THE WAY OF JESUS

Flourishing Life

The Gospel of Luke:
Vol II



A Series Study Guide

April 2026

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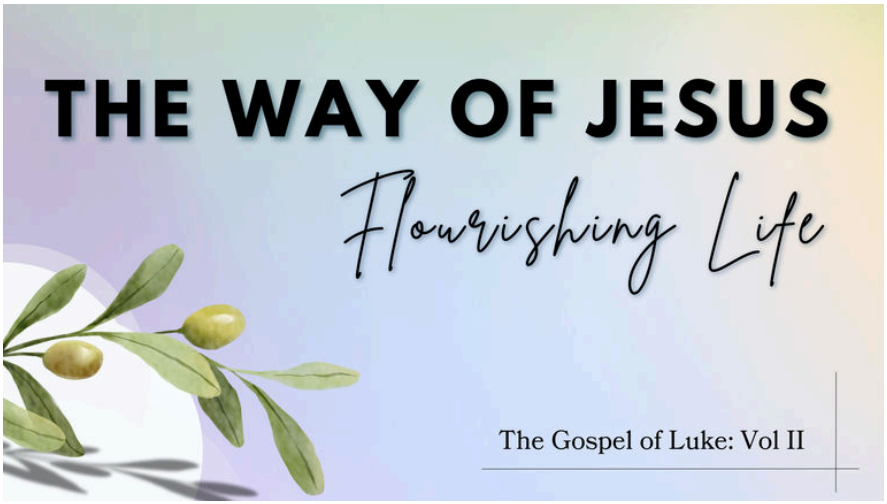


The Way of Flourishing Life

An Invitation to Follow Jesus through the Second Half of Luke

If the first half of Luke's Gospel invites us to sit at the feet of Jesus, to know His heart and experience the awe of His miracles, then the second half invites us to get up and follow Him—step by step, story by story, toward Jerusalem, the cross, and beyond.

Beginning in chapter 9, Luke shifts the focus of his narrative. Jesus "resolutely set out for Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51), and everything changes. From this point on, we are not simply observers—we're called to be disciples. We're drawn into the journey of following Jesus, and with that comes a question that echoes through every chapter: Will you come with Him?

This road is not easy. It is marked by costly love, radical mercy, and life-giving surrender. Following Jesus isn't about checking boxes or mastering doctrine. It's about

orienting our entire lives around His—being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and doing what Jesus did. This is the way of true discipleship. Joining Jesus on this path towards the cross, however, is also the way of true flourishing.

In a world chasing comfort, status, and self-preservation, Jesus offers something altogether different: deep peace, a grounded sense of purpose, and an unshakable hope. This is the abundant life He promised—not free from suffering, but full of meaning. Not ease, but joy. Not self-fulfillment, but a life poured out for others.

As you journey through these chapters of Luke, may your eyes be opened to the surprising beauty of the cross-shaped life. May you hear Jesus' call anew. And may you discover, in the shadow of sacrifice, the light of flourishing life.

Practicing the Way

The way of Jesus isn't something we admire from a distance—it's a life we step into.

Luke has shown us what that life looks like: Jesus walking with people, welcoming the broken, speaking truth, carrying the cross, and pouring Himself out in love. Now, we respond. His way becomes our way.

This life doesn't flourish by accident. It's cultivated through daily, deliberate choices. We orient our lives around three pursuits that shape us as followers of Jesus:

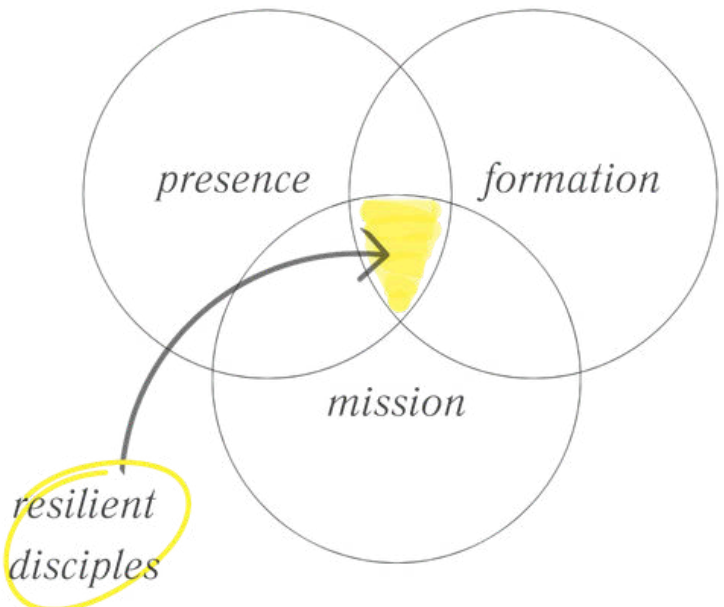
Be with Jesus.
Become like Jesus.
Do what Jesus did.

