who were the powerful people in your life as you grew up?
Bridge: Today's story is about two powerful people that are at war – and they are both fighting over you. Only one will win; and amazingly, you will decide who will win. So let's take a look at this story.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Why do these people think another miraculous sign will change their minds about Jesus?
2. Verse 23 says that if a person is not working with God, then by default he is actually working against Him. How does this actually play out in our everyday life?
3. Let's read verses 24-26 again and dig as deep as we can. What is the message of Jesus in these verses?
4. Jesus says in verse 28 that people are most blessed when they both hear and obey the word of God. If this is true, then as a group let's make a list of the blessings we have received from hearing and obeying God's word.
5. Step back and look at the big picture of this story. What does this story teach us about Satan and God?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Verse 17 talked about family feuds. If a family that is “splintered by feuds will fall apart,” how does a family go about discussing their differences of opinion in a healthy way?
2. What has been some of the most convincing evidence of God's power in your life?
3. How does Satan try to tempt you to work against God?
4. Verse 17 said, “He knew their thoughts.” If Jesus were to respond to your thoughts, how would He encourage you? What caution would He give you?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, God is more powerful than Satan, hands down. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
forgiveness promised

Message of Hope: Repent and literally be saved.

Leader’s Tip: This study could throw you some surprises if you do not plan ahead. Read through the questions and related Bible stories. Also, use this Bible story to teach people how to find other parts of the Bible that help explain what is going on.

Needed for Today: Today's study will give people the opportunity to privately write down items of which they need to repent. You will need pens and paper for everyone. Invite people to fold them; then as a group take these written confessions outside, put them in a pile, and burn them, signifying God's forgiveness.

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Check-In:
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2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When was a time you had to make something right?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: Remember, a few chapters back we studied about how Jesus started on His journey to Jerusalem where He would die on the cross. Along the way opposition intensified and Jesus responded with words that got right to the point. Today's story may seem a little odd, but Luke included it for a very important reason. So, together let's jump in with both feet and discover its message of hope.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Why does Jesus start by saying, “This evil generation”? To whom is Jesus talking?
2. Who is Jonah? What is his story about?
   Leader's Tip: Show people where the book of Jonah is found in the Bible. Then summarize the story.
3. Before we ask the next question, let's read this same story in Matthew 12:39-40. Remember, the people had asked for “signs” to prove that Jesus was the Messiah. What is the only sign that Jesus says He will give them?
4. Who is the queen of Sheba? Why does Jesus bring her into this story?
   Leader's Tip: Sheba was a kingdom in southern Arabia. The queen traveled a great distance to hear Solomon's wisdom (1 Kings 10:1-13; 2 Chronicles 9:1-12).
5. Why does Jesus compare the Jews to the people who lived in Nineveh and Sheba?
   Leader's Tip: The Jews are religious people, and the people in Nineveh and Sheba are not religious people, yet they were searching for truth. The contrast reprimands the Jews for not accepting Jesus as the Messiah.

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. If Jesus was living among us today like He did in Bible times, how would He describe the spiritual direction of our culture?
2. In what areas of life are you and your family finding it difficult to go against the flow spiritually?
3. What sign would it take for our culture to repent of their sins and turn to God?
4. What are possible problems with relying on “signs” to do the trick?
5. Directions: Take a piece of paper and a pen. Then privately write down any item which you need God to forgive. Nobody will see what you have written. In about seven minutes we will take our pieces of paper outside, put them in a pile, and burn them to demonstrate what God does with our sins when we ask for forgiveness.
6. So, why do you think Luke included this story in the Bible?
7. Remember, repent and literally be saved. How can this group pray for you this next week?

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Lunch

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give and take

Message of Hope: God notices when you help those who have less than you do.

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Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When was a time that you received financial help from someone? When was a time you gave financial help to someone?
Bridge: Today's story may seem odd. We go back a few chapters to when Jesus was heading for Jerusalem where He would die on the cross. His time on earth was limited, so along the way He did not waste His words. Keep this in mind as we read today's story.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 11:33-54. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Let's go back to verses 33-35. What are some modern day examples of how our eyes provide spiritual light and spiritual darkness to the rest of our body?
2. Why do you think Jesus adds the phase, “with no dark corners” (verse 36)?
3. In verse 38, Jesus knew that it would cause a problem if He did not wash His hands. Why do you think Jesus intentionally did this?
4. Let's read verses 39-41 again. What is Jesus' big concern about these religious leaders?
5. What are the first three criticisms in verses 42-44? How would you summarize them?
   1) Verse 42 – neglecting the more important things of justice and love of God.
   2) Verse 43 – love to sit in the seat of honor.
   3) Verse 44 – corrupting the people. (Touching a grave or a dead body rendered a Jew ceremonially unclean. Jesus accused the religious leaders of being a defiling influence rather than a purifying one.)
6. What are the last three criticisms in verses 46-52? How would you summarize them?
   4) Verse 46 – crushing people with unbearable religious demands.
   5) Verse 47 – joining in their ancestors’ crimes by building monuments.
   6) Verse 52 – preventing others from entering the Kingdom of God.
7. What is Jesus' message in verse 41? Why would Jesus choose this?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What are the different subtle, and yet well accepted, ways Satan uses to bring darkness into your life?
2. Thinking about verse 42, what are some of the “more important things” in life on which you want to focus?
3. Thinking about verse 47, what are some of the ancestral, or family, sins you have observed in your family? Have you asked ask God for extra victory so Satan does not pull you down that same path?
4. Who are the people in your life that have helped you stay focused on entering God's Kingdom?
5. Read verse 41 again. How do you intentionally help those who are less fortunate then you are?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, God notices when you help those who have less then you do. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
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Lunch

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warning & encouragement

outline
Luke 12:1-12

Message of Hope: Jesus wants you to be on His side so He can present you to God as one of His children.

Planning Ahead: This week's story talks about hell. Defer all “hell” discussions until next week. Next week's story will include a video presentation on the subject of hell. Download the video presentation ahead of time which is called, When the Smoke Clears (342.8 MB). If you have difficulty watching this movie, then downloaded this free VLC video player.

Also, order the magazine (1-800-777-2848) called, A Love Stronger Than Death: Mysteries of the Great Beyond. Give a copy to each person next week. The topic of hell is obviously related to the topic of death, and this magazine talks about both topics.

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Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
To whom do you turn for encouragement?

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Bridge: Today's story is about encouragement. In fact, Jesus wrote a letter that begins with, “Dear Friends.” Remember, He was on His way to Jerusalem where He would die for your sins, so listen closely to His letter of encouragement.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Going back to verse 1. What is the yeast? Why do you think Jesus used this term?
2. Read verses 2 & 3 again. A few weeks ago we learned that when we repent from our sins, God completely erases them from His memory. So how can Jesus say this?
3. From verse 4 and onward Jesus writes His “Dear Friends” letter where He gets right to the heart of several topics, but in a loving way. Let's look at each of these topics:
   1. Read verses 4-5 again. Jesus talks about a God who can throw you into hell, then He says to fear God. Next week we will watch a video presentation and discuss the hot topic of hell, but for now, what does it mean when it says “don't be afraid” and yet “fear God”?
   2. Read verses 6-7 again. Why is it sometimes hard to believe that God really cares about the details of our lives?
   3. Read verses 8-10 again. Can someone who has denied Jesus be forgiven? What spiritual dangers are there in “living the good life now” and later asking forgiveness? How is this related to blaspheming the Holy Spirit?
   4. Read verses 11-12 again. How do these verses give you hope?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Which part of this story gives you the most encouragement? Why?
2. How are people, especially Christians, tempted to live hypocritical lives?
3. How do you feel knowing that everything done in secret that has not been repented of will someday be revealed?
4. When did you begin to comprehend that Jesus really loves you and cares about the details of your life?
5. When was a time you took a risk and stood for Jesus?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, Jesus wants you to be on His side so that He can present you to God as one of His children. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Leader's Tip: Give everyone a copy of the magazine you ordered, A Love Stronger Than Death: Mysteries of the Great Beyond.

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
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3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
**Message of Hope:** A loving God will NOT burn people in hell forever, period.

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**Check-In:**
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2. What was a highlight of your week?
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**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
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**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
What are the hottest and coldest places you have visited?

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**Bridge:** Today will be a bit different than what we usually do. In last week's story, Jesus talked about throwing people into hell (Luke 12:5). Today we are to learn what the Bible really says about the hot topic of hell.

**Play New Beginnings DVD** Presentation (29 minutes)

**Read the Bible Story from a modern translation:** Genesis 19:1-38. *(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

**Listening & Learning Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*

1. In another part of the Bible Lot is called a righteous man (2 Peter 2:7). So, why do you think he hesitates to leave such a sinful city?
2. What do you think was going through Lot's wife's thoughts that motivated her to look back?
3. What pictures of God's patience do you see in this story?
4. If God is a loving God, how can He destroy a whole city?

**Heart & Healing Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*

1. What are the different ways that our culture is like Sodom?
2. Where, like Lot, do you find yourself hesitating to leave something that you know in your heart is not right?
3. How does Satan tempt you to look back?
4. How does this story help you live a Godly life in a sinful culture?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, A loving God will NOT burn people in hell forever, period. How can this group pray for you this next week?

**Wrap Up:**

1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
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**Lunch**

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money talk

Outline
Luke 12:13-21

Message of Hope: Our money can be used for God's glory.

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Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
• Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When you were a child, what did you like to collect?
Bridge: Today's story is about a fool. In fact, Jesus says that the way you use money identifies you as a wise or foolish person. This may seem a little bold – and it is. So let's read the story.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. In verse 15 Jesus says to guard against every kind of greed. What is greed? In real practical terms, how do we guard against greed in everyday life?
2. Jesus says in verse 15 that life is not measured by how much you own. Then by what do you think Jesus would say that life should be measured?
3. In this story the man ends up in the wrong place. Where do you think this man's thinking began to take a wrong turn?
4. When does saving money become hoarding money?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Read verse 20 again. How has Satan used money to distract you from a rich relationship with God?
2. What was it like when it first dawned on you that the day you die all your material wealth will go to someone else?
3. How has your life goals changed over the years with regard to money?
4. When you die for what do you really hope people will remember you?
5. What needs to change in your life so that they will remember you the way you want them to?
6. Let's go back to verse 20 again, how could you increase your “richness towards God?”
7. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
8. Remember, Our money can be used for God's glory. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
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Lunch
worried sick

Outline
Luke 12:22-34

Message of Hope: You don't have to worry.

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Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
What is something you tend to worry about?
Bridge: Today's story is about worry. So I guess this will not apply to any of us – right? Today, Jesus is going to give you a promise that can revolutionize your life if you are willing to believe what He says and practice it in your life. What is this promise, let's read the story together.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 12:22-34. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. How would you define or describe “worry”?
2. Yes, life is more important than food and clothes, but without food you don't live. So what is Jesus' message in these verses?
3. How would you explain Jesus' bird-and-flower logic to a seven-year-old child?
4. If worry cannot add a single moment to your life, what are the variety of things that worry does add to our lives?
6. Read verse 31 again. Let's get real serious about this promise. Either Jesus' promise is absolutely true, or He is a big liar. What does Jesus mean when He says “Seek the Kingdom of God above all else”?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. On a scale of 1 (“no worries”) to 10 (“panic”), what is the worry level in your life right now?
2. What are the worries you would like to place at Jesus' feet and would like this group to pray about?
3. Verse 33 gives part of the solution to worry – focus on helping and blessing others. How in small ways can you bring blessings to others?
4. If you decided to believe Jesus' promise and not worry, what worry would you start with?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, you don't have to worry. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
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3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

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ready or not, here I come

Message of Hope: Jesus is coming back to take His people home.

