THE WAY OF JESUS

Flourishing Life

The Gospel of Luke:
Vol II



A Series Study Guide

September 2025

WHAT'S IN THIS BOOK?

SERIES INTRODUCTION

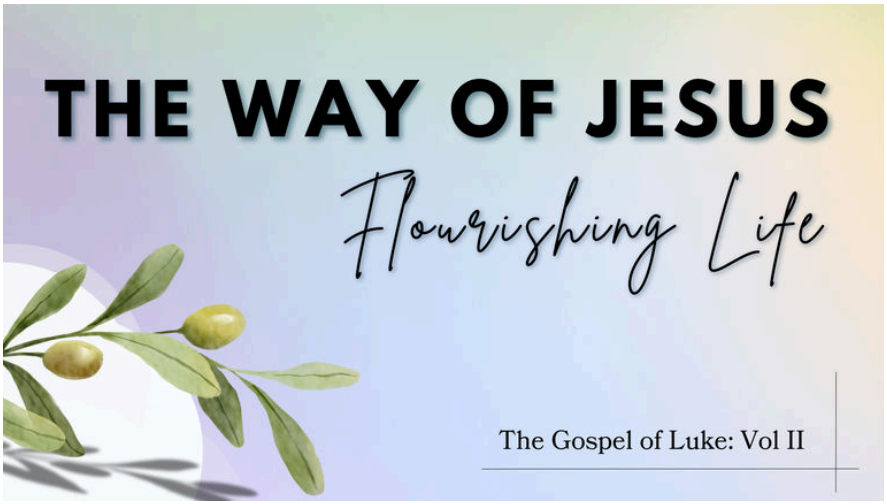
Week 1: What Made Jesus Mad
Luke 11v37-54

Week 2: Fearless Witness
Luke 12v1-12

Week 3: Kingdom Treasure
Luke 12v13-34

Week 4: Watchful Faith
Luke 12v35-48

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:

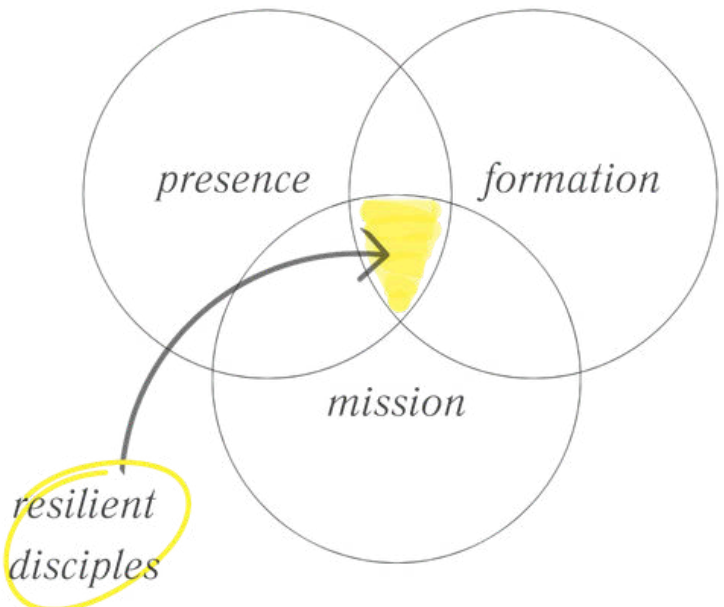
Be with Jesus.
Become like Jesus.
Do what Jesus did.

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 11v37-54

SERMON TITLE

What Made Jesus Mad

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

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

Quotes:

“Religious externals may have their place, but unless they are accompanied by the inward work of the Spirit, they are vain.”
- A.W. Tozer

“The most important thing in your life is not what you do; it’s who you become. That’s what you will take into eternity.”
- Dallas Willard

Week 1: Reflect and Discuss

1. Jesus uses vivid images: dirty cups (vv39–40), tithing herbs but neglecting justice and love (v42), unmarked graves (v44). Which image stands out to you most, and why?

2. Notice that Jesus’ harshest words are for insiders, not outsiders. Why do you think that is? How should that shape how we read the passage?

3. What’s one area of your life that looks “clean” on the outside but needs God’s healing on the inside?

4. Hypocrisy isn’t failing—it’s pretending. Where are you tempted to perform spirituality instead of being honest about your need for God?

