THE WAY OF JESUS

Flourishing Life

The Gospel of Luke:
Vol II



A Series Study Guide

February 2026

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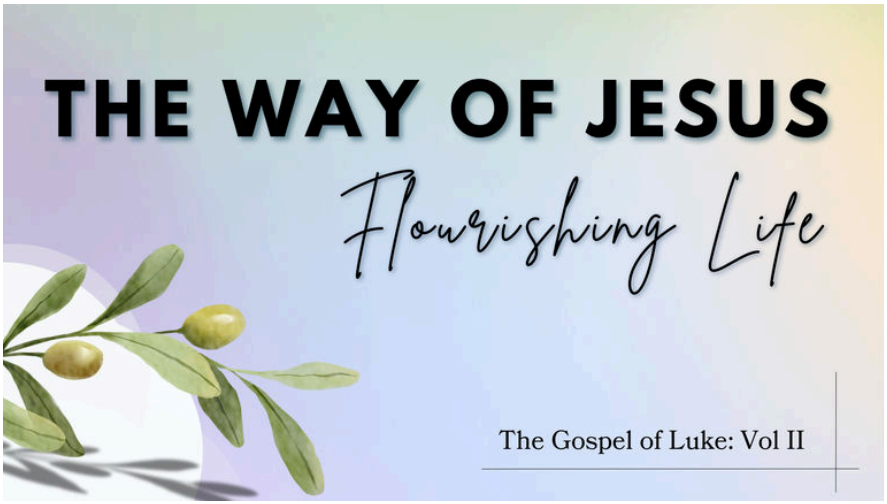


The Way of Flourishing Life

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:

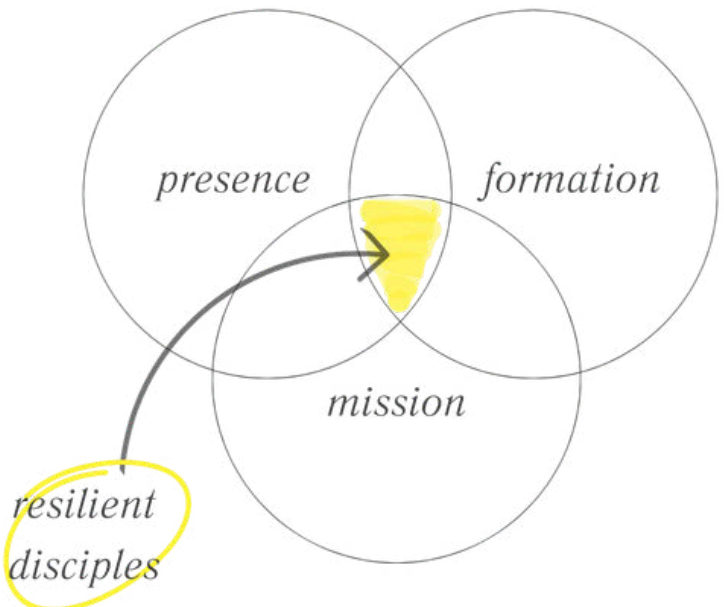
Be with Jesus.
Become like Jesus.
Do what Jesus did.

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 16v19-31

SERMON TITLE

At the Gate

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

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

Quotes:

“Every single person has at least one secret that would break your heart. If we could just remember this, I think there would be a lot more compassion and tolerance in the world.”

- Frank Warren

“There is no evangelism without love, and no love without presence.”

- Henri Nouwen

Week 1: Reflect and Discuss

1. Where do you see yourself in this story right now—closer to the rich man or closer to Lazarus—and what might that reveal about your heart, priorities, or pace of life?

2. The rich man wasn’t condemned for being wealthy, but for being indifferent. Who might be “outside your gate” that you’ve been overlooking or ignoring?

3. What are some recent “kairos moments” in your life—conversations, interruptions, or questions—that might have been pregnant with God’s activity? Did you notice them? How did you respond?

4. Instead of asking, “Who can I convert?” the call is to ask, “Who can I bless?” Who is one person you could intentionally bless with your time, presence, encouragement, or resources this week?

5. This passage calls us to “wake up to mercy.” How does God’s mercy motivate change differently than fear or guilt?

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!

"The Holy Spirit does not shout.
And the hurried heart will always miss the voice of God."
— Tyler Staton
Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools

Many of us assume that following God means making big, life-defining decisions. And sometimes it does. But Scripture suggests that spiritual life is shaped just as much by the small, ordinary moments in between.

Moments like:

- an interruption
- a pause before responding
- a conversation we didn't plan
- a quiet nudge we can't quite explain

These are often the places where the Holy Spirit whispers. But whispers require attentiveness. And attentiveness requires margin. A hurried heart is rarely a listening heart.

Jesus promised that the Spirit would come not just to comfort us, but to lead us, to guide us in truth and empower us to live as witnesses. That guidance is often not loud or dramatic. It's simple. Gentle. Clear enough for those willing to slow down and ask.