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Children go to Adventurers

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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
Briefly describe the work ethic of someone you admire?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
**Bridge:** In today's story Jesus is going to talk about two kinds of people – those with good work ethics and those with poor work ethics. But then Jesus will give it a twist and apply personal work ethics to something you may never have thought about. So, let's read the story.

*(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

**Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)**
1. Read verse 40 again. How in today's world are we to be “ready all the time”?
2. How does verse 40 relate to the last verse of last week's story, verse 34?
3. What are the different possible reasons why Peter in verse 41 asks this question?  
   **Leader's Tip:** *Keep in mind that the disciples are looking for Jesus to overthrow the Roman government and set up an earthly kingdom.*
4. How does Jesus' answer to Peter's question actually answer the question? In other words, what is Jesus' message to Peter?
5. How do you think the differences between verses 47 and 48 are fair or unfair?
6. What is the spiritual principle Jesus is getting at in the last half of verse 48?

**Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)**
1. Some people are given much in terms of a family heritage. For some it might be financial blessings to share; for others they might have the precious gift of time to share as they serve and bless others. Of course more areas could be listed. What areas of your life do you see God entrusting you with much?
2. Now think creatively on this next question. Since God has entrusted you with much, how are you able to use your “entrustment” to significantly bless other people from week to week?
3. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being “I am not preparing for Jesus to come,” and 10 being “I am preparing for Jesus to come,” where do you honestly see yourself? What would it take to move up a notch?
4. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
5. Remember, **Jesus is coming back to take His people home.** How can this group pray for you this next week?

**Wrap Up:**
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

**Lunch**

Visit [www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com](http://www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com) for more study guides.
a hard saying of Jesus

**message of hope:** Tough love comes out of a deep love for you.

**the basic 8:** Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

**welcome:** We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

**setting the context:**
- This is a safe place to grow spiritually.
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- You will notice we do not use a bunch of fancy religious language.
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- Encourage those who like to talk to give an opportunity for everyone to participate.

**check-in:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[

**children's check-in:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**children go to adventurers**

**god moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

**kick-off question:** (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When you hear the words “tough love,” what comes to mind? When have you received some tough love from someone?
Bridge: Today we will look at two stories. Both deal with “tough love,” which is not always easy to hear, but it is necessary for growing. So let's jump in and read the first story.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Here is a quiz question for those who were here a few weeks ago when we studied the subject of “hell” and watched the video presentation. When will Jesus literally set this world on fire?
   Leader's Tip: If you want to review the presentation, watch When the Smoke Clears (342.8 MB). If you have difficulty viewing the downloaded video file then use the VLC video player.
2. Then what is Jesus talking about in verse 49, because it seems so out of character for Jesus?
3. In verse 50, to what is Jesus referring? Leader's Tip: Remember that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem where He would die on the cross.
4. How do you make sense of Jesus' talk about splitting families apart? What is the deeper meaning?

Read the second story: Luke 12:54-59
5. Try to read between the lines. What do you think causes Jesus to accuse them of not interpreting the present times?
6. What are the similarities between the judgement story that Jesus tells, and God's judgement day?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. How has the message of Jesus caused division or peace in your family and extended family?
2. In these family situations we have been talking about, how can one “keep the peace” and remain faithful and obedient to Jesus?
3. As you interpret the “present times,” what do you see going on and what might be on the horizon in our world?
4. What “daily signs” do you use to determine how you are doing spiritually?
5. Using a weather map to describe your spiritual life, what does the forecast look like?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, tough love comes out of a deep love for you. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
repent or perish

Message of Hope: When we ask, God always forgives.

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Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
• Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
What is something for which you have had to ask forgiveness?
Bridge: Today's story does not take a high IQ to realize what is at stake. Remember from past studies that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem where He would die on the cross. He got right to the point and did not waste words – why? Because He wants you to repent, believe in Him, and accept Him into your life so you can live forever with Him. In other words, Jesus loves you. Today's study is called, Repent or Perish. So let's read the story.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 13:1-5. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Twice, in verses 2 and 4, Jesus asks the same question, “Do you think they were worse sinners?” Why do you think He keeps asking this question?
   Leader's Tip: Background information – Jesus was correcting a popular claim that bad things only happen to bad people. Note that sin has negative consequences, but not every bad thing is a result of sin. Jesus then clarified that every person is a sinner who needs to repent.
2. What is Jesus' main point in these first five verses?

Now read verses 6-9
3. What is the message of this story?
4. What does the tree represent? The owner? The farmer? What is the urgency?
5. Now let's put the two stories together. The first story gives us a clue about what kind of fruit Jesus wanted. What was it He was looking for?
   Leader's Tip: Jesus was looking for repentance.

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Why do so many people avoid repentance in our culture?
2. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “no repentance” and 5 being “very repentant,” where would you say you are?
3. If you were given “one more year” to start producing fruit, where would you start?
4. What fruit do you hope to see in your life a year from now?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, when we ask, God always forgives. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
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3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Sabbath healing

Message of Hope: Healing happens when we spend Sabbaths with God.

Leader’s Tip: This story will provide prime opportunities to start one-on-one Come Alive Stay Alive Bible studies with people. DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY.

Needed for Today: Print out a few of the first “Come Alive” Bible lessons so you have them ready to give to people after today's study.

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2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children’s Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
• Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When was a time you took a risk by doing the right thing, even though you knew it might cost you something?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Watch this true story of someone who did the right thing even though it could have cost him his job.

Bridge: Today's story may introduce you to some new things you have never seen in the Bible. And that is OK, because we are all growing together. Jesus takes a risk, and does the right thing and it costs Him something. What did He do? Let's read the story.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 13:10-17. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. How would this story be different if it had not been a Sabbath?
2. What does this tell us about what Jesus' relationship to the Sabbath?
3. Why does Jesus initiate her healing on the Sabbath without her even asking?
   Leader's Tip: It is interesting that there are only seven times that Jesus initiates healing someone, and all seven are on the seventh day Sabbath. Could it be that Jesus is telling us that the Sabbath is for healing—physical, mental, spiritual, emotional?
4. In verse 14 the synagogue leader said, “There are six days of the week for working.” This may take a little bit of digging in our Bibles, but let's try and find the Bible verse from which he quotes.
   Leader's Tip: Us this opportunity to teach people how to use their cross-references found in side/center margin of their Bible.
5. Based on verse 15, what is the principle that Jesus uses for “acceptable work” on Sabbath?
6. If everyone in the whole world were seventh-day Sabbath keepers, what types of work would still “need” to happen on Sabbath?
7. How can this principle be abused? How can we protect ourselves from abusing it?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. When was a time when you experienced physical, spiritual, mental, or emotional healing in some way?
2. Today, Saturday, is the seventh-day Sabbath. If Jesus were to heal you, for what physical, mental, spiritual, or emotional healing would you wish?
3. In regard to the Bible Sabbath, which is often called Saturday, is there anything that Jesus is talking about that may be new to you? How did you first begin to learn about the seventh-day Sabbath – be it today or fifty-some years ago?
4. If you could ask Jesus more questions about the Sabbath, what would you like to ask Him?
   Leader's Tip: Make note of who asked what. Do NOT try to answer these questions. But follow-up one-on-one and suggest starting the “Come Alive/Stay Alive” Bible studies.
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, healing happens when we spend Sabbath with God. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up & Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
safe and secure

Message of Hope: There is no guessing. You can know your salvation is safe and secure!

Leader’s Tip: The door of accepting and following Jesus is closed when 1) a person dies or, 2) when Jesus comes the second time. So, your door is still open. Encourage people to go beyond eating and drinking with Jesus and develop a seven-day a week, personal relationship with Him.

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Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When was a time when you or a friend got locked out of your house or car? How did you get back in?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: Nobody likes to get locked out. Today's story is about some people who will get locked out of God's Kingdom. But the good news is that today's story will also show you how to become part of God's Kingdom and stay in God's Kingdom in Heaven. So let's read the story in Luke 13:18-30.


(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. From the two stories in verses 18-21, what do we know about the Kingdom of God, and what do we not know about it?
2. What is the common message of these two stories?
3. If the Kingdom of God will “become a tree” and “permeate every part of the dough,” why is it that “many will try to enter but will fail?” What makes the difference?
4. If we are saved by grace, what does Jesus mean when He says to “work hard to enter the narrow door of God's Kingdom?”
5. It seems very odd that Jesus says to those with whom He ate and drank, “I don't know you.” What makes the difference between the people who Jesus does and does not know?
   Leader's Tip: Emphasize the personal responsibility of each person to develop a daily personal relationship with Jesus so that He does know you and you know Him. In other words, religious activities does not mean that Jesus really knows you. It is about spending personal time with Jesus every day of the week.
6. Read verse 30 again. What is Jesus saying in this verse?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Who are some of the “great” people that have motivated you to take your relationship with Jesus seriously?
2. As the old saying goes, it is the hard work of our small decisions that determine our big decision. In the past year, what important decisions and habits have you been forming?
3. How do you know whether you are inside or outside God's Kingdom? How can you be sure?
   Leader's Tip: This is the most important question of the entire study. Listen carefully how people respond to this question. This will be a prime opportunity for you to give simple and clear personal answers to these questions. If you choose to use these three verses, have people look them up with you. (Ephesians 2:8-9, saved by grace and not works; Titus 2:11-14, grace makes it possible for me to turn away from sin. God's grace saves me and changes me!)
4. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
5. Remember, there is no guessing. You can know if your salvation is safe and secure! How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Message of Hope: Sabbath, humility, and how we treat the disadvantaged are much more important than living out my hopes and dreams in this lifetime.

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Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

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- Where did you see God at work this past week?
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
What is one of your favorite supper or dinner meals?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: Today's story takes place at a dinner party where Jesus talks about a different kind of dinner etiquette. During this dinner party Jesus took the opportunity to teach three important lessons. See if you can identify all three. Let's read the first part of this story.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What are the different possible reasons why Jesus asks the question in verse 3?
2. Why do you think they “refuse to answer”?
3. A few weeks ago we studied another Sabbath healing in Luke 13:10-17. Let's go back and re-read this story. What are the similarities between the two stories?
4. Based on these two stories, what are the different Sabbath principles we are given?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Based on this story, how would each of you complete the following sentence: Sabbath is a day for ______________. 
2. How do these Sabbath principles help guide you and your family decisions in a practical way?

Now read the second part of this story, verses 7-14
Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. How do you describe the difference between true humility and fake humility?
2. What do you think Jesus means in verse 11 by the term “exalted”?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Jesus states verse 11 as a promise. How have you seen it come true in your life?
2. Read verses 12-14 again. How do you make sense of what Jesus is really getting at?
3. What were the three important lessons Jesus talked about in this story?
4. Remember, Sabbath, humility, and how we treat the disadvantaged are much more important than living out my hopes and dreams in this lifetime. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
invitations

Message of Hope: It is never too late to say “yes” to God's invitation.

Leader’s Tip: Today could be the day someone will accept Jesus' invitation to follow Him for the first time, or they may be “coming back” after walking away. As you close today's group there will be a time to encourage people to accept God invitation.

