THE WAY OF JESUS

Flourishing Life

The Gospel of Luke:
Vol II



A Series Study Guide

July 2025

WHAT'S IN THIS BOOK?

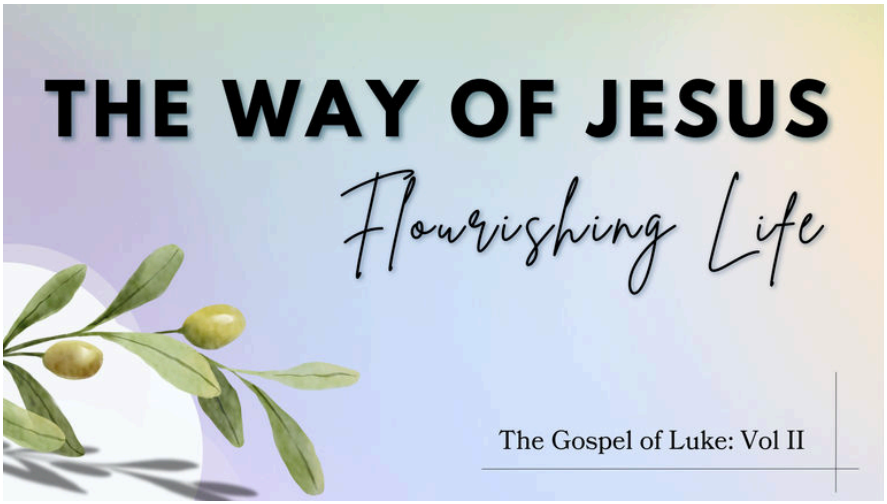
SERIES INTRODUCTION

Week 1: Near His Glory
Luke 9:28-36

Week 2: Path to Power
Luke 9:37-50

Week 3: The Costly Kingdom
Luke 9:51-62

NEXT STEPS



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:

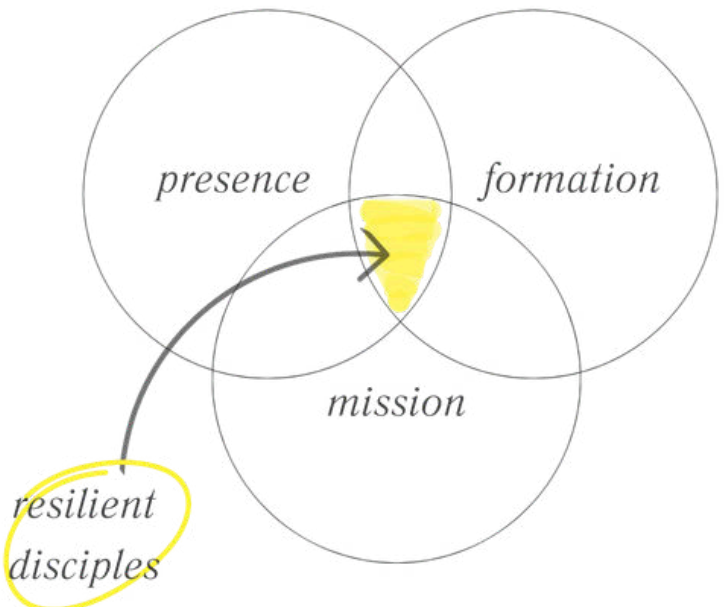
Be with Jesus.
Become like Jesus.
Do what Jesus did.

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.)

J*oining 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 9:28-36

SERMON TITLE

Near His Glory

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

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

Quotes:

“If Jesus doesn't knock the wind out of us occasionally, we're not really listening to him.”

- John Piper

“Pray much. And as Christ’s garments became white and glittering, so shall your souls get a little of God’s light to shine upon them.”

- George Whitefield

Week 1: Reflect and Discuss

1. What rhythms or practices in your life help you behold Jesus regularly? What might need to shift to make space for more of Him?

2. Where in your spiritual life are you tempted to hold onto past experiences or build monuments to what once was?

3. In what ways might you be tempted to try to manage or control your experience of God, rather than following Him in real time and on His terms?

4. What is something new God might be doing in your life right now—and are you open to it?

5. This moment happens while Jesus is praying. How might prayer be a doorway to seeing more of God’s glory in your own life?

6. If you truly believed that “Jesus alone is enough,” how would that change the way you approach your week ahead?

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.

“Adoration is simply enjoying God for who He is, rather than what He does.” — Peter Greig, *How to Pray*

In Luke 9:28-36, Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up a mountain to pray, and there they witness a breathtaking moment of divine revelation. Jesus is changed before them—His face shining like the sun, and His clothes as white as light. The disciples get a rare glimpse of Jesus' full glory, and a voice from the cloud declares, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to Him" (Luke 9:35). This moment reveals not just who Jesus is but also the way we are to respond to God: with awe, worship, and delight. We glorify God by enjoying Him!