The problem isn't that God isn't speaking. The problem is that we're often moving too fast to listen. At least that's usually the case for me.

Learning to Ask the Right Question
One of the most formative prayers you can pray is also one of the shortest: "Holy Spirit, what do You want to do right now?" Not what's the five-year plan? Not what's the strategic move? Just: What do You want to do now?

This prayer shifts us from control to availability, from efficiency to attentiveness. It opens us to the reality that God is deeply interested in our moment-by-moment formation, not just our final destination.

Jesus lived this way, responsive to the Father, attentive to interruptions, moving at the pace of love. The invitation is not to become more impressive Christians, but more responsive ones.

Practice: The "What Do You Want to Do?" Prayer
This week, practice living with an open, listening posture.

How to practice:

- **Pause** before you act. Before responding, transitioning, or moving on—pause briefly.
- **Pray** simply: "Holy Spirit, what do You want to do right now?"
- **Notice** the nudge. It may come as a sense to slow down, listen, encourage, pray, or show kindness.
- **Respond** in obedience, however small. Don't overthink it.
- **Release** the outcome. Obedience is our part. Results belong to God.

This is such a simple, but a powerfully formative prayer. Take a risk, and try it a few times this week. And then reflect:

- When did I sense a nudge to pause or respond differently?
- What happened when I asked this simple prayer?
- Where might hurry be drowning out the Spirit's whisper in my life?

A Closing Prayer
Holy Spirit,
Slow my steps and quiet my heart.
Teach me to ask before I act and listen before I speak.
Give me the courage to follow Your whisper,
even when it leads me off my schedule and into love.
Amen.

The Way of Jesus
Week 2

Date:
Speaker:
Main Scripture: Luke 17v1-10

SERMON TITLE

The Way Together

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

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

Quote:

“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.”
- C.S. Lewis

“The greatest issue facing the world today... is whether those who are identified as ‘Christians’ will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence.”
- Dallas Willard

Week 2: Reflect and Discuss

1. Jesus assumes forgiveness will be repeated, costly, and uncomfortable. Who do I find hardest to forgive, and what makes forgiveness feel impossible there?

2. The disciples ask for more faith, but Jesus points them toward trust (living the faith that they have). Where am I waiting to feel more ready instead of taking the next obedient step?

3. What is one small, mustard-seed-sized act of obedience Jesus might be inviting me into this week? A conversation, an apology, forgiveness, prayer, or act of humility.

4. Jesus frames discipleship as ordinary faithfulness, not heroic spirituality. Where do I feel pressure to be impressive instead of simply obedient? How can I release that pressure to Jesus?

5. 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!

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

Practice: Banding Together

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on
toward love and good deeds,
not giving up meeting together…
but encouraging one another—
and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
Hebrews 10:24-25

Following Jesus was never meant to be a solo journey.

His vision was always a people, a community shaped by holiness, mercy, and humility. A people who help one another stay awake. Who notice when something is off. Who remind each other what's true when life gets heavy. Because we all drift.

Our hearts can harden quietly. Compromise comes slowly. And often, the grace of God reaches us through the presence of another person, someone willing to walk with us honestly. This is discipleship.

Not a program, but a shared life of encouragement, honesty, and attentiveness to the Spirit – helping each other grow.

Learning from Church History
Three hundred years ago, the Moravians experienced a powerful renewal of the Holy Spirit. But what sustained that renewal wasn't just worship—it was their relationships. They gathered in small groups called bands—two or three people bound together in spiritual friendship, helping one another follow Jesus honestly.

They asked simple questions: How is your heart? Where are you struggling? How is God speaking to you? These weren't meant to produce shame, but freedom. They believed grace flows best where honesty lives, and faith grows stronger when it's shared.

John Wesley encountered the Moravians and adopted this

same practice, forming bands that helped spark renewal across England. He saw what they had discovered: transformation happens when disciples walk in the light together.

A Practice: Banding Together
This week, invite 2-4 others into a simple rhythm of spiritual friendship. Meet for coffee, take a walk, or sit together without hurry... weekly is ideal, but biweekly works too.

Ask one another these questions:

1. How are you – really? (or how is it with your soul?)
2. What are your successes and struggles since we last met?
3. How might the Word and Spirit be speaking in your life?
4. Do you have any sin to confess? (James 5v16)
5. Is there anything you desire to keep secret?

Listen without fixing. Pray for one another simply and sincerely. We recommend same-gender bands.

What This Forms in Us
Over time, honesty becomes freedom. Shame loses its grip. Faith grows stronger. The way of Jesus is embodied.

This is how Jesus forms His people, not through performance, but through shared life. A community where grace is practiced, not just believed. Two or three. Not perfect or “arrived” – just honest, available, attentive. And right there, Jesus meets us.

Take a Step
This is the kind of brotherhood/sisterhood that all of us need and most of us want, but very few risk taking the first step. Be brave, ask a couple of others from your House Church or your serving team to invest in intentional discipleship between now and Easter – and see how God shows up!