Jesus' disciples - then and now - flourish at the convergence of PRESENCE, FORMATION, and MISSION.

PRESENCE // To be with Jesus
Flourishing begins not with doing, but with abiding. We create space to slow down, to listen, to be still in His presence. Through rhythms of prayer, Scripture, and worship, we live in ongoing communion with the God who draws near. This is where peace and clarity begin.

FORMATION // To become like Jesus
We are all being formed by something. As disciples, we choose to be shaped by Jesus—His character, His priorities, His way. Formation happens as we submit to His Word, practice new habits, and let community refine us. Over time, our lives begin to reflect His.

MISSION // To do what Jesus did
Flourishing isn't kept to itself—it's shared. Jesus' way leads outward, into neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and the margins. We serve, invite, give, and live with gospel intentionality. The same Spirit that empowered Jesus now sends and empowers us.



This is the way of Jesus. It's not always easy, but it is always worth it. As we walk in His presence, open our lives to His formation, and join Him on mission, we discover the very thing our souls were made for: flourishing life.

Additional Resources

Practicing the Way, John Mark Comer (Unpacking the rhythms of discipleship: to be with Jesus, to become like Jesus, to do what Jesus did.)

Luke (NIV Application Commentary), Darrell Bock (A deeply studied but pastoral account of Luke's gospel.)

Luke for Everyone, N.T. Wright (Helpful and accessible commentary on Luke's gospel and its background.)

Following King Jesus, Scot McKnight (Offers rich insight into the gospels, with strong themes of discipleship, mission, and Kingdom.)

God in My Everything, Ken Shigematsu (Grounded in the rhythms of Jesus but adapted for busy people, a great tool for becoming like Jesus.)

How to Pray, Pete Greig (Accessible and Spirit-filled introduction to prayer--for beginners and experienced Jesus-followers alike.)

Joining Jesus on His Mission, Greg Finke (A helpful guide for normal people wanting to live on mission in daily life.)

Miracle Work, Jordan Seng (Explores how ordinary believers can join Jesus' supernatural work--to do what Jesus did.)

Till We Have Faces, C.S. Lewis (A deep and reflective novel which explores the themes of spiritual formation.)

The Way of Jesus
Week 1

Date:

Speaker:

Main Scripture: Luke 19v1-10

SERMON TITLE

Seeing Like Jesus Sees

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

Quotes:

“There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere moral.” - C.S. Lewis

“Radical ordinary hospitality… uses your Christian home in a daily way that seeks to make strangers neighbors, and neighbors family.”
- Rosaria Butterfield

“Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place.”
- Henri Nouwen

Week 1: Reflect and Discuss

1. Where in your everyday rhythms are you most likely to miss people because you’re distracted, rushed, or preoccupied?

2. Jesus honored Zacchaeus before anything changed. Why is that so difficult for us to do?

3. What would it look like to treat someone in your life with undeserved honor this week?

4. Where are you tempted to “fix” people instead of simply being present with them?

5. Where in your own life do you need to receive Jesus’ honor and presence before trying to change?

6. Jesus says He came to seek and save the lost—what might it look like for you to join Him in that this week?

7. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

8. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

Practice: See People With Jesus

Jesus is passing through Jericho. There's a crowd. Movement. Noise. People pressing in from every side.

And then—He stops. He looks up. He sees Zacchaeus. He calls him by name.

Before anything changes… before any repentance… before any promise to make things right, Jesus sees him and honors him with His presence.

That's the movement: Seeing → honoring → transformation.

Zacchaeus doesn't come down already changed. He comes down because he's been seen. And somewhere between the tree and the table… his life begins to shift.

We live fast-paced, distracted lives. We move quickly from one thing to the next, often missing the people right in front of us. Not because we don't care, but because we're busy, preoccupied, or unsure what to do.