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1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first) What was one of the more recent special occasions to which you were invited? Why did you go or not go?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
**Bridge:** Today's story, if it is true, has significant implications for your future. If it is false, then there is nothing to be concerned about. But only you can decide for yourself. So let's read the story.

**Read the Bible Story from a modern translation:** Luke 14:15-24.  
*(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

**Listening & Learning Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*
1. Sometimes these kinds of stories are called a parable. What makes a parable a parable?  
   **Leader's Tip:** A parable is *not* a real story, but it is told to teach a lesson or illustrate a point.
2. What lesson is Jesus teaching when He tells this parable?
3. What three general categories do you see in the three excuses?
4. Let's identify the different people and circumstances. What do they represent in this parable?
5. What does this parable tell us about how God thinks and feels about people?
6. What does this parable teach us about the invitations God gives us and our freedom of choice?

**Heart & Healing Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*
1. What kinds of feelings would go through you if you had planned an extra-special banquet and your guests gave excuses why they could not come?
2. As you look back through your life, what are one or two different ways God has given you invitations? How did you respond to His invitations?
3. What kind of excuses have you given God? Do you see any patterns?
4. The fact that you are here today means something. What do you see as your next step?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, **it is never too late to say “yes” to God's invitation.** If you have never said “yes” to God's invitation to follow Him, or if you want to say “yes” again, then repeat this surrender pray after me:  
   “God I want to attend the real banquet in Heaven. I surrender my life to you. Forgive me of all my sins. Come into my life and be the new boss of my life – In Jesus' name, Amen.”

**Wrap Up:**
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

**Lunch**
counting the cost

Message of Hope: With Jesus there is full disclosure and no “hidden costs.”

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Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
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Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
What is one of the largest ticket items you have ever purchased?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: Today's story talks about something that carries a bigger price tag than you have ever paid. And as you will shortly see, it will impact more than your pocket book. What is this? Let's read the story.


(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. In the last few stories we have read over the last few weeks, Jesus has been very blunt, to the point, and what some might consider is even offensive. So why do you think that in verse 25 there is still a large crowd following him?
2. In this story, what does Jesus say are the three bottom-line requirements to being His disciple? Leader's Tip: See verses 26, 27, and 33.
3. It seems odd for Jesus to use the word “hate” to describe those who follow him. What does He mean by this description?
4. What do you think “carrying your own cross” includes?
5. Read verses 28-30 again. What costs do you think Jesus would say need to be counted in today's world?
6. What does salt have to do with this discussion?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. When was a time you started some kind of project or made a significant decision without counting the costs? What happened?
2. What do you think are some of the bigger costs for people deciding whether or not to follow Jesus in today's culture?
3. What costs have you faced personally, or what costs would you face, with regards to following Jesus?
4. Where do you see yourself on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being, “I'm counting the costs of following Jesus,” and 10 being, “I'm currently paying the price”?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, with Jesus there is full disclosure and no “hidden costs.” How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
lost until found

Message of Hope: God is searching for you.

The Basic 8: Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

Welcome: We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

Setting the Context:
• This is a safe place to grow spiritually.
• We are a wide diversity of people. We are glad all of you are here.
• You will notice we do not use a bunch of fancy religious language.
• We do not try to impress people with how much Bible quoting we can do. We are common people.
• Encourage those who like to talk to give an opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
• Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When was a time, either in a little way or a big way, that you were lost?
Bridge: Today's story is about getting lost. But when you are lost in this way, you need someone else to find you. In other words, it is not something you can solve all by yourself. But the good news is that when you are in this predicament, you can be found – if you want to. So what does all this mean? Let's read the story.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What is a “notorious sinner”? Why do you think “notorious sinners” would spend lots of time with Jesus?
2. Why would the teachers of religious law even care that Jesus was spending time with notorious sinners?
3. These two stories are called parables, which mean they are stories that Jesus told to teach specific truths. Who are the different players in these two stories? Who do they represent?
4. Read the last part of verse 4 again. What is it that really motivates Jesus to search for the lost sheep “until He finds it”?
5. When do you think the lamb realized it was lost, or did it ever realize it was lost? What does this tell us about God?
6. Does God force us to be found? In other words, how does freedom-of-choice play into this story?
7. Read verse 7 & 10 again. What does it mean to repent and turn to God?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. When was a time you felt lost in life?
2. How were you “carried back home” when you were lost?
3. When did it begin to dawn on you that Jesus was searching for you?
4. How are you at risk for getting lost spiritually?
5. After reading these two stories, how does God communicate to you that you are very important to Him?
6. We will not spend much time on this next question, but it is important to ask. Is there something that you need to repent of and make right with God?
7. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
8. Remember, God is searching for you. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
welcome home

outline
Luke 15:11-32

Message of Hope: Your recent past or distant past does not matter, God will accept you with open arms.

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3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
• Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
Think back to one of the first times you left home for a short period of time. Why did you leave home? How did people respond when you came back?

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Bridge: Today's story makes no sense. It goes against the values of this world. And it makes some people mad – especially people who claim to be Christians but are actually living by worldly values. But Jesus told this story to specifically teach us a different set of values and show us the way God and His kingdom works. It is this new set of values, God's values, that can give you hope and meaning.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 15:11-31. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Who do the different people in this story represent? What do the different places represent?
2. What are the different character strengths of both the older and younger sons?
3. What are the different character weaknesses of both sons?
4. Why does it take “hitting rock bottom” before the younger son confesses his sin and sets out to make things right?
5. What does this story tell us about God?
6. How do people take advantage and mock God's goodness in today's world?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. It seems that no matter how much money people have, they always want more. On what kinds of things are you tempted to waste money?
2. How does money and material wealth hinder your spiritual growth?
3. Imagine for a few moments that your life was at rock bottom and you were desperate. How would your relationship with God be different?
4. Spiritually, where are you at in your relationship with God right now?
5. If you were to take a significant step closer to God this next week, what would it be?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, your recent past or distant past does not matter, for God will accept you with open arms. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
Message of Hope: Our choices, good and bad, make choices for us.

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Check-In:
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2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
• Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When have you been “let go,” or fired from a job, or maybe someone else was chose for a job you wanted?
Bridge: Today's story has two parts, so we will read them one at a time. But be ready for a hot topic because both stories talk about our use of money and wealth. Ready or not, here we go.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Go back to verse 9. It almost seems that Jesus is being dishonest to teach us how to make sure we get into Heaven. What do you think the lesson of this story is?
   Leader's Tip: The commentary says – “they will welcome you to an eternal home” could be translated as “you will be welcomed into eternal homes”. They are probably the friends. Just as the manager's friends would give him security, the friends we win to the Kingdom will warmly welcome us for eternity.
2. What is Jesus trying to say in the last part of verse 8?

Now read verses 10-13.
3. Why do you think Jesus is so confident in verse 10 when He says, “If you are faithful in little, then you will be faithful in much . . . and if you are dishonest in little, then you won't be honest?”
4. How is verse 11 a fair or unfair comparison?
5. Verse 12 seems a bit odd if taken at face value. Let's do some deep thinking as we ask, What is Jesus' assumption behind this verse? What is Jesus implying?
   Leader's Tip: The Bible says that all we have comes from God.

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. How did you begin to learn the life lesson, “If you are trustworthy in little things, you will be trusted with bigger responsibilities”?
2. What are the two masters Jesus talked about? How are people torn in today's world, to “serve two masters”?
3. What are the worldly masters that seem to tempt you the most for your allegiance to them? How do they try to tempt you?
4. What is the toughest decision you have had to make (or need to make) concerning your money?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, our choices, good and bad, make choices for us. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
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3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
unchangeable, unstoppable

**Outline**

Luke 16:10-18

**Message of Hope:** God is consistent, and His law is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

*Planning Ahead for next week's study:* Order enough copies so that each adult can have *A Love Stronger Than Death: Mysteries of the Great Beyond.* To order, call 1 800 777-2848. These magazines are less then $1.00 each.

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**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
Who is someone in your life that has been consistent and even-keeled when you felt like your life was on a roller-coaster?

Visit [www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com](http://www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com) for more study guides.
Bridge: Today's story is a continuation from last week's story. Today we are going to read the last three verses from last week's story. Be forewarned, today's story has some “hot topics” in it, so let's stay emotionally sober and really listen to what Jesus is saying and avoid jumping on our own bandwagons.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 16:10-18. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Why do you think the Pharisees scoffed at Jesus?
2. Why does Luke highlight the part, “who dearly loved their money.”
3. How can a person live righteously without “appearing righteous,” that is having an arrogant attitude?
4. What is Jesus getting at when He said, “What this world loves is detestable in God's eyes”?
5. Let's read verse 17 in all the translations we have here, then ask ourselves, “How would Jesus respond to people's claim, “The law was done away with at the cross”?
   Leader's Tip: The Message Bible says, “The sky will disintegrate and the earth dissolve before a single letter of God's Law wears out.”
   Leader's Tip: Someone may say that this story took place before Jesus died on the cross so, of course, the law had not been done away with yet. I respond with a question, Since we live after the time Jesus died on the cross, have the heavens and earth yet disappeared?
6. After Jesus talks about how God's law will not disappear, He uses an example right out of His ten Commandment law. In fact, some translations (NLT) start verse 18 with, “For example . . . .” Does anybody remember where God's ten Commandment law is located in the Bible? Let's go read them (Exodus 20:2-17). Where do we see the commandment about adultery?
   Leader's Tip: God's law says to not commit adultery. The reason Jesus chooses the example of adultery is because the Pharisees debated endlessly about how adultery was committed. This is why Jesus clarified what adultery means in these verses and in another part of the Bible (Matthew 5:27) when He said, “You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.' But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Why do some people think of God's ten Commandments as ten suggestions?
2. Going back to verse 15, we all try to make ourselves look better in one way or another, so no one is exempt. What are the different ways we try to cover up who we really are and make ourselves look better to other people?
3. Who is someone that unconditionally loves you just the way you really are?
4. Describe how you began to learn that God loves and values the real you?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, God is consistent and His law is the same yesterday, today, and forever. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up
Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
a symbolic story

Message of Hope: There is still time to share with your family and extended family.

Leader’s Tip #1: There is a lot of misunderstanding about today's story. The BIG KEY is that today's story is a parable that Jesus told. This means it is symbolic and NOT a true story. If one is tempted to read it literally, then one must accept that all parables are literal, which poses a lot of problems as we'll shortly see.

Leader’s Tip #2: AVIOD the temptation to give additional Bible proof texts on the state of the dead. Just tell people that you have an excellent magazine that you have to give to everyone which will look at what the rest of the Bible stays about death.

Needed for Today: Hopefully you ordered the magazine last week called, A Love Stronger Than Death: Mysteries of the Great Beyond. If they were not ordered, call 1 800 777-2848 and order a copy for every adult.

The Basic 8: Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

Welcome: We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

Setting the Context:
• This is a safe place to grow spiritually.

Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
What was a common fairy tale you grew up with?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: Today's story is one of the most misunderstood stories in the Bible. But it really is quite easy to understand. Here is the secret to understanding today's story – Jesus is telling a parable. What is a parable? A parable is a story, but it is NOT a real story. The misunderstanding comes when people try to say that part of this story is real and part is symbolic. So, as we read this story, keep in mind that it is either all real or it is all symbolic. When one mixes the two, one gets into a bunch of trouble. So, with our curiosity primed let's read this symbolic story.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. If we take this story as literally true, what parts cause major problems?
   Leader's Tip: Help the group discover these and be slow to tell them. Give them clues. If people are having a hard time, give them the first example and then ask them to look for other similar items. 1) Heaven (where Lazarus is) is located right beside Hell (where the Rich Man is). 2) There is only a gulf separating Heaven and Hell, see verse 26. 3) People in Heaven and Hell can talk to each other. 4) One drop of water could relieve the thirst of the wicked burning in hell. 5) The dead are not really dead and can return to earth with messages, see verse 27-28. In may other places in the Bible it says this is impossible (Job 7:9-10).
2. Remember, in verse 14 the Pharisees are mocking and scoffing Jesus. Based on the last three verses in this symbolic story, Jesus is still trying to teach them some important truths. What are these truths?
3. Read verse 31 again. This verse is a setup. In a short time Jesus is literally going to raise a real person called Lazarus, as we will see, the Pharisees still do not believe in Jesus. So next week we will break stride and jump to the real Lazarus story since the two are connected. But first, it almost seems out of character for Jesus to setup someone. Why do you think Jesus did this to the religious people then?
   Leader's Tip: This is for your background. Do not use it as an excuse to put someone down. Religious people, like the Pharisees, think they already know it all. The same is true today. Most religious people think this story proves that when a person dies, they go to Heaven or Hell. Let the Bible convict their hearts.

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. When was a time when you learned something new but in a hard way?
2. Trust is interesting. Along your spiritual journey, how has Jesus helped you to be able to trust Him and what He says in the Bible?
3. If you were to go “warn” your family and extended family about something you thought was very important, what would you like to share with them?
4. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
5. Remember, there is still time to share with your family and extended family. How can this group pray for you this next week? (For further study, give everyone a copy of “A Love Stronger Than Death.”)

Wrap Up & Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
the real Lazarus

outline

John 11:1-44

Message of Hope: Jesus cares about you.

Leader’s Tip#1: AVOID the temptation to give additional Bible proof texts on the state of the dead. Just tell people that you have an excellent magazine that you will give a copy to everyone which will look at what the rest of the Bible says about death.

Leader’s Tip #2: Yes, we have jumped out of the book of Luke and we will look at the real Lazarus story in the book of John. Both stories address the topic of death. When Jesus tells the symbolic Lazarus story (last week's study), He may have well known that in a short time He would raise the real Lazarus from the grave.

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Children’s Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
Briefly describe a time when you were really sick.

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Bridge: Today's story is about another Lazarus. But this time Lazarus is really sick and dies. Today's story is different than last week's Lazarus story which was symbolic. Today's story is a real story that really happened. So let's see what the Bible teaches us about death.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: John 11:1-44.
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Why do you think that Jesus' first words in verse 4 are, “Lazarus's sickness will not end in death”? Doesn't it seem a bit odd?
2. If this is not going to end in death, and if Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters so much, why does He wait two days before going to see Lazarus?
3. If Jesus knows that Lazarus is dead in verse 14, why does He say that Lazarus is asleep in verse 11? What is Jesus teaching us about death?
4. Verses 17 & 38 tell us that Lazarus had been in his grave for four days. Why is this information important in this story?
   Leader's Tip: Many Jews believed that the soul remained near the body for three days after death in the hopes of returning to it. If this idea was in the minds of these people, obviously now all hope was gone. After the fourth day, Lazarus was irrevocably dead! See NIV Study Bible commentary notes on John 4:17.
5. Based on verses 21 – 24, what does the Bible teach us about what Martha believed about death and resurrection?
6. Ponder Jesus' power in verse 43. What would have happened if He had not called Lazarus by name? Why do you think He said, “Come out!” instead of “Come down” or “Come up”?
7. Read verses 33-36 again. What picture of Jesus' heart do you see in these verses?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Verse 35, “Then Jesus wept.” is the shortest verse in the Bible. When was one of the last times your heart wept, whether out loud or silently?
2. As we ask this next question, it is important to remind ourselves that it is not respectful to make fun of or put someone down for what they were taught. The topic of death is a sensitive topic, but I think deep down in all our hearts we want to know what the Bible says. So let's first identify some of the popular teachings about death. Which ones have we heard?
3. What thoughts and concerns do you carry in your heart about dying?
4. Based on what Jesus says in this Bible story, what are some helpful ways to teach children about death without making them afraid to go to sleep at night?
5. How has God shown His care for you during difficult times in your life?
6. What is the message of hope you find in this story? (For further study, give everyone a copy of A Love Stronger Than Death.”)
7. Remember, Jesus cares about you. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up

Lunch
obedience is faith

Message of Hope: The fact that you are obeying in some ways means you have faith to obey in other areas too.

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Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
  • Where did you see God at work this past week?
  • How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
  • How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
  • Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
  • Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
  What comes to mind when you hear these two words: “faith” and “obedience”?

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**Bridge:** Today's story talks about 3 topics: Avoiding Temptation, Forgiveness, and How to have strong faith. I think that you will learn that you have more faith then you think. But don't take my word for it, let's read the story from the Bible.

*Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.*

**Listening & Learning Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*
1. If temptation is not sin, then why is there such a high price for the person who does the tempting?
2. Why does Jesus specifically talk about the importance of our protecting children from those who would tempt our children?
3. What does verse 4 tells us about God's willingness to forgive us?
4. What advice do you think Luke would give you if someone had wronged you but was not asking you for forgiveness?
5. Verse 5 records the disciples asking Jesus, “Show us how to increase our faith.” The *Message Bible* says it this way, “The apostles came up and said to the Master, 'Give us more faith.' But the Master said, 'You don't need more faith. There is no “more” or “less” in faith.'” How do you make sense of this teaching that faith is faith, and there is no such thing as “more” or “less” faith?
6. How would you explain the relationship between faith and obedience to a child?

**Heart & Healing Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*
1. What area of obedience in your life gives you courage that you have faith and have lived by faith even when it was hard to obey?
2. It has been said that “faith is obeying God's promises as if they are true.” What is a promise or command of God's that you need to start “obeying”?
3. When was a time when you chose to forgive someone even though it was hard?
4. How do you guard yourself against temptations?
5. What kind of temptation were you exposed to as a child that has become a life-long temptation?
6. Jesus says, “What sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting.” What are some of today's commonly accepted environments that introduce children to worldly values and subtle temptations?
7. What is one environment that you would like to start avoiding to protect yourself and your family from worldly values and temptations?
8. Remember, **the fact that you are obeying in some ways means you have faith to obey in other areas too.**
9. How can this group pray for you this next week?

**Wrap Up:**
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

**Lunch**

Visit [www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com](http://www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com) for more study guides.
thanks

Message of Hope: Healing begins with a step and ends with thanksgiving.

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- Encourage those who like to talk to give a opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:

- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)

When was a time someone thanked you for something you had done?
Bridge: Today's story will give you hope that it is possible to experience healing—spiritual, physical, mental, or emotional. Although this story focuses on only one kind of healing, the person who does the healing has the power to do all kinds of healing.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 17:11-19. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Does anyone who has been coming here often remember why Jesus is headed toward Jerusalem?
2. Why do you think these lepers stand at a distance to say, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us”?
3. Why does Jesus send them to see the priests instead of healing them immediately?
   Leader's Tip: It was the priests who decided when a person had leprosy. It was also the priests who decided if someone had been “healed” from leprosy.
4. Assuming this leper never gets to the priest before coming back to Jesus to say thanks, do you think he was obedient or disobedient?
5. Why do you think Luke includes the fact that this thankful leper is a Samaritan, a foreigner? What does this tell us about how God views different cultures?
   Leader's Tip: Jesus was a Jew and in Jesus' day the Jews hated Samaritans and would not speak to them, and they went out of their way to avoid them.
6. Why does Jesus set things up so that his patients are invited to exercise faith as part of their healing process?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. If you were to be “healed,” from what would you ask Jesus to heal you?
2. What steps do you need to take towards healing?
3. When was a time when your prayer request was answered after you started walking?
4. When was a time when it seemed that your prayer was never answered?
5. Today, how do people rationalize not going back to Jesus to say thanks?
6. To whom do you need to go to and say “Thank you” for something he has done for you? What did he do?
7. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
8. Remember, healing begins with a step and ends with thanksgiving. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
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Lunch

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Message of Hope: Jesus is coming back to take His people home to Heaven.

Leader’s Tip: Someone may be tempted to use verses 34-36 in this story to teach a common Bible myth that there is a secret rapture. The context of this story corrects this myth: Verses 34-36 are NOT talking about a secret rapture, since according to verse 24, Christ's coming will be a very public event, “For as lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other, so it will be on the day when the Son of Man comes.”

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Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
What is something for which you had to patiently wait?

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**Bridge:** Today's story is full of lots of good instruction. The overall theme is that Jesus is coming back to take His people to Heaven. But, as we will see in a few minutes, Jesus also gives some tips on how to NOT be deceived by people who are pretending to be Christ. So, let's read the story.

**Read the Bible Story from a modern translation:** Luke 17:20-37.

*(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

**Listening & Learning Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*

1. Why do you think Jesus said in verse 20 that the Kingdom of God cannot be detected by visible signs? Then how can the Kingdom be detected?
2. Beginning in verse 22 Jesus addresses His followers. Then in verse 23 Jesus gives a very concrete warning. What are the different ways this warning will protect God's people?
3. In today's world what are the different ways people can "go and see" fake Christs?
4. Why does Jesus use the Noah and Sodom comparison?
5. What is the deeper message that Jesus is getting at when He talks about losing your life to save it?
6. Based on verses 27 and 29, we see that the people who are left behind are destroyed. This may seem unloving, so how does this fit with a loving God?
7. What does it take to reject Jesus? What does it take to accept Jesus?

**Heart & Healing Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*

1. What are some of the deep-down reasons people opt not to accept Jesus in today's culture?
2. While you wait for Jesus to come back, how do you think He encourages you to live?
3. If you were to "Let go of your life in order to save your life," of what would you let go?
4. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story.
5. Remember, **Jesus is coming back to take His people home to Heaven.** With a Bible study on this topic, it is appropriate to ask if there is someone who would like to accept Jesus into their life? *(If someone says "yes," lead them in this prayer as they repeat it after you.)*

   **Leader's Tip:** "Dear God, I'm ready to follow you. Please forgive me of all my sins and come into my life. Change me on the inside and on the outside. And help me to really become like you. In Jesus name, Amen." Welcome to God's family!

**Wrap Up:**

1. "This group does not exist for us." Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
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**Lunch**

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prayer principles

Message of Hope: God still answers prayer!

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Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
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- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
- When was a time you had to be persistent before you receive what you wanted?
**Bridge:** Today's story is about being persistent with God. When you were growing up, did your parents give you everything you asked for immediately, or did you at times have to wait? Were there times when your parents never gave you what you asked for? What made the difference? Could it be that God responds to us much like our own parents responded to us? Today's story is not an easy story. So, we will dig in and ask some of the hard questions about God and what part prayer plays in our lives.

**Read the Bible Story from a modern translation:** Luke 18:1-8.  
*(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

**Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)**
1. What does Luke mean when he says that Jesus' disciples should always pray and never give up?
2. It is easy to imagine why this parable casts the judge as someone who does not care about people. Why does Luke also include the part in verse 2 about the judge when he says that the judge “neither feared God”?
3. In verse 8 Jesus gives a promise, “I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly!” What is the difference between our perspective of “quickly” and God's perspective of “quickly”?
4. What is the main point of this story? How would you explain this to a seven-year-old girl and to a seventeen-year-old boy?
5. Jesus ends this story with a question. Why this question, and what is its significance?

**Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)**
1. Read verse 4 again. In today's world, how does my relationship with God directly affect or not affect my relationship with people?
2. If you are a praying person, on a scale of 1 to 10, with “1” meaning “God is slow to answer your prayers,” and “10” being “God is quick to answer your prayers,” how would you rate your prayer experience?
3. How do you relate to God when it seems like He never, or rarely, answers your prayers?
4. When was a significant or meaningful time when God did answer your prayer?
5. If you had a specific request for God, for what would you ask?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, **God still answers prayer!** How can this group pray for you this next week?

**Wrap Up:**
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**Lunch**
humility
outline
Luke 18:9-14

Message of Hope: Humility ultimately wins.

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2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
What comes to your mind when you hear the word “humility”?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: Today's story is a really short story; it is only five verses long, but it cuts right to the core of what true humility is. So let's take a look.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 18:9-14. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Why is Jesus so hard on people who think they are so good?
2. If Jesus was telling this story today, what would He have listed in verses 11-12?
3. What does it mean in verse 14 to be justified (made right) before God? How do you think this happens in a person's life today?
4. What is Jesus teaching us about prayer in this story?
5. What is the difference between fake humility and real humility?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. How have you been tempted to compare yourself to others?
2. In today's world what are some of do's and don'ts that people use to showcase their “goodness”?
3. When have you seen humble people exalted?
4. In real practical terms, how do you humble yourself before God?
5. How do you know if your humility is fake or real?
6. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being a “Pharisee” and 10 being a “tax collector,” where would you rate yourself? What do you think is keeping you from becoming more like a tax collector?
7. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story.
8. Remember, humility ultimately wins. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
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2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
mission possible

outline
Luke 18:15-30

Message of Hope: Eternal life is possible for you.

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Check-In:
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3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
What is something you once thought impossible, become possible for you?

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**Bridge:** Today's story turns impossibilities into possibilities. But let's be honest with ourselves, we have human limitations. However, there is one way to go beyond our human limitations and accomplish things that are humanly impossible. What is the secret? Let's read today's story.

**Read the Bible Story from a modern translation:** Luke 18:15-30. *(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

**Listening & Learning Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*

1. Jesus' disciples had been with Him long enough to know that He loved children. Why do you think that on this day they sent the children away from Jesus?
2. Read verse 17 again. How does a person receive the Kingdom of God in today's world?
3. In verse 19 Jesus quotes some of the ten commandments. Let's help each other find them in our Bibles. Is there someone who would be willing to read them for us?
4. Jesus asks this young man to do a specific thing. Jesus' specific request becomes the turning point that determined if this person would follow and obey Jesus 100% or not. What prompted Jesus to make this specific request of this man?
5. What kept this man from doing what Jesus asked? What do you think were the eternal consequences of this man's decision?
6. Read verse 29 again. Knowing Jesus gives the promise of eternal life, what is Jesus saying in the first part of this verse?

**Heart & Healing Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*

1. Notice that verse 18 starts out with a question about eternal life and verse 29 ends with a promise of eternal life. How would you explain what eternal life means to a five-year-old boy?
2. God may be asking you to use your financial wealth to help others, or He may be asking you to do something else. What is the next step you sense God is asking you to do?
3. What are some of the obstacles that could keep you from following God invitation?
4. Read verse 27 again. What is an impossible thing that only God was able to make possible for you?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, **eternal life is possible for you.** How can this group pray for you this next week?

**Wrap Up:**

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3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

**Lunch**

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Message of Hope: Jesus wants to heal you.

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Check-In:

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Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:

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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)

If you were to lose one of your senses, which one would you choose to give up? Why did you choose that one?
Bridge: Have you ever been blinded, only to discover you were blind after the fact? Today's story is about being blind. Some times we know we are blind, like with physical blindness, but other times we do not know we are blind. In either case, it is possible to be healed from our physical, mental, spiritual, or emotional blindness. How? Let’s read the story.


(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Why do you think Jesus “takes his disciples aside” to tell them what will happen to the Son of Man in Jerusalem?
2. Jesus is pretty specific. What are the possible reasons that Jesus words are “hidden” and disciples are not able to understand them?
3. If you had been this blind person, how would you have gone about getting Jesus attention?
4. Why does Jesus ask if he wants to be healed?
5. How would this story have been different if the blind man did not follow Jesus after being healed?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What do you think keeps you from understanding what Jesus is saying to you every day?
2. What would it take to change this so that you do understand what Jesus says to you every day?
3. The disciples were spiritually blind and did not know it. The blind person was physically blind and did know it. Where do you think you might have some blind spots in your life?
4. Amazing, Jesus knows that this man is blind, but He still asks him, “What do you want me to do for you?” If Jesus were to ask you this question today, how would you answer Him?
5. What miracles do you see in your life that Jesus has already done for you?
6. Read verse 42-43 again. What would you say is you next step in following Jesus.
7. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
8. Remember, Jesus wants to heal you. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
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Lunch
hated and despised

**Message of Hope:** No matter what your past has been, Jesus is searching for you.

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2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
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**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
What is the least enjoyable job you have ever done? What is your dream job?
Bridge: Today's story is about a government worker who's job was to go around and collect taxes. The best part about this job was that only the tax collector knew the required tax rate, which meant he could inflate the rate and make some extra money. The worst part of this job was that tax collectors where known and hated for their dishonesty and for collecting more than what was required. But the amazing part of this story is how Jesus treated these hated and despised people.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Why does Luke think it is important to tell us that Zacchaeus is a tax collector and that he had become very rich?
2. With a “good paying job,” what motivated Zacchaeus to want to look at Jesus?
3. How do you think Jesus knew Zacchaeus' name?
4. Read verse 6-7 again and notice the contrast between the two verses. Dig deep into these verses. If these were the only two verses we had, what could we learn from the contrast in these two verses.
5. Jesus goes home for lunch with Zacchaeus and verse 9 begins with, “Salvation has come to this home today.” What kind of conversation did they have over lunch that would have prompted Jesus to say this?
6. How do people cheat people in today's culture? How do people cheat God?
7. Jesus said that Salvation had come to Zacchaeus' home? In real practical terms, how did this happen? What did this mean for his family?
8. Is it fair that the decisions and actions of a head-of-the-house can negatively or positively affect the spiritual consequences for the rest of the family? How?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. When did it begin to dawn on you that Jesus knew your name before you knew who He was?
2. When Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus' home, Zacchaeus “took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy.” Would your response have been the same or different?
3. What do you admire most about Zacchaeus? Why?
4. What do you admire the most about Jesus? Why?
5. If Jesus was to have a heart-to-heart conversation with you during lunch, what do you think He would encourage you to do?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, no matter what your past has been, Jesus is searching for you. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
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2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
investing life's resources

**Outline**

**Message of Hope:** Invest your life resources wisely and yield eternal dividends.

**The Basic 8:** Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

**Welcome:** We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

**Setting the Context:**
- This is a safe place to grow spiritually.
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- We do not try to impress people with how much Bible quoting we can do. We are common people.
- Encourage those who like to talk to give an opportunity for everyone to participate.

**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And... [insert rotation question]?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
If you were given ten pounds of silver, what would you do with it?

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Bridge: Twenty-four weeks ago (when we studied Luke 9:51) Jesus began his journey to Jerusalem where He knew that He would be killed. Today's story is the last story in this journey. And in next week's study Jesus will arrive in Jerusalem where the plot will thicken. But today's story is both helpful and troubling. It is troubling in that He addresses some serious consequences to our choices. The good news is that today's story teaches us how to live our lives while we are waiting for Jesus to come.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Based on what verse 11 says, what do you think most people believed that motivated Jesus to tell this story?
2. Verse 14 seems to be mentioned in passing. What is significant about this verse? Why do you think “his people” hated him?
3. We are not told, but based on any hints you find in this story, how much time elapses between verses 14 and verse 15? How are the servants to live their lives?
4. Read verse 13 & 24 again. To which of the three servants did the master give the extra money?
5. Verse 26-27 are troubling. What are they saying, and why do you think Jesus included them in this story?
6. This story is symbolic. It is a parable. What do the different characters and events represent?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Based on this story, how would you answer the question: How are we to live while we wait for Jesus to come back?
2. Beyond money, what are the different kinds of resources that God gives people?
3. What are some of your life resources you feel you are investing wisely?
4. What are some of your life resources you feel that you have buried in the ground?
5. Why do you think they have been buried in the ground?
6. What would it take for you to dig them up and begin investing them wisely?
7. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
8. Remember, Invest your life resources wisely and yield eternal dividends. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
the first day of the rest of your life

**Outline**
Luke 19:28-44

**Message of Hope:** Today is the first day of the rest of your life to accept Jesus.

**The Basic 8:** Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

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**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
What is one of your well established habits? What is one habit that you hope to start?

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Bridge: Today's story begins a new section in the book of Luke. For the last 25 weeks Jesus has been on a journey to Jerusalem. Today he arrives in Jerusalem with some bad news. But this bad news is what gives us hope, because today is the first day of the rest of your life to start a new habit.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 19:28-44. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Why do you think it was important to Luke to include the detail in verse 28, “walking ahead of his disciples”?
2. What do you think motivated Jesus to do the donkey ride?
3. Look at the notes in your Bible for verse 30. Are there any Bible verses listed that would help us understand why Jesus does this donkey ride?
   Leader's Tip: Most Bibles will reference Zechariah 9:9-10. Ask everyone, even those who know where Zechariah is, to turn to the front of their Bible and find the table of contents. Help them find Zechariah, it is in the Old Testament, the second to last book. Now look at the page number and let's turn to Zechariah 9:9-10.
4. In verse 40, Jesus replies to the Pharisees. What is Jesus' message? What is He getting at?
5. By now it is quite obvious that the Pharisees had rejected Jesus. But why does Jesus say in verse 42, “But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes”?
6. Read verse 44 again. What do you think the word “salvation” means?
7. In real practical terms, how could it be that Jerusalem did not accept their opportunity for salvation?
8. What do you think kept Jerusalem from accepting Jesus?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What do you think you would have done if Jesus had asked you to go get the donkey?
2. If you would have been there when Jesus told Jerusalem that it was “too late and they had lost their opportunity for salvation,” what thoughts would have gone through your mind?
3. What are the different kinds of reasons that keep people from accepting Jesus in today's world?
4. What are some of the daily distractions that keep you from growing spiritually every day?
5. What are some of the best ways you have found to grow spiritually on a daily basis?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, today is the first day of the rest of your life to accept Jesus. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
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3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

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recognized authority

outline

Luke 19:45 – 20:8

Message of Hope: Even His enemies recognized Jesus' authority.

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3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
• Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
Who is an authority figure in your life? Explain their authority.