Need help connecting with others? Email us and we’ll help find you a huddle (info@findcommunity.com).

The Way of Jesus
Week 3

Date:
Speaker:
Main Scripture: Luke 17v11-19

SERMON TITLE

The Healing After the Healing

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

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

Quote:

“The soul’s deepest thirst is not for relief but for God.”
- A.W. Tozer

“We live by faith by living as if what God has said is true.”
- Dallas Willard

Week 3: Reflect and Discuss

1. Where might Jesus be inviting me to obey before I see results? What is one step I sense Him asking me to take, even if nothing has changed yet?

2. Where have I experienced God’s help or mercy recently, but moved on without returning to thank Him? What would it look like to pause and turn back now?

3. Where am I asking Jesus to fix something *around* me but resisting His invitation to heal something within me?

4. What area of my heart feels fragmented, guarded, or unfinished? How might Jesus be inviting me into deeper wholeness there?

5. The Samaritan returned and fell at Jesus’ feet. What would it look like for me this week to intentionally return to Jesus—not asking for anything, but simply worshiping Him?

6. Where might familiarity with church, Scripture, or spiritual rhythms be dulling my attentiveness to Jesus Himself?

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: Training for Joy

"Celebration is at the heart of the way of Christ. Without a joyful spirit of festivity the discipline becomes dull and legalistic."
- Richard Foster

When we think about spiritual growth, we often think about prayer, Scripture, confession, or sacrifice. And rightly so. But Richard Foster reminds us that there is another discipline just as essential—celebration.

Celebration is central and primary to the spiritual life. Because celebration forms something in us that nothing else can: joyful awareness of God's grace.

Gratitude is the beginning. Celebration is gratitude expressed fully – named, embodied, and shared.

God Trains His People Through Celebration
This was always part of God's design.

The Jewish calendar was not structured primarily around productivity, but around remembrance and joy. Nearly one-third of the calendar was not for normal work; these days were devoted to Sabbaths, feast days, and festivals (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles, and weekly Sabbath). Why would they do this? They were "training for joy" (John Ortberg).

Each celebration invited the people to stop and remember: God has provided. God has rescued. God is present.

Without celebration, their hearts would drift toward anxiety, scarcity, and self-reliance. Celebration brought them back to trust.

The same is true for us. We don't drift naturally toward gratitude. We drift toward hurry. Toward complaint. Toward forgetting. Celebration retrains our hearts to see grace.

Susan Cain describes these as “restorative niches” – places, rhythms, or activities where your nervous system settles and your truest self can reemerge, reminding us that restoration is not escape, but a return to the life God created us to live.

Jesus Himself lived this way. He withdrew to quiet places. He shared meals with friends. He attended weddings and celebrations. He lived a life deeply rooted in the joy of the Father.

This is not indulgence. This is formation. Joy restores what hurry and pressure erode.

A Practice: Training for Joy
This week, intentionally engage in one activity that restores your soul. Find your “restorative niche.”

Not to accomplish something. Not to produce something. Simply to receive, to enjoy, to celebrate God’s goodness and abundance! Check out Deuteronomy 14v24-26 as a model.

It might be:

- taking a slow walk in creation
- sitting quietly with a cup of coffee
- enjoying a live concert or your favorite album
- spending unhurried time with someone you love
- reading Scripture without an agenda
- eating your very favorite foods
- being present to beauty, silence, or rest

As you do, pay attention to God’s presence. Receive the moment as gift. Let joy become a form of gratitude.

This is not wasted time. It is training your heart for celebration.

Prayer
Father, teach me to receive joy as a gift from You.
Restore what has grown tired in my soul. Train my heart to live in Your presence with gratitude and delight. Amen.

Next Steps
While our study in Luke will continue, let's pause and look at some resources for what's next in our journey. What's your next step:

Seek First
Seek First is a space to return to the altar: to pause, yield, and realign our hearts with the presence of Jesus. In the middle of busy weeks and crowded priorities, we come not to perform but to offer ourselves again. Join us in the Upper Room for a time of worship and prayer – **Feb 16, Mar 2, 16** (8pm). Together we seek first His Kingdom, trusting that when our lives are on the altar, His fire still falls.

Want more information about a House Church?
A fresh season of House Church is coming this fall. 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

Multiply SoCal - A Disciple-Making Conference
Saturday, February 21 | 9:00am–5:00pm

Join us for Multiply SoCal, a one-day conference designed to help you grow as a disciple of Jesus and learn how to help others follow Him in everyday life. This day will create space for teaching, prayer, stories, and practice as we explore what disciple-making can look like right where God has placed you.

We're honored to welcome Brian Johnson (KC Underground / 100 Movements) as our lead facilitator, bringing practical wisdom and a deep passion for helping everyday people live on mission. Whether you're already walking with others or just beginning, this is an invitation to take a meaningful next step. Cost is $15 (includes lunch). Register at multiplysocal.com.

NOTES:

COMMUNITY
CHURCH RANCHO