

Read Luke 1:1-4. What do we learn in these verses about who is writing?

about why he is writing?

about what he intends to write?

about who he is writing to?

Read Luke 1:5-7. What do we learn about Zechariah and Elizabeth?

Read Luke 1:8-12.

Read Luke 1:13-17. What do we learn about the child to be born?

Read Luke 1:18-23. Is what happens to Zechariah a punishment or a sign?

Read Luke 1:26-38. What do we learn about Mary in these verses?

What do we learn about the one to be born?

Read Luke 1:39-45. Who is pronouncing the blessings? Is this normal?

Read 1:46-56. What things are spoken of in the past tense?

Have these things already happened?

Read Luke 1:57-66. What is the response of the people?

Read Luke 1:67-80. What has God promised?

What will John do?

Are the people who are described in this chapter lacking in any way? What do they already have?

Read Luke 2:1-7. If you were reading these verses for the first time and could forget what you have learned from all the Christmas carols, sermons, cards and things you have read, what emphasis would you notice in this passage?

What are we told about Mary?

What are we told about the location of Jesus' birth?

Read Luke 2:8-20. Why was the angel sent to shepherds?

What do you notice as you read this passage?

Read Luke 2:21-24. What do these verse tell us about Jesus' family?

Read Luke 2:25-40. What are we told about Anna and about Simeon? What characteristics do they share with others we have encountered in these first two chapters?

In verses 34 and 35 Simeon gives a prophecy? How do you interpret this prophecy?

Read Luke 2:41-52. Do you belong to God more than you belong to your family?

How does Mary react to what Jesus has done? Has Jesus broken the 4th Commandment?

Read Luke 3:1-6. If you were to prepare the way of the Lord in your life, what would you do?

Read Luke 3:7-9. What are the people putting their confidence in? What does John say about this?

Read Luke 3:10-14. John speaks of three responses to his message. What do these three responses have in common?

Do John's words still apply to us and our preparing for God?

Read Luke 3:15-17. What impression do you get about the one who is to come?

Does John identify this one who is to come?

Read Luke 3:18-22. What is the purpose of the baptism of Jesus? Does the Spirit come upon Jesus at the time of Jesus' baptism?

Read Luke 3:23-38. What is the importance of Jesus' genealogy? To whom is Jesus related?

Read Luke 4:1-4. Are you tempted to "live by bread alone"? Look up Deuteronomy 8:3. What is the alternative to "living by bread alone"?

Are you ever tempted to want more than God provides for you?

Read Luke 4:5-8. What does it mean to "worship"? Who or what does our culture worship? If use of time and money reveal what we worship, what does your use of time and money say about your worship?

Read Luke 4:9-12. Have you ever put God to the test? What happened?

Read Luke 4:14-30. How does Jesus treat the people in his hometown?

How do they treat him?

Who is in charge here?

Read Luke 4:31-37. What does Jesus encounter in the holy place?

Have you ever encountered anything in the church that you did not expect to be there?

Read Luke 4:38-44. What impression of Jesus do you get from these verses?

Read Luke 5:1-11. How does Peter respond to what Jesus requests?

How does Peter respond to the catch of fish?

What did Peter leave behind?

Is Jesus the means to an end (a great catch of fish – healing – peace of mind) or is he himself the end (goal, reason) for you? Which was he for Peter?

Read Luke 5:12-16. (Background – Leviticus 13&14)

“To be made clean” referred to being ceremonially clean, not physically clean. Those who were “clean” were able to be among others who were “clean” and only those who were clean could approach the Lord through the temple cult. According to the interpretation of God’s law Jesus became unclean when he touched this man who had leprosy. (See Lev. 13:45-46) Which is more powerful, defilement or the cleansing power of Jesus?

Read Luke 5:17-26. (see Luke 4:18) What do the Pharisees object to?

What does the man that is forgiven and healed do or say to merit forgiveness and healing?

What must you do or say to be forgiven or healed? Can someone else bring you to Jesus in prayer? Can you bring someone else to Jesus?

Read Luke 5:27-32. (Background – Leviticus 10:10; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13)

Is sin contagious? Is good contagious?

If a teenager starts hanging out with the wrong crowd what will happen?

Read Luke 5:33-39. What is new and what is old? Can they be combined?

What is new about Jesus?

Is Jesus’ newness evident in those who follow him?

Read Luke 6:1-5. Is the Sabbath command of relative or absolute importance?

Is this true of all the commandments?

Read Luke 6:6-11. Does Jesus intend to provoke the Pharisees?

Is Jesus content to leave people just the way they are?