5. In what ways might you have made following Jesus harder for someone else—through judgment, expectations, or cultural preferences? How can you repent of that?

6. Where do you sense the Spirit inviting you to stop hiding and bring something into the light before 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.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.”
Psalm 139v23–24

Most of us spend a lot of energy managing appearances—curating how others see us, guarding our reputation, or even pretending before God. But Psalm 139 ends with a dangerous and freeing prayer: “Search me, O God.”

David invites God into the deepest parts of his life—the motives, fears, and hidden sins no one else can see. This is the opposite of hypocrisy. Instead of polishing the outside while hiding the inside (like the Pharisees in Luke 11), David opens the door wide to God’s searching love.

This prayer is not about shame; it’s about healing. God can’t heal who we pretend to be. But when we invite Him to search and know us, His Spirit brings light, conviction, and the hope of change.

The Practice
This week, commit to a 5-minute daily rhythm of praying Psalm 139:23–24. Try it morning or evening—whatever will help you be consistent.

1. **Pause & Invite**

Take a deep breath. Ask God’s Spirit to meet you in this moment. Slowly read the Psalm aloud.

2. **Phrase by Phrase**

“Search me, O God, and know my heart”
Ask: What’s really going on in me today? Take a moment to reflect on your day, on the state of your heart. Ask God to guide you to see what’s really going on.

“Test me and know my anxious thoughts”
Notice fears, worries, or hidden pressures. Ask the Lord to reveal those places in your heart.

“See if there is any offensive way in me”
Confess anything God brings to mind. Remember: Hypocrisy isn’t failing—it’s pretending. This is a moment to be real with God and yourself.

“Lead me in the way everlasting”
Surrender your plans, choices, or relationships to Him. Choose to yield to the work that the Lord wants to do in your heart – even if you aren’t sure what He is doing. Put your “yes” on the table first.

3. **Listen & Respond**

Spend a moment in listening prayer. Reflect: What did God reveal? Write it down, pray it back, or share with a trusted friend.

Don’t rush this. The point is not to “check a box” but to cultivate honesty with God. You may be surprised by what comes up—old wounds, hidden fears, new desires, quiet encouragement. Let God’s Spirit shine light on the real you.

This week, pray: “Search me, O God” every day. And trust that the One who searches you also loves you enough to lead you in the way everlasting.

The Way of Jesus
Week 2

Date:

Speaker:

Main Scripture: Luke 12v1-12

SERMON TITLE

Fearless Witness

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

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

Quote:

“The fear of God is the death of every other fear; like a mighty lion, it chases all other fears before it.”
- Charles Spurgeon

“Boldness isn’t a personality trait; it’s the inevitable result of knowing the Spirit is with you, speaking through you, and loving you.”
- Tyler Staton

Week 2: Reflect and Discuss

1. Jesus contrasts the fear of people with the fear of God (v4-7). In your daily life, whose opinion carries the most weight for you? What in your life gives evidence to your answer?

2. Faith is personal, but not private. Jesus calls allegiance to Him a public confession (v8–9). Where in your life right now is Jesus inviting you to move your faith from private to public?

3. How does remembering that God knows the number of hairs on your head reshape the way you think about fear of rejection, criticism, or loss?

4. The Spirit promises words in the moment of need, not a detailed script in advance (v11-12). Does that challenge you or comfort you? Why?

5. This passage calls us to trade self-protection for Spirit-empowered boldness. Where do you need to ask, “Spirit, help me” instead of saying, “I’m not ready”?

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.

Practice: Seeing God at Work

"When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."
Luke 12v11–12

Jesus doesn't hand His disciples a script for every situation. Instead, He promises the Spirit's presence. That's both freeing and frightening. We love control; we want to rehearse, plan, and manage outcomes. But Jesus says, "Don't worry. You won't be alone. The Spirit will meet you in the moment."

Fear loses its grip when we become more aware of God's care than of people's reactions. What if boldness isn't about stirring up courage, but about paying attention? The Spirit is already at work in the people around you. He's already stirring hearts, prompting questions, softening resistance. Our job isn't to manufacture the right words; it's to notice what God is doing and join Him there.

Learning to live this way means trading agenda for attentiveness. It's a shift from asking, "What do I want to accomplish?" to "Spirit, what are You doing here, and how can I join You?"