But Jesus shows us another way. He slows down. He pays attention. He moves toward people with dignity and intention.

He doesn't wait for people to change before moving toward them. He moves toward them—and that's where change begins.

"The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10) This means following Jesus isn't just about what He does for us, it's about the kind of people we are becoming with Him.

People who see.
People who honor.
People who trust God to do what only He can do.

Practice: Seeing People With Jesus

This week isn't about fixing people or forcing conversations. It's about learning to see people the way Jesus does.

1. **Name Three People**: Write down 3 people in your life who are not currently following Jesus. Not projects, but as people who you genuinely care about.

2. **Pray Daily**: Take a few moments each day to pray for them. Try a simple prayer: "Jesus, let them know they are seen and loved by You. Show me how to move toward them with your love."

3. **Pay Attention + Listen**: At some point this week, slow down and ask:

- What might they be carrying right now?
- Where could God already be at work in their life?
- What is one small step I could take toward them?

Don't force anything. Just notice. Just listen.

Reach Practice: Take a Prayer Walk
Set aside a little time this week to take a slow walk through your neighborhood, your workplace, or your school.

As you walk:
Imagine with God: Who lives here? What are their stories? What might they be carrying?
Ask for His Heart
"Jesus, give me Your compassion for the people around me."
Speak a Blessing
"God, would Your peace and presence rest here."

This is where it begins. Because when we start to see people the way Jesus sees them, we begin to love them the way He does. And that's where transformation begins.

The Way of Jesus
Week 2

Date:
Speaker:
Main Scripture: Luke 19v11-27

SERMON TITLE

Faithful in the Moment

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

Quote:

““Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the little decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance.”

- C.S. Lewis

“The great hindrance in spiritual life is that we will look for big things to do.”

- Oswald Chambers

Week 2: Reflect and Discuss

1. What does this parable reveal about what the king values most?

2. The third servant says, “I was afraid of you.” How do fear and trust shape the way we respond to God?

3. Where might your view of God be subtly shaping your willingness to step out?

4. What is one thing God has already entrusted to you right now (a relationship, opportunity, resource, or gift)?

5. Where are you tempted to wait for “something more” before taking action?

6. What are you afraid might happen if you fully invest what God has given you?

6. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

7. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

There's something in us that wants more.

More clarity.
More opportunity.
More time.
More certainty that what we do will matter.

And so we wait.

We tell ourselves, "When things settle down…"
"When I have more to offer…"
"When God makes it clearer…"

But in Luke 19, Jesus tells a story that interrupts that instinct. A king entrusts something valuable to his servants and then leaves. There's a delay. An in-between. And in that space, the question isn't how much they've been given, it's what they do with it.

Two servants step in. They engage. They risk. They invest. One steps back. He buries what he was given. The difference isn't ability; it's trust. At the center of the story is a deeper question: What do you believe about the king?

Because how you see him will shape how you live. If you see God as distant, demanding, or harsh… you'll likely hold back. Play it safe. Wait. But if you see Him as generous, trustworthy, and near… you'll begin to step in. To risk. To invest what you've been given.

And here's the invitation Jesus places before us: Don't wait for more. Be faithful with what's in front of you. Not someday. Not when you feel ready. Now.

In the ordinary places of your life.
With the ordinary things you've already been entrusted with.

Practice: Name What You've Been Given

Set aside 10–15 minutes. Slow down. Put your phone away. Take a breath.

1. Begin with Prayer
Sit quietly and invite God's presence: "God, you are near. You are generous. Open my eyes to see what you've already placed in my hands."

2. Take Inventory
Write down 3–5 things God has entrusted to you right now. Think simply and concretely:

- A relationship (friend, neighbor, coworker, family member)
- An opportunity (a conversation, a role, a moment of influence)
- A resource (time, finances, space, availability)
- A gift (encouragement, leadership, listening, hospitality)

Don't overthink it. Don't compare. Just name what's already there.

3. Pay Attention to Your Reaction
As you look at your list, notice what rises up in you.

- Do you feel gratitude?
- Pressure?
- Fear?
- Resistance?

Ask honestly: "Where am I tempted to hold back or play it safe? What might that reveal about how I see, You, Lord?"

4. End with Trust
Close your time by placing these things back before God: "God, everything I have is from you. Teach me to trust you.
And help me be faithful with what's already in front of me."