Read Luke 6:12-16. Why were these chosen? Why has Jesus chosen you?

Read Luke 6:17-19. Why do people come to Jesus? Why do you?

Read Luke 6:20-26. Which of these blessings and woes apply to Jesus' disciples?

Do you find these verses to be good news?

Is God the giver of happiness, wealth, food and prosperity?

Some Bible scholars say that God has a special concern for the poor. Do you think this is true?

Read Luke 6:27-31. Could you live these words? Do you think that Jesus hopes you will?

Does Jesus want an abused child to continue to suffer the abuse silently? An abused woman?

Read Luke 6:32-36. Who does Jesus invite you to be like?

Do you want to be like God?

Read Luke 6:37-38. Are these words true even without taking God into account or is God the one who gives us back what we have given?

Read Luke 6:39-42. Have you ever known anyone who wanted to "fix" everyone else when he himself needed "fixing"? Have you ever done that?

Read Luke 6:43-45. How is this section related to the one that went before it (39-42)?

How does all of this relate to prayer and discipline?

Read Luke 6:46-49. On what foundation do you build your life?

Read Luke 7:1-10. Is the centurion humbling himself before Jesus?

Is this healing like the healings that follow our intercessory prayers?

Who is in charge in this story?

Read Luke 7:11-17. Who is in charge in this story?

Does anyone request anything of Jesus or demonstrate faith in Jesus in this story?

Why does Jesus raise the woman's son? For whose sake is this miracle accomplished?

Based on the healing of the centurion's slave and the widow's son is there any pattern to Jesus' healings?

Is it possible that God would bless us for the sake of others and not for our own sake?

If life is a great drama, do you have a leading role or are you a supporting actress or actor?

Read Luke 7:18-23. Compare this passage with John's words in 1:16-17. What did John expect of the one who was coming?

Compare this passage with Luke 4:16-21. Who has taken offense at Jesus?

What do you expect from Jesus? Is this what Jesus promises you?

Read Luke 7:24-30. What about John made him the greatest one born of a woman?

What makes the one who is least in the kingdom of God greater than John?

Read Luke 7:31-35. Who has "played with" Jesus and John and who has not?  
What does it mean for us to join in Jesus' game?

Read Luke 7:36-50. What information are we given about the woman?

Who provides this information? Is it disputed or affirmed by Jesus?

Jesus reads Simon's mind. Is it possible to know what another is thinking by observing that person?

When someone has done something for you how do you feel about that person?

When you do something for someone how do you feel about that person?

Had this woman's sins been forgiven previously? Does Jesus' argument make sense if they had not been forgiven previously?

How do you understand Jesus' statement, "Your faith has saved you"? What faith did she have?

Read Luke 8:1-3. How do you think Joanna's husband thought about Jesus being supported by his wife?

Did the woman travel with Jesus and his disciples? If so, how would that be regarded today?

Read Luke 8:4-8 . If you were hearing this parable for the first time what would you think about it? What is the overall impression left by the parable?

Is the meaning of this parable clear to you?

Read Luke 8:9-10

What is the purpose of speaking in parables?

Who understands? Who does not?

Can you think of a time when you heard but did not really understand or saw but did not perceive?

Read Luke 8:11-15.

Who or what is the doer in this parable? Does this fit with the original telling of the parable?

Which type of soil are you?

What sort of fruit is the word intended to produce? What word has Jesus spoken thus far in this gospel?

Read Luke 8:16. To what does this saying refer? Is it connected with the parable of the sower?

Is there a lamp in your life that you hide under a jar?

Read Luke 8:17. To what does this verse refer? Is this verse good news or bad news?

Read Luke 8:18.

What is this verse about? How did you listen to Luke 6:21-26; 27-28. Describe different ways one could listen to these verses?

Read Luke 8:19-21.

How is Jesus' family determined? To whom is this good news? To whom is this bad news?

Is it enough to hear the word of God? What more is needed?

Read Luke 8:22-25.

How would the disciples have reacted differently if they had had faith? Would the outcome have been the same?

Is anything changed by faith?

Is there power in faith or is faith a response to God's power?

Is there power in prayer or is prayer a request for God's power?

Read Luke 8:26-39. Where do the people want this man? Is this for his sake or for theirs?

Is this man among the living or the dead?

Why are the people afraid?

In this story are three things that are unclean (tombs, unclean spirit, pigs). Is uncleanness powerful?

Read Luke 8:40-48. The woman was unclean according to Leviticus 15:25-31. What affect did her touch have on Jesus according to God's law? What affect did her touching Jesus have?

