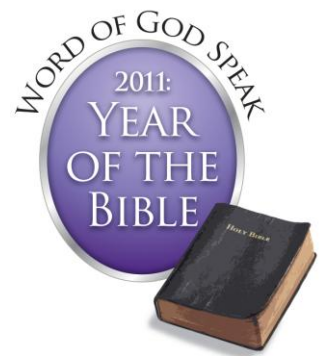


Week 8: Luke 22 – John 2

Study Guide for the week of February 21 - 27, 2011



Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week spend some time reflecting on [Luke 24:39-43](#).

Only Luke tells reports this dialog between the two thieves and Jesus. Imagine the scene and listening to this conversation between the three men suffering on the cross. How do you imagine each of them spoke? How would you compare the responses that the two thieves had to Jesus to common responses that people have to Jesus today? Which thief do you most identify with? Why? In order to deserve crucifixion the two thieves did much more horrible crimes then stealing. They were most likely among the notorious road bandits that preyed upon travelers, killing, raping, and selling their victims into slavery. How does this knowledge change your understanding of the words that were spoken by the two thieves and Jesus? What comfort do the words of Jesus to the thief give to you?

Discussion starters

1. Warm Up Question: What is one aspect of Jesus or an event from His life of Jesus that amazes 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 22:24-30](#) The disciples were arguing about position and prestige when the greatest event in all of history was about to occur. Have you ever had a similar experience, worrying about details and not seeing the larger picture? Explain. What do you learn from Jesus' response to the disciples that will help you keep focused on what matters most?
4. [Luke 22-23](#) There are many unique aspects to Luke's telling of Jesus' suffering and death compared with the other Gospels. ([22:3a](#), [15-18](#), [31-34](#), [35-38](#), [49](#), [61a](#); [23:4-16](#), [22](#), [27-31](#), [39-43](#), [46-48](#)) What do you make of this?
5. [Luke 24:11](#) The women who first heard the news of Jesus' resurrection were told to go and tell the others. But they were met with skepticism since "the story sounded like nonsense" (Luke 24:11). What have you learned about God that originally sounded like nonsense to you? What happened to change your impression? Like the women, have you been met with skepticism? Explain. What could you do to help change the skeptics' impression?
6. [Luke 24:13-35](#) In Luke the resurrected Jesus first appears to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Only one of the two disciples walking to Emmaus has a name, Clopas, while the other remains unnamed. Put yourself in the unnamed disciple's sandals and discuss with your group your answers to these questions: After the crucifixion, the disciples were sad and disappointed. What disappointments and sadness are present in your life? How does sorrow and frustration blind you to God's presence in your life? The disciples were so amazed at the report of Jesus' resurrection. They couldn't imagine it was possible. What so amazes you about Jesus' ministry, teaching, or character that you find it hard to believe it's possible to believe Jesus is who he says he is? Jesus spent time teaching the disciples and pointing them to the truth and meaning found in the scriptures. What truths would you like to explore in scripture so you can know God more fully? The two disciples finally recognized Jesus when they had a meal together and Jesus broke the bread – reminding the disciples of the Last Supper. When have you been surprised at Jesus' presence in your life? What reminders help you recognize Jesus working in your life?
7. [John 1](#) As you read through the gospel of John, pay attention to how John clearly articulates that Jesus is God. Where do you find that in this chapter? Do you think that our Christian belief that Jesus is God is a difficult belief to hold in our time? Why? Why is the divinity of Christ considered an essential Christian belief? Related to this, pay attention to how the words "I am" are used in John's gospel. Note who uses "I am" and what truth is being claimed in each usage.
8. [John 1:1-5](#) Read Genesis 1:1-5. What similarities do you notice? Who or what is the "Word" John is speaking of? Our answer is found in John 1:14. What point do you think John is making about a new creation and Jesus? (See also 2 Corinthians 5:17)
9. [John 2:1-11](#) This is considered Jesus first miracle. One common interpretation of Jesus' first miracle is that it points to who Jesus is and what He came to accomplish. If that is true, describe where you see this in the passage. How does verse 10 illustrate who Jesus is? Does verse 10 describe your life? Why or why not?

Bible verse to memorize: John 1:1

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.