Don't try to do everything. Just begin here: Name what you've been given. And let that be the place where faithfulness starts.

The Way of Jesus
Week 3

Date:
Speaker:
Main Scripture: Luke 19v28-44

SERMON TITLE

The Stone Will Cry Out

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

Quote:

“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.”
- John Piper

“We were made to praise as birds were made to fly and rivers to run.”
- A.W. Tozer

Week 3: Reflect and Discuss

1. Where in your life right now do you sense Jesus is already at work but you might be overlooking it?

2. When was the last time you expressed spontaneous gratitude or praise to God? What held you back or what helped you respond?

3. What is one specific story from your life recently where you’ve seen Jesus move, provide, or transform something?

4. Who needs to hear that story this week—and what would it look like to share it as an act of worship?

5. If your House Church or community treated testimonies as worship (not just updates), how might that change your gatherings?

6. Both stories invite dependence rather than self-sufficiency. Where in your life do you find it hardest to depend on God?

7. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

8. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

Practice: Replace Complaint with Praise

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, the city is alive with noise. Crowds are shouting. Cloaks are on the road. Joy is spilling over. “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!”

But not everyone is celebrating. The Pharisees step in quickly: “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” Tone it down. Control the moment. Keep things measured.

And Jesus responds with a powerful line: “If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.” In other words: When the King is present, praise is inevitable. Creation itself knows what to do when Jesus shows up.

The Quiet We Carry
Most of us don’t actively reject Jesus. We sometimes we just… go quiet. Perhaps we see hints of God’s goodness but instead of praise, we default to:

- complaint
- frustration
- anxiety
- distraction

Because what comes out of us in those moments shows what we believe about the King.

The third servant last week withdrew because he didn’t trust the king. This week, the Pharisees try to control what they don’t understand.

And we?
We often replace wonder with worry.

A Different Response
What if praise isn’t just something we feel but something we choose?

What if one of the simplest ways to resist silence is to interrupt our patterns of complaint and turn them into praise? Not fake positivity. Not ignoring reality. But choosing to name what is true about Jesus right in the middle of real life.

Practice: Replace Complaint with Praise
This week, pay attention to your inner dialogue.
When you notice moments of:

- frustration
- stress
- irritation
- disappointment

Don't just try to stop the thought. Replace it. Turn it into a simple, honest prayer of praise.

It might look like this:

- "This day is overwhelming…"

Instead pray: "Jesus, thank you that you are with me in this."

- "Nothing is going right…"

Instead pray: "Jesus, you are still good and still at work."

- "I don't have enough…"

Instead pray: "Jesus, you are my provider."

- "I'm exhausted…"

Instead pray: "Jesus, you are my strength today."

Start small: Aim for 3 moments a day; say it out loud if you can; keep it specific and real

You are training your heart to see the King. And when you see Him – not perfectly, but truly – praise begins to rise. Not because life is easy. But because Jesus is present.

Jesus, open my eyes to see you at work.
Interrupt my patterns of complaint.
Teach my heart to respond with praise.
I don't want to be silent when you are present.
Amen.

Next Steps
What's your next step...

Want more information about a House Church?
House Churches are located all around our valley and are designed to help us practice the way of Jesus: being with Jesus; becoming like Jesus; doing what Jesus did. House Church is a safe place to go deeper with Jesus and in community: www.findcommunity.com/housechurch

Hearing God
Thursdays, April 30 - May 14 | 6:30-8:00pm on Zoom

Join us for a three-session workshop on Hearing God, where we'll explore how God speaks, how to recognize His voice, and how to respond with confidence.
Register: findcommunity.com/events

Discipleship Lab: Family Night
Tuesday**,** May 5 | 6:00-7:30pm

Discipleship Lab: Family Night is a hands-on evening where kids come with parents or grandparents to practice simple, everyday ways to talk about God together.

Parents/Grandparents will learn how to be a positive spiritual influence in their own homes in a way that is fun, natural, and inviting. You won't just hear about discipleship... you'll be doing it (and our team is there to support you!).
Register: findcommunity.com/events

Explore Baptism
Tuesday**,** May 10 | 11:30am in room 107

Ready to point your life in the direction of Jesus? Come explore what baptism means, why it matters, and how it helps us follow Jesus. There will be space to ask questions and learn what a next step could look like for you.

NOTES:

COMMUNITY
CHURCH RANCHO