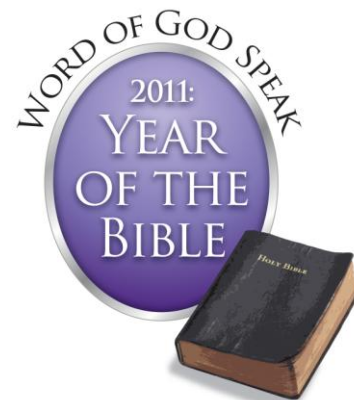


## Week 7: Luke 14 - 21

### Study Guide for the week of February 14 - 20, 2011



#### Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week spend time with Luke 15. These could be called the Lost and Found parables. Notice what prompts Jesus to tell these parables in verses 1-2. Who represents God in each of the parables? Where do you find yourself in each of the parables? What do you learn about the heart of God through these parables? Compare verses 7, 10, and 32 and reflect on what they teach you about God, your Father. What do you find is the most surprising aspect of each parable? Do you learn anything in the progression or order of the parables? Do they build on each other? Notice that there is really no transition between each of the parables. Why do you think Jesus told these parables all together, one right after the other? Our congregation is involved in many ministries and activities. What do these parables teach us about what should be our focus?

#### Discussion starters

1. Ice Breaker Question: Tell your group about a time when you lost something that was valuable to you.
2. Was there something that jumped out at you, surprised you, encouraged you, or disturbed you from the readings this last week (or two)? Why?
3. Luke 14:25-34 According to this passage, what does it cost to follow Jesus? How do interpret that difficult verse 26? What has it cost you to follow Jesus?
4. Luke 15:11-32 From the story, what can you say about the relationship each of the sons had with their father? Would it fit to title this the Parable of the Two Lost Sons? Why? Where are each of the characters at the end of the parable? What do you make of that? Which of the son lost sons are you more like? Explain. What does the father in this story teach us about God?
5. Luke 18:1-8 Can you describe a time when you continued to pray for something, but your prayers seemed to go unanswered? How did this affect your faith? What does this parable teach us about faith?
6. Luke 18-19 At St. Luke we talk often of how Jesus came for the little, the least, the last, the lost, and the dead (the 4LD). How do the parables, teachings, and accounts in chapters 18-19 illustrate this truth? Can you find yourself in one of the 4LD categories? Explain.
7. Luke 20 What do you think of the clever answers that Jesus gives to those who question him in this chapter? Which one of His answers speaks most to you? Explain.
8. Luke 21:5-36 In this passage Jesus speaks about the End Times and His Second Coming. What do you learn from this passage about those days to come? Is there anything in this passage that helps you to understand when those days will come? In your opinion how close are we to the Second Coming of Christ?

**Bible verse to memorize: Luke 18:14b** Jesus said, "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

#### Caring Time

It is important to make time in your group to care for each other. Sometimes that happens during the discussion and sometimes it is best to end the time together with a question like this:

- For what would you like prayer? *Consider breaking into pairs and having each person pray for the other.*

Also encourage people in the group to get together outside of the group time to foster deeper friendships with each other. Remember that small groups is primarily about sharing life together. It has been said that the most important time in small groups is the time people connect outside of the meeting time.