The Practice
This week, try this simple rhythm to stay attentive to the Spirit's presence and work in our everyday lives.

1. **Pray**: At the start of your day, pray: "Spirit, open my eyes to what You're doing in me and around me today. Help me see opportunities to join You in Your agenda." Pray this as you enter new spaces and new conversations throughout your day.

2. **Notice**: As you move through the day, keep your heart soft to what the Spirit is doing. Pay attention to nudges, direction, or any sense that the Spirit is at work. Perhaps that's an unexpected question, a prompt to ask a question, a person on your mind, or a moment of need. There's no formula here. We simply want to put ourselves into positions to notice and align with what God might be doing in and around us.

3. **Respond**: When you sense God's prompting, resist the urge to overthink. Simply step in, trusting the Spirit to give you what you need in the moment.

This is a practice, because it *takes practice* to discern what God is doing. Perhaps like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, you'll only recognize the Spirit's work in retrospect ("Weren't our hearts burning within us while he talked with us..." Luke 24v32). That's great! You're learning to discern, to notice, to hear. So try ending your day with this simple reflection: Where did I notice God at work today? Did I follow His prompting? What might I do differently tomorrow?

Jesus models this for us: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does" (John 5:19). We see where God is at work and join Him there.

Prayer:
"Spirit of God, free me from the fear of people. Teach me to see what You are doing around me and to trust You in the moment. Make me bold, not because of my strength, but because of Your presence. Amen."

The Way of Jesus
Week 3

Date:
Speaker:
Main Scripture: Luke 12v13-34

SERMON TITLE

Kingdom Treasure

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

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

Quote:

“If your treasure is on earth, you are going from it; if it is in heaven, you are going to it.”
- John Piper

“Prosperity knits a man to the world. He feels that he is ‘finding his place in it,’ while really it is finding its place in him.”
- C.S. Lewis

Week 3: Reflect and Discuss

1. In Luke 12v15, Jesus says, “Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” How does this challenge the way our culture (and maybe your own heart) defines a “good life”?

2. When you think about the parable of the rich fool (vv16–21), where do you see yourself tempted to plan for comfort, security, or control without reference to God?

3. Jesus calls His disciples a “little flock” (v32). How does this tender image of God as a shepherd affect your sense of security and belonging?

4. If your heart follows your treasure (v34), what do your spending habits, savings, or financial goals reveal about what you truly value?

5. What’s one practical way you can “seek His kingdom first” this week in your finances, schedule, or priorities?

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.

Practice: Generosity

“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure
to give you the kingdom.”
Luke 12v32

Jesus told the story of a man who thought security was found in bigger barns and more stuff. But his life ended suddenly, and all that he stored up was lost. The truth is sobering: wealth and possessions can’t keep us safe. They can’t carry us into eternity.

But Jesus doesn’t just warn us against greed, He offers a better way. “Your Father delights to give you the kingdom.” If God takes care of birds and wildflowers, how much more will He care for you? This frees us from the grip of fear and anxiety. We can let go. We can give away. We can live as residents of a kingdom is really real, unshakeable, eternal. While the things of this world come and go, God’s kingdom is a true and firm foundation for our lives.

Generosity is one of the simplest, most tangible ways to realign our trust. Every time we give, we’re declaring: *My treasure is in heaven. My security is in God. My life is in His hands.*

The Practice
This week, choose one way to practice generosity: money, time, or possessions. Pray first: “Father, show me how I can give in a way that reflects Your kingdom.”

Money: Give a gift beyond your normal pattern—whether to someone in need, a ministry, or a neighbor.

Time: Offer your presence—visit someone lonely, serve a friend, or volunteer in a way that costs you.

Possessions: Give away something you've been holding onto. Bless someone who needs it more than you.

The point isn't the size of the gift—it's the heart behind it. Each act of generosity is a way of moving treasure from earth to heaven, and of loosening greed and fear's grip on your heart.

Breath Prayer: Living from the Father's Delight
Sometimes anxiety rises as soon as we think about giving—Will I have enough? What if I need that later? Jesus anticipated this, which is why He spoke such tender words: "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

A breath prayer is a simple way to let these words travel from your head into your heart. Breathe slowly and pray:

- **Inhale**: "Fear not, little flock…"
- **Exhale**: "…for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Repeat this throughout the day when you feel anxious, when you make financial decisions, or when you practice generosity. Over time, this prayer reminds and retrains your body and soul to rest in God's care. It anchors you in the reality that you are safe in His hands, free to live with open hands.