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: Today's story is about authority. Have you ever been around someone who seems to command authority? Maybe you did not even like the person or agree with them, but it was obvious that they commanded authority. This is the same thing that happens in today's story.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 19:45 – 20:8. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)

1. Why do you think Jesus picks on the people who are selling animals in the Temple?
2. In verse 46 Jesus quotes from another part of the Bible. Where does He quote from?
3. How did selling animals in the temple turn it into a den of thieves?
4. Verse 47 records for the first time that, “the other leaders of the people began planning how to kill him.” Why is this the turning point for the other leaders?
5. Look at verses 2-8 again. It could be said that Jesus was throwing up smoke screens or was good at psychology. What deeper issues do you think Jesus is addressing in these verses?
6. Luke does not tell us what the “Good News” is that Jesus talked about in verse one. What do you think this “Good News” included?

Leader's Tip: The following verses in Luke will help review the “Good News” theme:

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)

1. After Jesus died, the Temple was no longer used. In fact, the Bible re-defines what the temple is. (Stop and read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.) Our bodies are the Temple. So in today's world how are you tempted to cheapen or abuse your body?
2. It is fascinating that the people who did not like Jesus, still recognized and acknowledged His authority. If you were to choose one area in which you recognize Jesus' authority, what would you choose?
3. People typically do not like authority because it means surrender and obedience. What is one area in your life where you need to surrender to Jesus' authority, and what does that actually mean for you?
4. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
5. Remember, even Jesus' enemies recognized His authority. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:

1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
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Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
u-turns in life

Message of Hope: U-turns are free and will make an immediate difference in your life.

Song: Courage to Stand is worth sharing with people.

Planning Ahead: In two weeks you will need a supply of this magazine, A Love Stronger Than Death: Mysteries of the Great Beyond. (To order: cal 1-800-777-2848) Also order from the same company, a supply of the magazine on the Sabbath, A Time for Joy: A Day to Remember.

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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When was a time you discovered you were lost, so you stopped, asked directions, and made a u-turn to get back on track?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: Today's story describes what happens in life unless we make a u-turn. Sometimes it can be hard to stop, ask directions, and make a u-turn. But none-the-less, u-turns are needed for both men and women.


(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)

1. Who is represented by the characters in this story: the vineyard owner, the tenant farmers, the servants who were sent to check on vineyard, the vineyard owner's son who is sent to check on the vineyard, and the others listed in verse 16. Also, who is the Cornerstone?
2. Is there anything significant that you can think of about the three servants the vineyard owner sent out before he sent his own son?
3. What do you think is the deeper message in verse 16?
4. Verse 17 asks a question. How do you think those who first heard this story answered the question?
5. Read verse 18 in several versions. What is Jesus trying to teach us?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)

1. As you think back over your life, what different ways has God sent servants your direction? How have you treated them?
2. How do people these days reject Jesus without even knowing what they are doing?
3. When was a time you recognized you were rejecting Jesus, but ended up making Him the cornerstone of your life?
4. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
5. Remember, U-turns are free and will make an immediate difference in your life

Wrap Up:

1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
tax time

Message of Hope: Honesty with each other and with God is a better way to live.

Planning Ahead: Hopefully this has already been ordered. You will need it next week, A Love Stronger Than Death: Mysteries of the Great Beyond. (To order: cal 1-800-777-2848) Also order, from the same company, a supply of the magazine on the Sabbath, A Time for Joy: A Day to Remember.

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Check-In:
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3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
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Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When do you pay your taxes—early, late, on time, or never?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: Today's story talks about taxes. It's hard to believe that taxes have been a 2000-year-old discussion. However, it is true, so let's read the story.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 20:20-26. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Who are these leaders? What do you think drives them to use dishonesty to accomplish their goals?
2. Who is Caesar? Some Bibles have footnotes that give some background. What can we learn about Caesar?
3. Before the leaders asked their question in verse 22, why do you think they included their comments in verse 21?
4. Pretend we had not read this story and you were the one being asked this trick question. What kind of answer would you have given?
5. What would have been the response of those listening in this story if Jesus would have said “pay Caesar” or “don’t pay”?
6. What is so insightful about the way Jesus answers the trick-question?
7. If everything already belongs to God, why does Jesus say to also give to God what belongs to Him?
8. Once the defeated leaders had a chance to privately get together, what do you think they talked about?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
313. When was a time when you felt like others were trying to trap you?
314. How do you give to Caesar what belongs to him, and give to God what belongs to Him?
315. How are you tempted to keep from Caesar and God what does not belong to you?
316. Think about your reputation in regards to honesty. Where do you see your next step in being honest with Caesar and with God?
317. Like in verse 26, when have you been amazed by God and become silent?
318. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
319. Remember, honesty with each other and with God is a better way to live. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
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Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
the end is not the end

outlin


**Message of Hope:** The end is not the end – Jesus said there is a resurrection.

**Needed for Today:** *A Love Stronger Than Death: Mysteries of the Great Beyond.* Show everyone a copy and invite them to ask you for one before they go home if they are interested. If you need more: call 1-800-777-2848.

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**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)* When was a time you were doing something that you enjoyed so much that you wished it would never end?

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page 149
Bridge: Today's story raises some deep questions about life and what happens after death. This story does not answer all the questions that we might have about death, but it will get us thinking and it will give hope. So let's read this story.


(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. If the Sadducees do not believe in the resurrection (verse 27), why would they ask in verse 33, “whose wife will she be in the resurrection?”
2. Just a few weeks ago we studied death and resurrection, about when it happens and how it happens. Now Jesus talks about it again. Based on Jesus' reply, what did He believe about the resurrection?
   Leader's Tip: Hopefully you ordered the magazine, A Love Stronger Than Death: Mysteries of the Great Beyond. Show everyone a copy and invite them to ask for one before they go home. (To order more magazines: call 1-800-777-2848)
3. Read verse 34-35 in all the different translations we have here today. What is Jesus saying about those who will be raised from the dead and will spend forever with Him?
   Leader's Tip: Someone may bring up the no marriage in Heaven issue. We can answer that it is hard for us to understand. We have to trust that God will have a better plan – what ever it may be.
4. What kind of logic does Jesus use in verses 37-38 to show that those who follow Him will be raised from the dead?
   Leader's Tip: This Moses story is found in Exodus 3:1-6.
5. The Sadducees did not believe in a resurrection. Where do you think they found hope and meaning in life?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Verse 40 says that no one dared to ask any more questions. If Jesus was right here, what questions would you like to ask Him?
2. Not everyone believes in a resurrection and living forever with God in Heaven. But for a couple minutes let's assume it is true. What would you most look forward to if you were to live forever with God?
3. Where do you find hope and meaning in a world that is full of pain and heartache?
4. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
5. Everyone experiences pain and heartache. Is there something that you would like to share with this group so that we could pray for you?
6. Remember, the end is not the end – Jesus said there is a resurrection.

Wrap Up:
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Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
authenticity and hypocrisy

outline

Message of Hope: Living an authentic life is in your best interest.

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God Moments:
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• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When was a time when you were “severely” punished?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: For the last several weeks the religious leaders have tried to trick Jesus. Finally they are now quiet. In turn Jesus asks them a question, in hopes of helping them better understand who He is.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Of all the different questions Jesus could have asked, why do you think Jesus raises this one?
2. If you would have been in the crowd of people, how would you have answered Jesus' question?
   Leader's Tips: Sometimes Study Bible commentaries give helpful insights, but let people wrestle with the question before directing them to these study helps. The Andrews Study Bible says, “Jesus has repeatedly been recognized as Christ and the Son of David. The unavoidable answer is that the Christ is more then just a son of David. Jesus again indirectly answers the priests' question, 'By what authority are YOU doing these things?’” (see verse 2)
3. Read verses 46-47 again. Some might say that Jesus is being very unkind. How would you respond to this idea?
4. What do you think motivated these religious leaders to use deceit and hypocrisy?
5. What are the differences between these leaders and the poor widow?
6. What is Jesus trying to teach us in contrasting these two stories?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What thoughts and feelings would have been going through you if you were one of the religious leaders listening to Jesus say this in a public setting?
2. We only kid ourselves if we think that in today's culture, we are not at risk for this kind of hypocrisy. In what areas of life have you been tempted to live a double-faced life of hypocrisy?
3. When faced with the temptation to live a double-faced life, what gives you strength to stand strong and do what is right?
4. Read verses 21:1-4 again. In what ways does this story challenge you as you think about your own life?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, living an authentic life is in your best interest. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
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3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
signs you can't ignore - part 1

Message of Hope: Jesus is coming back and He wants to take you home with Him.

Leader's Tip #1: Next week we will show a movie called, Signs You Can't Ignore, (233 MB). Download it and watch it before you lead this study, it will help you with this study. If you have difficulty watching this movie, then download this free VLC video player.

Leader’s Tip #2: In this story the disciples identified the destruction of the temple, which happened in AD 70, with the end of time. But Jesus separates these two events: 1) He talks about the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, AD 70 and 2) He talks about the events all around the world leading up to the 2nd time He will come back to this earth. This is what we are still waiting for, Jesus’ 2nd coming.

The Basic 8: Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

Welcome: We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

Setting the Context:
• This is a safe place to grow spiritually. We are common people.

Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When was a time you ignored some warning signs (in health, finances, driving, marriage, or in your job) and ended up with some problems?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: Today's story talks about a lot of bad things that will and have happened. But this story also tells us that when we see these signs happening in the world that it means one thing is getting ready to happen. What is this one thing? Let's read the story.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. In verse 6, the Temple's foundation stones were the size of a train box car. They were gigantic. Why do you think Jesus shocks His disciples by saying in verse 7 that they will all be toppled over?
2. Verses 16 and 18 seem to contradict each other. How do you make sense of these two verses?
3. In verses 25 – 28, Jesus seems to be talking about a different time period and a different event. What clues do we find in these verses?
4. What kind of “signs” have you seen in your lifetime that remind you of what Jesus is talking about in verses 25-27?
5. What do these two events, 1) the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, and 2) the end of time have in common?
6. What would you say is the main or big idea of this story? How would you explain it to a six-year-old boy?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. If you could ask Jesus a question or two about the end of time, what would you like to ask Him?
2. Jesus warned about people who would mislead people. When was a time that you discovered you had been misled?
3. Read verse 19 again. When people try to get you to do something you know is not right, what gives you the strength to stand firm?
4. When was a low time in your life, when you felt that your only option was to “look up”?
5. What gives you hope and trust in God when horrible things happen to you and around you?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, Jesus is coming back and He wants to take you home with Him. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
 signs you can't ignore – part 2

Message of Hope: Jesus is coming sooner than you think, and He wants to help you be ready.

Needed for Today: Today we will show a movie called, Signs You Can't Ignore, (233 MB). Download it and watch it before you lead this study, it will help you with this study. If you have difficulty watching this movie, then download this free VLC video player.

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Setting the Context:
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• You will notice we do not use a bunch of fancy religious language.
• We do not try to impress people with how much Bible quoting we can do. We are common people.
• Encourage those who like to talk to give a opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
How long do you think this world will last? Briefly explain?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: Today is one of the rare days where we will watch a movie clip as part of our study. This clip talks about all the different things that are happening in the world. It also talks about the different signs that we read about last week that Jesus said would be indicators that this world is about to wrap up. So let's watch the movie clip and then we can explore some questions together.

Watch the Movie: Signs You Can't Ignore.

Open Bibles: Luke chapter 21, but do not read the story. *(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

Listening & Learning Questions: *(50% of your study time)*
1. As you look around our world and listen to the news, what do you think are the most prominent signs that the end is near? Explain?
2. Why do you think that in spite of all these signs, people seem to go along as if all is OK and the world will last forever?
3. Read verse 7, what were the questions that the disciples had and why do you think they thought that the destruction of Jerusalem would happen at the end of the world?
4. Let's try to list, from our memory all the different signs the movie talked about. Which ones can we remember?