Enjoying Him Forever
To truly "behold" God, we must first understand that the experience of delighting in Him is far deeper than simply knowing about Him. John Piper reminds us that "enjoying God is to know God intellectually, to admire God in His beauty, to delight in Him emotionally, and to dedicate ourselves to Him." When we delight in God's glory, we glorify actually glorifying God. We’re living the values we profess to believe. Piper summarized the Christian life with the phrase: ”Glorify God *by* enjoying Him forever” (riffing on the Westminster Shorter Catechism). Our delight demonstrates God’s glory!

Peter Greig, in *How to Pray*, calls this kind of delighting in God “adoration” – taking time to praise God simply for who He is, not for what He has done. This act of beholding His greatness allows our hearts to respond to Him with worship and joy. When we behold the beauty of God’s holiness, power, and mercy, we cannot help but adore Him.

Application: Enjoying God in Prayer
As we reflect on the transfiguration, we are invited to enjoy God

by beholding (enjoying... adoring even!) His glory. Set aside time this week to adore God— not for what He gives, but for who He is. Focus on His attributes—His holiness, goodness, mercy, and kindness. Let this time of prayer stir both your intellect and your emotions as you experience the beauty of God's character. When we delight in God, it aligns our hearts with His, allowing His glory to shape our lives.

Steps for Adoration:

1. Begin with silence: Before you pray, take a moment to clear your mind and open your heart to God’s presence.
2. Reflect on His greatness: Choose an attribute of God—His majesty, mercy, beauty—and allow your thoughts to dwell on it. Recall passages and Bible stories that show off that attribute. Think about times in your life when you’ve experience that attribute of God.
3. Engage your emotions: Worship God for who He is. Let your heart express delight in His goodness, power, and love.
4. Listen for His voice: Just as the disciples heard God’s voice in the cloud, stay open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as you behold His glory.

Prayer Application

Father, I come before You with awe and wonder. Thank You for revealing Your Son in all His glory. I long to behold the beauty of Christ today—to experience the fullness of His holiness, power, and love. Holy Spirit, help me to delight in You, not because of what You give but because of who You are. Awaken my heart to see You in Your magnificence, and let my soul respond in joyful adoration. I dedicate my heart to You and ask that You fill me with the joy that comes from knowing You intimately.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

The Way of Jesus
Week 2

Date:
Speaker:
Main Scripture: Luke 9:37-50

SERMON TITLE

Path to Power

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

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

Quote:

““A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.”

- C.S. Lewis

“If you are true to the leading of the Holy Spirit, you will have to do things that humble you, make you appear as a wimp, and do things that nobody will admire.”

- R.T. Kendall

Week 2: Reflect and Discuss

1. When have you felt powerless—even while trying to follow Jesus? What did you learn about His strength in that moment?

2. Why do you think the disciples were afraid to ask Jesus about His suffering (vv. 43–45)? What fears or misunderstandings might you carry about Jesus’ path?

3. Jesus’ way leads to the cross. What does that mean for your everyday decisions, especially when you're tempted to choose comfort or success over surrender?

4. Where might God be calling you to walk a harder road—one that looks more like the cross than a crown?

5. The disciples argued about who was the greatest. What does this reveal about their (and our) understanding of success in God’s kingdom?

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.

In a world obsessed with status, achievement, and recognition, humility can feel like a forgotten virtue. Yet, humility is the very essence of the gospel—it's the posture that opens us to the life God designed for us. Jesus, who had every reason to claim greatness, chose humility. In Luke 9:46-48, the disciples, consumed with who would be the greatest, were confronted by Jesus' response: "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest." (Luke 9:48, NIV).

Jesus points to a child as the example of greatness in His Kingdom, flipping the script on how we view success. In God's economy, humility isn't weakness; it's strength. It's not about self-deprecation or thinking you're less than you are, but about recognizing that true greatness comes from serving others, laying down your self-interest, and living with a heart that is fully surrendered to God. It's easier said than done!

Humility doesn't come naturally—it's something we have to choose. C.S. Lewis beautifully puts it: "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less." Humility is about seeing yourself as part of a much bigger story, where your worth is rooted not in what you achieve, but in who God says you are. It's a constant act of surrender, trusting that the more we let go of our pride and our desire for control, the more we become who God has truly called us to be.

Practicing Humility

1. Remember Your Need for God

Take a few moments to pause and consider your dependence on God. Reflect on the truth that everything you have is a gift from Him. From your breath to your gifts to your relationships, all is from God. Take a deep breath and surrender your pride, acknowledging that without Him, you can do nothing.

2. Serve Without Recognition

Choose one small way to serve someone today with no expectation of recognition or reward. In fact, do it in secret if you can. Whether it's helping a coworker, showing kindness to a stranger, or caring for a need in your home, do it with a heart that says, "I serve *because I am loved by God*, and I want to reflect His love to others." It's meaningful practice.

3. Pray for Humility

Pray a prayer of surrender, inviting God to cultivate humility in your heart. "Lord, I confess my pride and my desire to be seen and recognized. Help me to live with a humble heart, reflecting Your love and grace. Teach me to serve others, to put their needs before my own, and to see them as You see them. Help me to live with the heart of a servant, just as You did. In Jesus' name, Amen."