Prayer
"Father, thank You that my life is more than possessions. Thank You that You delight to give me the kingdom. Teach me to trust You more fully, and to live with open hands. Show me where I can give joyfully this week. Amen."

The Way of Jesus
Week 4

Date:
Speaker:
Main Scripture: Luke 12v35-48

SERMON TITLE

Watchful Faith

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

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

Quote:

“The test of a man’s life is not found in the extraordinary moments, but in his steady obedience to God when no one is watching.”
- Oswald Chambers

“True readiness for the Lord’s coming is found not in anxious watching, but in the quiet daily abiding in Him.”
- Andrew Murray

Week 4: Reflect and Discuss

1. In vv35–38, Jesus calls His disciples to be “dressed and ready.” What might “readiness” look like in your everyday life right now?

2. How does the surprising twist – that the Master will serve His ready servants – shape your view of Jesus’ heart toward His followers?

3. Jesus compares His coming to a thief in the night (vv39–40). Where are you tempted to grow spiritually sleepy or distracted instead of alert to Him?

4. Readiness in this passage is not frantic activity but steady, faithful obedience. What ordinary practices help anchor you in faithfulness to Jesus?

5. If you knew Jesus was returning tomorrow, what is one thing you’d change in how you live today? What would it look like to begin living that way now?

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.

Practice: Learning to Abide

"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning,
like servants waiting for their master to return
from a wedding banquet."
Luke 12v35–36

Jesus' call to be ready is not about restless activity or anxious striving. Readiness is a life of steady obedience, rooted in His presence. Faithfulness in the ordinary is what prepares us for the extraordinary.

Jesus says it like this: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15v5).

Andrew Murray, writing in *Abide in Christ*, echoes this truth: "It is not the doing of some great thing that secures the blessing, but the abiding in Christ, in daily faithfulness, that prepares us to meet Him with joy."

Faithfulness, then, is not about being busy *for* Jesus, but being steady *with* Jesus. In every moment, whether seen or unseen, we live watchfully by remaining in Him. As we abide, even our smallest tasks become training grounds for readiness.

The Practice
We want to live in readiness by abiding making space for God in the ordinary and everyday moments of life. Try this:

1. **Choose one daily task:** making a meal, driving to work, tidying a room.

2. **Begin with a prayer** of abiding:
    - “Jesus, I am in You, and You are in me.”
    - Or, simply, “Abide in me, Lord, as I abide in You.”

3. **Do the task in His presence**. Let the ordinary become sacred by remembering: God is here, even in this. If you’re doing work (whether in the office or around the home), talk with Him as you go about the work or even remind yourself to do that task as if it for Him (do the task to the tune of Colossians 3v23: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters”).

4. **End with surrender**. When the task is finished, pause: “Lord, may my faithfulness in little things prepare me for Your greater things.”

Reflect:

- Where in your daily life do you struggle to connect faithfulness with God’s presence?
- How might abiding with Christ in the small tasks reshape how you think about readiness for His return?
- What one task this week could you intentionally turn into a moment of watchful abiding?

Watchfulness is not a frantic preparation for tomorrow; it is steady abiding in Christ today. And this abiding is readiness.

“As you daily abide in Christ, you will learn that readiness for His coming is simply the blessed life of living in Him moment by moment.” Andrew Murray

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?
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

Global Missions Interest Meeting (Sept 28)
God is at work around the world—and we're excited to join Him! In 2026, Community will be sending teams to Kenya and Indonesia. If you're interested in learning more, join us for an Interest Meeting on Sunday, September 28 (11:30am; Kenya, room 100; Indonesia, in the Prayer Room). Come hear the vision, get the details, and discover how you can be part of what God is doing globally.

The Upper Room
Prayer is the heartbeat of Community. That's why we've created The Upper Room—a dedicated space to encounter God, listen, and intercede for our church, our city, and the world. This fall, we're inviting you to step in and experience it for yourself.

Check out the fall schedule and come pray:
findcommunity.com/prayerroom

NOTES:

COMMUNITY
CHURCH RANCHO