



MODULE 3 | **The Real Jesus**

Leader's Guide

Session 6

How we are forgiven

Key idea: *Jesus' death and resurrection is the event that secures our forgiveness. The innocent and powerful king dies in the place of, and at the hands of, guilty people so that we can be forgiven.*

Key encouragement: *There is a lot you already know about how to read Luke's Gospel well.*

Practical challenge: *Notice how many 'Christian' words you use and 'Christian' concepts you assume. Try to explain them in everyday language.*

Session goals:

- *Discuss how and why Jesus died.*
- *Consider how to explain Christian ideas in everyday language.*
- *Pray for each other and each other's friends.*

Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 6.

Jesus' death and resurrection is the event that secures our forgiveness. The innocent and powerful king dies in the place of, and at the hands of, guilty people so that we can be forgiven. Everything in Luke's Gospel, indeed, everything in the Old Testament, has been leading up to this.

Share

Choose one of the following to share about:

- Which passage from Luke 15:1-19:27 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

Jesus knew that the cross was ahead of him when he set out for Jerusalem. This was why he came into the world.

Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again."

The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.

Luke 18:31-34 (NIV)

- I Use this passage and the sharing time to guide your prayers for yourself, each other, and your friends.

Train

Luke's Gospel

This is where you hand over to the group member who is leading the discussion on Luke 23:32-49. Invite everyone in the group to make life easier for the facilitator by offering answers, asking questions, and helping the discussion move forward. Everyone is going to take a turn at this, so invite people to make it a positive experience for everyone.

Having been betrayed, tried and condemned to death despite his innocence, Jesus is executed.

1. Read Luke 23:32-49 and discuss the three questions:
 - a. Jesus: What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
 - *What does Jesus say or do?*
 - *What happens to him or is said about him?*
 - *How does Jesus feel?*
 - *What do we learn about his identity and character?*
 - *What is his relationship with God and people like?*
 - b. People: What do we learn about the people who met Jesus?
 - *Who is present at Jesus' death?*
 - *How do they relate to Jesus?*
 - *What do we learn about their character and motives?*
 - *What do they think about Jesus' relationship with God?*
 - *How does this help us understand why Jesus died?*
 - c. Me: What is my response to Jesus and this story?
 - *Who am I most like in the story?*
 - *How does the story make me feel?*
 - *What do I imagine when I picture these events?*

- *Why do I think Jesus died?*
- *Do I think this really happened?*

2. Review your discussion.

Thank your group member for leading the discussion as you start the review section. Give them helpful encouragement and feedback in this section. We want all group members to have a positive experience at leading discussion so that they are willing to read Luke's Gospel with a non-Christian friend or family member.

- 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. What does this story teach us about forgiveness?
 - *The innocent king saves guilty people instead of himself. He dies the death that we deserve so that we can be forgiven.*
 - *It shows how much our forgiveness cost Jesus and the extent of his love for us.*
- c. What aspects of the passage would you like to have discussed, or to have discussed more fully, if you had your time again?

3. Explain, in simple English and without 'Christian' technical language, how the death of Jesus brings people forgiveness.

Help people get clearer and clearer about how to explain this. You could refer to the explanation that Jeri and Dave gave in the introduction video.

Skill: Giving context

When we talk about Jesus and read the Bible with people, it's helpful to be aware of how many 'Christian' words and concepts we use without noticing it. For example, first century words and practices that are no longer current, Old Testament references, or theological words and ideas. Even everyday Christian words like grace, gospel and sin can fall into this category. It's useful to notice Christian words so that we can explain them in everyday language to people who are unfamiliar with the Bible, Jesus and Christianity.

1. Look back at Luke 23:32-49.
 - a. Make a list of words or ideas that might be unfamiliar, confusing, or missed by someone who was reading Luke for the first time.

- *References to events, people or places that we are unfamiliar with.*
 - *Crucifixion. What happened? Why was it used? What crimes did it apply to?*
 - *Jews. Centurion.*
 - *The curtain of the temple being torn in two.*
- *Old Testament references which guide our interpretation of the passage.*
 - *Divided up clothes. Cf Psalm 22.*
 - *Numbered with transgressors. Cf Isaiah 53.*
 - *Messiah. Christ. King of the Jews.*
 - *Son of God.*
- *Theological words or links.*
 - *Righteous.*
 - *What is the connection between sin and death?*

- b. Try and explain, in everyday English, a couple of the words or ideas you identified in Question 1a.

Choose a couple of the more significant words and ideas we identified.

- c. How many of these words and ideas would it be helpful to explain when reading Luke's Gospel with someone?

Explain the ones they ask about or which significantly impact interpretation. You don't want to explain so much that your discussion becomes a lecture, or that people leave thinking the Bible is super hard to understand. Different people and personalities might require more or less information.

2. How could you help someone gain an overview of Luke's Gospel so that they better understand the context for the stories you read together?

Encourage people to read through the whole of Luke, just as we are doing in RE3. Or listen to it via an Audio Bible in the car or on public transport.

Watch the Jesus Film together. This film is based on Luke's Gospel and is available in many languages. It has its limitations and it doesn't replace reading Luke, but it can give people a lot of helpful context in a short space of time.

Encourage them to use a Bible translation in their first language.

3. Pray. Thank God for the grace and humility of Christ, that led him to die on the cross so that we might be forgiven. Ask God to help us be amazed and moved by Jesus' love for us.

For Session 7: Ask a group member to lead discussion on Luke 24:36-53 using the three questions. Ask them to spend 20 minutes preparing using the three questions and the Expansion Questions document attached to Session 2. Share the Leader's Guide for Session 7 with them so that they have access to the expansion question ideas for Luke 24:36-53.

Even though they are only leading Luke's Gospel Question 1, encourage them to read the whole session so that they see how the passage connects to the 'forgiveness' theme and the Skill.

Revise

Read Luke 19:28-23:49 in one sitting. Here Jesus talks about his coming death so that when it happens we know what it means. Choose one short passage from within these chapters and 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?

Look back at the Loving your Neighbour tables in Session 4.

- Act on at least one of these ideas this week.

Connect with other group members during the week.

- Share with each other your plans to love your neighbour, or, how God has been answering our prayers.

After Session Reflection

- *Send encouraging feedback to the person who facilitated discussion this session.*
- *Contact the person facilitating discussion on Luke 24:36-53 next session and check that they understand their role.*
- *Send them a copy of the Leader's Guide for Session 7 to help their preparation.*
- *Offer to chat through the passage and the three questions.*
- *Remind them to use the Expansion Questions document attached to Session 2.*
- *Pray with them.*

Keep learning at
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