



Ripple  
Effect

MODULE 3 | **The Real Jesus**

**Training Guide**



## Session 5

# Which passages in Luke's Gospel?

**Key idea:** *Jesus' teaching on forgiveness is rich and nuanced. He also teaches on justice, judgement and repentance. Forgiveness is only one possible theme we could trace through Luke's Gospel.*

**Key encouragement:** *Jesus has an encouragement or challenge for everyone. If one story doesn't easily connect with someone, there will be another story that does.*

**Practical challenge:** *Think through which particular passage(s) you would like to read with each of the five people you are praying for.*

**Session goals:**

- *Discuss different aspects of Jesus' teaching on forgiveness.*
- *Recognise that there are many different paths you could take through Luke's Gospel.*
- *Pray for each other and each other's friends.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 5.

We are taking a forgiveness-themed journey through Luke's Gospel. Jesus' teaching on forgiveness is rich and nuanced. He also teaches on justice, judgement and repentance. While everyone needs to hear all that Jesus says about forgiveness, people might start their journey in different places because of their life experiences and worldviews.

### Share

Choose one of the following to share about:

- Which passage from Luke 11-14 did you choose for an in-depth read? Why did you choose this one?
- Share stories of evangelistic opportunities God gave you this week. These might be conversations you are grateful for or ones that didn't go as you hoped. They might be interesting conversations with potential or clear answers to our prayers.
- How did inviting someone to read Luke's Gospel with you go? Who will you see or speak with this week that you would also like to invite?

**Pray**

As you read Luke's Gospel you discover that Jesus meets people where they are at and relates to them individually. He doesn't take a 'one size fits all' approach.

- | Thank God that Jesus knows us by name.
- | Ask God to help us know and love the people he has placed in our life.
- | Pray these things for yourself, each other and your friends.

**Train*****Luke's Gospel***

From this session forward, different people will be facilitating our discussion on Luke's Gospel. This will give each of us practice at doing it.

1. Read Luke 18:1-14 and discuss the three questions:
  - a. Jesus: What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
  - b. People: What do we learn about the people who met Jesus?
  - c. Me: What is my response to Jesus and this story?
2. Review your discussion.
  - a. Think back to each of the three questions: Jesus. People. Me. What comments or additional questions helped keep discussion focused on Jesus, moving forward and going deeper?
  - b. Did discussing a passage with multiple stories change the way the three questions operated? If so, how?
  - c. What does this passage add to our discussion about forgiveness?
  - d. What aspects of the passage would you like to have discussed, or to have discussed more fully, if you had your time again?

***Skill: Which passages?***

Jesus' teaching on forgiveness and its related ideas is multifaceted, and the angle on forgiveness that he begins with when talking with a person seems to depend on a person's particular circumstances, values and/or griefs. While we all need all of Jesus' teaching on forgiveness, wisdom might lead us to begin conversation in one place rather than another.

1. Think of one of the five people you are praying for. Spend a few minutes considering which one of the following questions might be helpful for them to wrestle with as they investigate Jesus. Share with the group which question you chose and why.

Please note that these questions are often complex, nuanced and emotional. The answers below are brief and incomplete, and don't do anything more than suggest a possible trajectory for conversation. For further reading on the challenges of forgiveness read *Forgive: Why Should I and How Can I?* by Tim Keller.

- a. Do I really need forgiveness?

Yes. No one loves God and their neighbour with all their heart, soul, strength and mind. People enjoy God's gifts without honouring the God who gives them life. Luke 10:25-37, 12:13-21.

- b. Am I too bad to be forgiven?

No one is too bad for forgiveness. Jesus forgave anyone who was willing to receive it. Luke 7:36-50, 15:11-32.

- c. Does forgiveness mean that God doesn't care about justice?

The cross demonstrates God's justice and mercy. Sin is punished and forgiveness is offered. The risen Jesus will return and judge. He calls his followers to care for and protect vulnerable people while we wait for him to return. Luke 10:25-37, 18:15-17, 35-43.

- d. Is suffering evidence that God has not forgiven someone and is punishing them instead?

The relationship between sin, judgement and suffering is complex. Jesus recognises the existence of unjust suffering and warns his followers not to assume that if someone is suffering then it is their own fault. Luke 13:1-9, 18:1-8.

- e. Does receiving God's forgiveness really change anything?

When Jesus forgives people they are welcomed into God's family. This gives them the freedom of a genuinely new start. Luke 7:36-50, 19:1-10.

2. Forgiveness is not the only theme we could trace through Luke's Gospel and other themes might be a better entry point towards Jesus for someone. Think of another of the five people you are praying for. Answer some of the following questions as you are able.
- a. What do they hope or long for?
  - b. What do they value or fear?
  - c. What misunderstandings about God, people, themselves or the world do they have?
  - d. Given this, are there any passages in Luke's Gospel that you would like to ask God to give you an opportunity to share with them?
3. Pray. Thank God that Jesus recognises the complexity of our lives. Ask God to give us the sensitivity and wisdom we need to know which stories to share with our family and friends.

### **Revise**

Read Luke 15:1-19:27 in one sitting. Here Luke records many of Jesus' parables and teachings. Choose one passage from Luke 15:1-19:27 that you think might be relevant to one of the five people you are praying for. For this passage answer the three questions:

- Jesus: What do we learn about Jesus?
- People: What do we learn about the people who met Jesus?
- Me: What is my response to Jesus and these stories?

Answer the Me question from both your perspective and your friend or family member's perspective.

Invite another person to read Luke's Gospel with you.

- Look back at the Session 3 Skill: Questions 3-4. Choose another one of the five people you are praying for that you will either see or speak with this week and work through these questions.
- Pray for an opportunity. Plan for an opportunity. Take a deep breath and invite them to read Luke's Gospel with you.
- If asking someone to read Luke's Gospel with you feels like a bridge too far at the moment, consider asking a Christian friend to read a passage in Luke's Gospel with you to help you practice.

Connect with other group members during the week.

- Share with each other which passage you chose for an in-depth reading and why you chose it, or your plans to invite someone to read Luke with you, or how God has been answering our prayers.





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