Heart & Healing Questions: *(50% of your study time)*
1. What are some of the signs in the movie that you had NOT given much thought to before?
2. What do you think would motivate you to take these signs more seriously and prepare for Jesus' second coming?
3. When this world is about to end, only God will be able to protect us. Is there anything you can do on a very practical level that could help you physically, spiritually, mentally, or emotionally?
4. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
5. Remember, Jesus is coming sooner than you think and He wants to help you be ready. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

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signs you cannot ignore – part 3

Message of Hope: Jesus will come back and He wants you to be ready.

Needed Next Week (optional): No Olives Tonight! (Child's Steps to Jesus Series) is an excellent story to read for the children and the adults.

The Basic 8: Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

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Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
What is your favorite kind of fruit?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: Today's story is about a fruit tree. Jesus uses the fruit tree to teach some very important lessons and to teach some common, or not-so-common, sense.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 21:29-38. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. This is a quiz question for those who were here the last couple weeks. How many “signs of the end of time” can we remember from last weeks study?
2. Verse 32 is hard to understand. What do you think Jesus is saying? Leader's Tip: Some Study Bibles give suggested interpretations. Ask people what they think before directing their attention to their Bible commentary. In the margins of most Bibles, it is suggested that the term “generation” could be translated “race”
3. In verse 33, what do you think are the “words” Jesus is referring to that will never disappear?
4. Verse 34 is a warning, if Jesus lived in our culture, what additions would He have given in this warning?
5. In real practical terms, how are we to keep alert at all times? What dulls our alertness?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What parts of your life would be different if you did not have any worries?
2. If we were to be honest with each other, what are some of the top worries in your life?
3. If you were to pick an area of your life where you feel like you like you are standing strong, what area would you pick?
4. If you were to pick one area where you wish you were stronger, what would you choose? What do you think is keeping you from being stronger?
5. For you, what is the most convincing evidence that we are living near the end of this world and that Jesus will come back soon?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, Jesus will come back and He wants you to be ready. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
**a special supper**

**outline**


**Message of Hope:** When you serve others, you receive the bigger benefit.

**Leader’s Tip:** Read Exodus 12 as background information on the original Passover that happened as the Israelites were leaving Egypt.

**Needed Today (optional):** *No Olives Tonight! (Child's Steps to Jesus Series)* is an excellent story to read for the children and the adults.

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**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?

**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*

What is your favorite meal of the day, Why?

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Bridge: Today's story is about a special meal that Jesus had with his followers just before He died. But it was much more than just a supper. It was full of meaning. So, let's read the story.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. In Verse 3, what do you think went on in Satan's thinking process that caused him to pick Judas Iscariot?
2. Why do you think this festival of Unleavened Bread is also called the Passover meal?
3. Read verses 11-12 again. What are all the different reasons we can think of why Jesus prophesied about this future set of events?
4. What are all the “sufferings” in verse 15 that Jesus is alluding too?
5. What is the promise that Jesus gives in verse 16? And what is the “fulfilled meaning” that Jesus is talking about?
6. Try to get past the traditional answers as you talk about this next question. What is the symbolic meaning of the bread in verse 19? How would you explain it to an eight-year-old boy?
7. Again, try to get past the traditional answers as you explain the symbolic meaning of the wine in verse 20? How would you talk about it to a seven-year-old girl?
8. Verse 26 seems completely backwards. If people today lived by this principle, how would our world be different? How would it be the same?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. When was a time someone served you in a meaningful way?
2. What is one way that you have recently served someone and there was no way for them to “pay you back” and return the favor?
3. What are some needs that you see around us that need to be met?
4. What is one thing you can do towards being a servant this next week?
5. In verse 19 Jesus says to do this (meaning the special supper) in remembrance of me. Let's plan a Friday night supper similar to what was described in today's story. When would be a good time for everyone's schedule?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, when you serve others, you receive the bigger benefit. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
secrets of happiness

Message of Hope: Forget about yourself. Serving and helping others is the secret to happiness.

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Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
• Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
What do you think are the best kept secrets for finding happiness in life?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
Bridge: Happiness is something that most people search for in life. Today's story will show us one of the best-kept secrets of living a happy and meaningful life. But this secret in not easy to find – we will have to do some digging together into today's story.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Why do you think Satan had to “ask permission” to tempt Simon Peter?
2. What does this idea of “asking permission” tell us about God from this story?
3. Read verse 32 again. What is the difference between Peter failing and Peter's faith failing?
4. What does the last part of verse 32 imply?
5. Go beyond the “traditional” answers in this next question. What does it mean to repent?
6. If repentance is the first step in coming back to Jesus, what do you think are the next steps? (Read verse 32.)
7. Why does Jesus tell them to buy a sword?
8. What do you think the prophecy about Jesus in verse 37 means?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. When was a time, like what happened to Peter, when you felt like Satan was trying to attack you? What happened?
2. Where is an area of your life where you feel that Satan is trying to attack you even now?
3. Read verse 32 again. It ends with “strengthen your brothers.” In today's world it is easy to look for what others can do for me. How could you go about strengthening other people?
4. Jesus has showed each of us an incredible secret for happy and healthy living. What secret did you see in this story?

Leader's Tip: Jesus tells Peter to forget about himself and put his time and energy into serving and helping other people. This is a secret that brings happiness and a meaningful life.

5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, forget about yourself! Serving and helping others is the secret to happiness. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
surviving temptation

outline

**Message of Hope:** Prayer makes it possible to survive Satan's temptations.

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**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
- When facing a crisis what do you tend to do?
**Bridge:** Today's story is about a crisis. A crisis comes in different shapes and sizes. Some have big consequences and some have little consequences. Some have temporary effects and some have life-long effects, and as today's story will teach us, some crises have eternal consequences. We all face crises during our life. The important question is, how do we work through a crisis? Today's story will give you the key for surviving a crisis.


*(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

**Listening & Learning Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*

1. In verse 40, Jesus tells his followers to pray that they will not give into temptation. Why do you think this is better to pray that you will not give into temptation then to pray that you not be tempted at all?
2. How does Jesus practice for Himself in verse 42, what He just taught his followers to do in verse 40?
3. If an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened Jesus in verse 43, how do you make sense of verse 44?
4. In verse 45, what does Dr. Luke mean by “exhausted from grief or sorrow”?
5. Verse 46 records the second time that Jesus says, “pray, so that you will not give into temptation.” What do you think Jesus knew, that the His followers did not know?
6. What do you think Jesus meant, in verse 53, by “this is your moment, the time when the power of darkness reigns.”
7. Based on what we have read in this story, what do you think are the differences between temptation and sin?
8. This is a bonus item: Hold your place in this story, and let's go to the index at the beginning of your Bible and find 1 Corinthians 10:13. Read this verse in the different translations we have here today. What parts of this promise give you hope and encouragement?

**Heart & Healing Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*

1. Let's start with the basics, what does it mean to pray? How does a person pray?
2. Jesus taught his followers to pray that they would not give into temptation. How does a person actually go about this?
3. What is a temptation that you face? Do you wish God would command Satan to take the temptation away from you?
4. When was a time when you sensed that God had given you strength when you were facing a difficult time?
5. When was a time when you asked God for strength and it seems your request was not heard?
6. Based on this story, what would you say is the key for surviving a crisis?
7. If you had been there and watched Judas betray Jesus, what do you think you would have done?
8. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
9. Remember, prayer makes it possible to survive Satan's temptations. How can this group pray for you this next week?

**Wrap Up:**

1. Empty Chair, Blessing List, “This group does not exist for us.”

**Lunch**

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surviving failure

Outline
Luke 22:54-71

Message of Hope: There is life and hope after failure!

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Check-In:
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3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
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- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When is a time you shed some tears?

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Bridge: Today's story is about a person named Peter who had a long hard cry. It was not because he was hurt, but because he has deeply hurt someone else. Crying is sometimes considered weak, but there is a lot we can learn about how to keep on living after a good cry. Today's story is called Surviving Failure.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Just so we are all on the same page, who gets arrested?
2. Why do you think Peter follows at a distance if he did not want to be connected with Jesus?
3. In verses 56-58, what do you think kept Peter from recognizing the pattern of his failure and the direction he was heading?
4. What do you think are the different kinds of thoughts that went through Peter's mind when he heard the rooster crow?
5. A lot can be said in a “look.” What do you think Jesus was trying to communicate to Peter when he looked at him in verse 61?
6. What prompts or justifies the mocking and beating?
7. Why did Jesus not directly answer their question at this point? How was this an answer?
8. How can verse 69 be true if Jesus was still on earth?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. If you were to follow Jesus from a distance, how would you go about it?
2. If you could have asked Peter any questions, what would you have asked him on the night he disowned Jesus?
3. In today's world, how do people begin the pattern of disowning Jesus in little ways?
4. When was a time when you disowned Jesus? What happened?
5. What have you found helpful in dealing with failure?
6. How has failure changed you?
7. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
8. Remember, there is life and hope after failure. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch
ripple effects
outline

Message of Hope: You can make positive ripple effects in the lives of other people.

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2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
• Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When did someone make a decision that affected your life for good or bad?

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
**Bridge:** Today's story is about ripple effects. Have you ever thrown a rock into a pond and watched the waves ripple? The ripples are like the choices in our lives. We do not live in a vacuum, which means that we never make a choice that only affects us. It *always* affects someone else for the good or for the bad. The good news is that once we realize this, we can make better choices that have positive ripple effects. So let's read the story.

**Read the Bible Story from a modern translation:** Luke 23:1-25.

*(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)*

**Listening & Learning Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*

1. Verses 1-4 records a very odd trial. How do you think Pilot concludes that Jesus is not guilty, based on the information Pilot had and the question he asked Jesus?
2. In verse 3, Jesus gives a four-word answer. How does this answer Pilot's question? What is Jesus really saying, or trying to say?
3. What do you think changed Herod's “delight” in verse 8 to “mockery” in verse 11?
4. What does the royal robe mean or represent?
5. What are the factors that contributed to Pilot's wrong decision?
6. What are the different character strengths we can think of that would have helped Pilot make the right decision?

**Heart & Healing Questions:** *(50% of your study time)*

1. If you had been one of the soldiers, what would have tempted you to mock Jesus, or what would have kept your from mocking Jesus?
2. If you had been Pilate, what would it have taken for you to make the right decision and *not* give into the crowd?
3. How has someone or something influenced you to make a wrong ripple-effect decision?
4. Who is someone that has suffered because of a wrong decision? How did they suffer?
5. What decision are you facing that you know will have significant ripple effects on your family and others?
6. What ripple-effect choices are you facing that could make a difference in their Eternal Salvation?
7. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
8. Remember, **you can make positive ripple effects in the lives of other people.** How can this group pray for you this next week?

**Wrap Up:**

1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

**Lunch**

Visit [www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com](http://www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com) for more study guides.
Message of Hope: It is not too late to ask Jesus to remember you.

Leader’s Tip: Verse 43 is sometimes used to show that the thief on the cross, when he died, went directly to Heaven, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.” BUT keep in mind that in the original Greek punctuation was not used. This means there were no periods (.) or commas (,) in the sentence. If the comma is changed, there is a different meeting, “I assure you today, you will be with me in paradise.”