4. Reflect and Submit

At the end of the day, reflect on how you lived out humility. Did you seek opportunities to serve without gaining anything in return? How did it feel to place others above yourself? Take those reflections to God in prayer, thanking Him for helping you grow in humility, and ask Him to continue to shape your heart.

Humility is not a one-time decision; it's a daily choice, an ongoing posture before God and others. The more we embrace humility, the more we reflect the heart of Jesus—the One who humbled Himself for our sake (see Phil. 2:5-11). As we walk in humility, we discover a life of true greatness—one that finds fulfillment not in climbing ladders, but in serving others and exalting Christ.

Let this be the path you choose today, trusting that in His Kingdom, the least is the greatest.

The Way of Jesus
Week 3

Date:
Speaker:
Main Scripture: Luke 9:51-62

SERMON TITLE

The Costly Kingdom

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

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

Quote:

““Costly grace is costly because it calls us to follow … it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“You are to follow no man further than he follows Christ.”

- E.M. Bounds

Week 3: Reflect and Discuss

1. What does it mean to you that Jesus “resolutely set out for Jerusalem”? How does His determination shape your view of what it means to follow Him?

2. Where in your life are you tempted to follow Jesus only halfway? What might full surrender look like in that area?

3. Jesus warns that following Him offers “no place to lay your head.” What comforts or securities are you holding onto that might be keeping you from deeper discipleship?

4. “No one who looks back is fit for the kingdom.” What distractions or regrets keep pulling your gaze backward? How might Jesus be calling you to look forward with undivided focus?

5. If following Jesus truly means taking up a cross and walking a costly road, what gives you courage to keep going?

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.

In moments of crisis, when everything feels uncertain, we're forced to confront a tough question: What do I truly treasure? In Luke 9:51-62, Jesus calls three people to follow Him, but each hesitates when they realize the cost. Jesus responds with clarity: "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62, NIV). The message is simple: indecision keeps us from fully following Jesus.

John Piper says, "Jesus is testing you to see if He is really your treasure, your joy, your security, your hope... to see if He is your friend in times of loneliness, your home, your Father, your power to look straight ahead." What's holding you back? Is it fear, comfort, or uncertainty? The danger of indecision isn't just about making the wrong choice—it's about missing the call altogether. The crisis moment is an invitation to choose decisively.

Jesus isn't condemning attachment to family or home, but He's inviting us to put Him first. In times of crisis, we often look back—to the comfort of what we know. But indecision keeps us stuck. We can't follow Jesus if we're always looking back. Jesus calls us to walk forward with Him, eyes fixed on His Kingdom, and not turn back.

Practice: Confronting Indecision

Step 1: Acknowledge Your Hesitations

Take a moment to reflect on where you've been indecisive about following Jesus. What are you holding back from surrendering? Name it and bring it before God.

Step 2: Recognize the Cost of Indecision

Consider what indecision has cost you. How does it keep you from peace, joy, or purpose? Let this awareness settle in your

heart—not with guilt, but clarity. Indecision robs you of the life you're meant to live.

Step 3: Prayer of Commitment
Pray, "Jesus, I admit that I've hesitated. Today, I choose You. I choose Your Kingdom. Help me fix my eyes on You and move forward. Give me the strength to follow You fully. Amen."

Step 4: Make One Decisive Step
Take one specific step of obedience this week in response to God's call. Step out in faith in an area where you've been hesitant to follow. Baptism is a great next step. Perhaps join a House Church or Discipleship Huddle. Put your response into action. Let this act mark your commitment to move forward with Jesus.

Write your next step here:

Indecision robs us of the fullness of life that Jesus offers. It keeps us stuck in the past, unsure of whether the cost of following Jesus is worth it. But the truth is this: He is worthy. He is worth the risk, the uncertainty, and the sacrifice. Don't waste the crisis by lingering in indecision—choose today to follow Jesus with everything. Fix your eyes on Him and trust that in His presence, all things are made new.

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:

Ready to get baptized?
Get baptized (go public with your faith)! Remember any baptized disciple can baptize you! Ask someone to tell you why they were baptized? Start a conversation! Still want to talk to a pastor? No problem. Find a pastor after one of our gatherings or call (909-945-5001) to set up an appointment.

Want more information about a House Church?
House Churches are small groups that meet in houses around our valley. The schedule and neighborhoods are always changing as we add new groups, but check out more info at www.findcommunity.com/housechurch

The "Practicing the Way" Course
As we dive deeper into the way of Jesus through our Luke series, The Practicing the Way Course offers the perfect next step to help you live out His teachings in everyday life. This course will guide you in developing intentional habits and practices that shape you to be more like Jesus. New cohorts will be launching in August, so stay tuned for details and join us on this transformative journey.

Prayer Room
Prayer isn't preparation for the work God wants to do; prayer is the work! Look for info and summer hours – www.findcommunity.com/prayerroom

Check the summer "Inside Community" magazine for more events and classes to help you grow into a resilient disciple, saturating this inland valley with Good News!

*Want to talk with a pastor or ministry leader about your next step? Email (info@findcommunity.com) or call (909-945-5001) to set up a conversation.

NOTES:

COMMUNITY
CHURCH RANCHO