In addition, Jesus did not go to paradise that very day. The Bible says He was laid in the grave on Sabbath and then rose on Sunday. In fact, in John 20:17 Jesus said that He had not ascended to His Father.

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Setting the Context:
• This is a safe place to grow spiritually.
• We do not try to impress people with how much Bible quoting we can do. We are common people.
• Encourage those who like to talk to give an opportunity for everyone to participate.

Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children’s Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
• Where did you see God at work this past week?

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When was a time when you were forgotten (birthday, or left at a store when you were small, etc.)?

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Bridge: Nobody likes to be forgotten. We like to be remembered, but there are different levels of being remembered. What does that mean? We will have to read our story to figure it out.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 23:26-43. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What do you think prompted the soldiers to force someone else to carry Jesus' cross?
2. Read verses 28-30 again. In Jesus' day, women who had children were considered blessed. Why do you think Jesus seems to say the opposite in these two verses?
3. What does Jesus imply in verse 30?
4. What significant ideas and symbolism do you see in having the two criminals crucified on each side of Jesus?
5. At a deeper level, what do you think made it possible for Jesus to forgive the people as they nailed him to the cross?
6. What drives the people in this story, after crucifying Jesus, to resort to mocking?
7. How can it be fair that someone in their last few minutes of life can be assured of eternal life in paradise?
8. What are the pros/cons of waiting?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. If you could put down a “cross” that you have been carrying, what would it be? Then how would your life be different?
2. Of all the different people listed in this story, who do you most identify with? Who do you least identify with? Why?
3. Read verse 34 again. In retrospect, when was a time someone else forgave you because you did not know what you were doing at the time?
4. What common forms of mocking have become accepted, and even considered funny, in today's culture?
5. If you were to ask Jesus to remember something, what would you like him to remember?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, it is not too late to ask Jesus to remember you. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
**my choice**

**outline**
Luke 23:42-56

**Message of Hope:** You can always change your mind.

**The Basic 8:** Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

**Welcome:** We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us. Someone invited you, and now it is your turn to invite others.

**Setting the Context:**
- This is a safe place to grow spiritually.
- We are a wide diversity of people. We are glad all of you are here.
- You will notice we do not use a bunch of fancy religious language.
- We do not try to impress people with how much Bible quoting we can do. We are common people.
- Encourage those who like to talk to give a opportunity for everyone to participate.

**Check-In:**
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

**Kick-off Question:** *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*
When was a time you recently made a decision, then changed your mind?

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Bridge: Today's story is about two men who took big-time risks even though the odds were stacked against them. What did they do? They changed their mind and went against the flow.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 23:42-56. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. Why do you think darkness fell across the land?
2. The Bible does not tell us who tore the temple curtain, but what could it have symbolized? **Leader's Tip:** One curtain separated the Temple courtyard from the Holy Place, and another curtain separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. Luke does not say which curtain was torn, but it was probably the curtain that blocked the view into the Most Holy Place which is where God's presence resided. Once a year, on a certain day the High Priest was allowed to go into the Most Holy Place. So when this curtain is torn from top to bottom, anyone is able to look directly inside the Most Holy Place. This marked a change. Now, people no longer needed to sacrifice a lamb for their sins, which represented the Lamb of God, because Jesus who is the Lamb of God had just died on the cross. This means that the sacrificial system had ended. Now people could communicate directly with God.
3. What factors contributed to the Roman officer's change of mind? Up until this point he probably did not believe in God, but he changed his mind and now worshiped God?
4. If Joseph is part of the group of religious leaders who wanted to kill Jesus, what motivates him to all these things after Jesus is killed?
5. What are the obvious, and not so obvious, similarities and differences between the Roman officer and Joseph?
6. What group of people do these two men represent?
7. What are the areas of risk these two men took in responding to Jesus the way they did?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. If you had been the Roman officer who oversaw Jesus' execution (verse 47), what do you think your conclusion would have been?
2. If you had been part of the religious group (in verse 50) who wanted to kill Jesus, what do you think you would have done after Jesus was killed?
3. The Roman officer and the religious person responded to Jesus' death in different ways. Which response do you most resonate with? Why?
4. What are the different ways you have responded, or not responded, to Jesus as you reflect on the different chapters of your life?
5. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
6. Remember, you can always change your mind. How can this group pray for you?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
supernatural encounters

Message of Hope: God supernaturally raised Jesus from the dead.

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Check-In:
1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
When you think of supernatural encounters, what is the first thing that comes to your mind?
Bridge: Today's story is about a supernatural encounter. Not all supernatural encounters are from the same source. They can come from God (the good side) or Satan (the evil side). But today's story is about one that comes from God.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What people often call Good Friday, the Bible calls “the day of preparation.” Why do you think it was called the preparation day?
2. What people often call Saturday, the Bible calls Sabbath. When other languages have kept a similar name for the Sabbath, why do you think the English name has changed to Saturday?
3. What people call Easter Sunday, the Bible calls Sunday. Where does the “Easter” part come from?
4. Why is it significant that Luke bothers to tell us that Jesus rested in the tomb on Sabbath and the people who were going to embalm him also rested on the day between “the preparation day” and “Sunday”?
5. Read verses 5, 6, & 11 again. What caused the women and men to forget and disbelieve what Jesus had told them would happen?
6. What clues do you find in this story that the men who appeared to the women were from the good side (God's side) of supernatural encounters?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. If you were Satan (from the evil side), how would you go about deceiving people to make them think you were from God (the good side)?
2. When was a time you encountered the supernatural or miraculous?
3. How do you decide if a supernatural encounter is from God or Satan?
4. If you were able to ask one of the people who had been with Jesus, “Why did He have to die?” What do you think they would have said?
5. Based on what you know right now, if a seven-year-old boy asked you, “How was Jesus raised from the dead?” How would you try to explain it to him?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, God supernaturally raised Jesus from the dead. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
2. When you talk with someone who needs hope and courage, tell them about this group and invite them to come with you next week.
3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

Visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com for more study guides.
believing the unbelievable

outline

Luke 24:13-34

Message of Hope: Jesus is alongside of you even if you do not recognize Him.

Planning Ahead for next week's study: Order enough copies so that each adult can have *A Love Stronger Than Death: Mysteries of the Great Beyond*. To order call 1 800 777-2848. These magazines are less then $1.00 each.

The Basic 8: Oatmeal Can, Connection Card envelopes, Post card invitation cards, Taco Salad sign up sheet, extra New Living Translation Bibles, Child Safety Poster (to post), Blessing List, and Link to online Simple Church Weekly Report Form (This is the Details Coordinator's responsibility).

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Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

Children's Check-In: How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

Children go to Adventurers

God Moments:

• Where did you see God at work this past week?
• How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
• How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
• Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
• Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

Kick-off Question: *(short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)*

When was a time you did not believe some story, only to find out later that it was a true story?

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Bridge: Today's story is about believing the unbelievable. Let's face it, we are often skeptical and suspicious of things we don't understand – and we probably should be. But even if we have a hard time believing the unbelievable about God, He is still with us. Do you want some proof? Let read the story.

Read the Bible Story from a modern translation: Luke 24:13-34. (Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. To bring all of us up to speed, who can summarize from last week what unusual and confusing events verse 14 is referring to?
2. Why do you think God kept them from recognizing who Jesus was?
3. Here are two people walking seven miles from one city to another and someone “new” suddenly appears from nowhere. How is His appearance hidden to the travelers?
4. Is it honest or how is it honest for Jesus to say, “What things?”
5. What do you think could be the deeper reasons why Jesus asks this question?
6. Why does Jesus take the time to explain all the Bible prophecies to them - again?
7. How would parts of this story have changed had these two people known it was Jesus walking with them?
8. It seems odd that Jesus would disguise who He is, and when they finally figure it out, disappear. Why do you think He does this?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. What helps you recognize that it is Jesus who is walking alongside you when you are discouraged or confused?
2. If Jesus showed up among us right now, but we did not recognize Him, what insightful question do you think He would ask this group?
3. If Jesus were to walk a few miles with you today, what would you like to talk with Him about?
4. If you were to identify the top three reason why it can be hard for people to believe what Jesus says, what top three reasons would you give?
5. If an unbeliever asked you, What practical difference does Jesus make in your life? what would you tell them?
6. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
7. Remember, Jesus is alongside of you even if you do not recognize Him. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
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3. Close by saying the Blessing List blessing together.

Lunch

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my promise

outline

**Message of Hope:** Jesus promised, “There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.”

**Needed for Today:** Hopefully you ordered the magazine last week called, *A Love Stronger Than Death: Mysteries of the Great Beyond*. If they were not ordered, call 1 800 777-2848 and order a copy for every adult.

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1. What is your first name?
2. What was a highlight of your week?
3. And...[insert rotation question]?

**Children's Check-In:** How did you help someone this week? (or they can answer the adult questions)

**Children go to Adventurers**

**God Moments:**
- Where did you see God at work this past week?
- How did you recognize and accept God's invitation to join Him in His work this past week?
- How did God use you to show up in someone's life this past week?
- Sing, share meaningful Bible verses, rejoice in God's goodness.
- Prayer comes naturally and spontaneously during this time.

**Kick-off Question:** (short answers, go around the circle, a co-leader goes first)
- What is a promise that you gave to someone and did you keep your promise?

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Bridge: Today's story is the last story in the book of Luke. This story is about two amazing promises Jesus gave before He went back to Heaven. They are promises that give hope, that give focus in life, and give us a reason to live. What are the promises? Well, let's read the story so that you see these promises for yourself.


_Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible._

Listening & Learning Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. This is the second time that Jesus suddenly appears out of thin air. What are the possible reasons that we can think of for why Jesus would be doing this?
2. The disciples had just heard a story of how Jesus suddenly appeared to the two from Emmaus. In verse 38 Jesus asks, “Why are your hearts filled with doubt?” What do you think the people said?
3. Although this story does not say what a ghost is, or where they come from, what evidence do you find that ghosts do exist?
   **Leader’s Tip:** The magazine, _A Love Stronger Than Death_ talks about where ghosts really come from. If you have not read this magazine, take one home with you today.
4. How do you feel about the idea that Jesus can open (and possibly close) your mind to understanding the Scriptures?
5. Read verse 47 again. Has it dawned on anybody that what Jesus said in this verse is happening right here today? What does it mean to repent of my sins? How would I do that?
6. What can we learn about Heaven from these verses?
7. What are the two promises that Jesus gives us in verses 47 and 49? How would you summarize them for a five-year-old child?

Heart & Healing Questions: (50% of your study time)
1. When was a time you were very frightened?
2. If you had been part of this group that Jesus appeared to, what would have convinced you that He was real?
3. When was a time that seemed like the Holy Spirit opened your mind so that you could better understand God?
4. This is more of a reflective question. For what do you need to ask Jesus forgiveness?
5. Again, a reflective question. Who do you need to forgive in your life?
6. Who are the key people in your life that have shared Jesus with you?
7. What kind of people are in the mission field that Jesus is sending you to? (Mission field being that environment in which you live).
8. As we wrap up, what is a lesson, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear from this story?
9. Remember, Jesus promised, “there is forgiveness of sins for all who repent”. How can this group pray for you this next week?

Wrap Up:
1. “This group does not exist for us.” Put an Empty Chair in the middle of your prayer circle with a supply of invitation business cards on the chair for people to take and use.
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Lunch

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