What does Jesus call the woman? Is Jesus' relationship to her the same as Jairus' relationship to the 12 year-old girl?

Read Luke 8:49-56. A corpse is unclean. What affect does Jesus' touching her have?

In what sense were the man in the tombs and the woman who hemorrhaged and the young girl all are dead and then resurrected?

What do these four stories teach about faith, Jesus' power, being saved (the word translated "made well" is the same as the word, "saved") and who might expect to receive Jesus' help?

Read Luke 9:1-6. Do the disciples do the same things as Jesus? Do we? Are you sent out by Jesus? If so what are you to proclaim?

What is the purpose of the instruction in vs. 3?

Does vs. 5 imply a limit to the readiness of God to receive a person? Is God always open to a person or is there a time in which God is open?

Read Luke 9:7-9. How did people seek to understand Jesus? Will any of these ways of understanding him prove adequate?

Is God doing something new in Jesus or returning to something old?

What is God doing in this congregation – something new or returning to something in the past?

Read Luke 9:10-17. Jesus "spoke to them about the kingdom of God". What do you think this means?

Was Jesus ministry primarily spiritual or primarily physical? Is the ministry of Christ Lutheran primarily spiritual or primarily physical?

Compare 9:16 with 22:19 and 24:30. Do you think there is a connection?

Read Luke 9:18-22. How have people understood Jesus' role? How does Peter?

Is what Jesus speaks of in vs. 22 a fulfillment of an old pattern or expectation or is it something new?

Is vs. 22 a plan or a prediction?

Read Luke 9:23-27. How does the word "daily" affect what we would understand the cross to be?

What is a "cross" to bear and what is not? Is all suffering a cross?

Read Luke 9:28-36. What departure are they talking about? (the word for departure is also the Greek word for exodus) What exodus would take place for Jesus at Jerusalem?  
What else has happened when Jesus was praying?

Do you think this happened during the day or at night?

If this event is about the relationship of the past to Jesus and his followers what is being said?

Why do you think the disciples kept silent?

Read Luke 9:37-43. What is described by the man? Is there any indication the problem is spiritual? Any indication the problem is physical?

Who is Jesus referring to when he says: "You faithless and perverse generation"?

Is Jesus weary? Can God get weary?

For whose sake is the child healed?

Read Luke 9:43b-45. Why did the disciples not understand? Are they to be faulted for their lack of understanding?

What do you not understand about God?

Is what you do not understand about God a bigger problem for you than the things you do understand about God?

Read Luke 9:46-48. The status of a child in that day was very low. What is the status of an ambassador as compared to the status of the country that she/he represents?

What status is Jesus claiming for the child here?

Is this saying about the least and greatest reflected in the Christian church?

Is this saying about the least and the greatest reflected in Christ Lutheran?

Read Luke 9:49-50. What does this incident say about insiders and outsiders in the Christian church?

Has the saying in verse 50 been reflected in how we think about ourselves and others?

Read 9:51:56. How do the disciples think Jesus power should be used? How will it be used?

Did the Samaritans reject Jesus or did Jesus not allow them to receive him? What about people who do not believe – are they at fault?

Read Luke 9:57-62 What is the cost of following Jesus? Does Jesus demand to come first?

Have you ever been faced with a decision to follow Jesus or to carry out another responsibility?

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Read Luke 10:1-20.

70 – number of elders chosen by Moses Ex. 24:1; Numbers 11:16,24

- offspring of Jacob Exodus 1:5; Deut. 10:22

- nations listed in Genesis 10:2-31 - 70 in the Hebrew text

- 72 in the Greek translation of Old Testament

Pairs in Acts: Paul and Barnabas 13:1

Paul and Silas 15:40

Peter and John 8:14

Barnabas and Mark 15:40

Judas and Silas 15:32

What is the harvest? Are the 70 laborers in the harvest? Is Jesus looking for more laborers?

Either peace rests on a place or dust is wiped off as a sign of judgement. Do grace and judgement always go together? Can you have one without the other? Who brings the judgement on a town?

Satan falling from heaven – see Rev. 12:9-12; Zech. 3:1-2

What is changed by the work of the 70? Is there anything present in this missionary activity that is not present in the activity of the disciples after Jesus' resurrection? Is there anything absent in this mission that we would see in missions after Jesus' resurrection?

Read Luke 10:21-24.

What is the source of Jesus' joy? What is the content?

To what does "these things" refer?

God reveals and hides. Is God fair in this?

What does this passage indicate about insiders and outsiders? Who are the insiders with Jesus? Outsiders?

Read Luke 10:25-28.

Look at Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Leviticus 19:17-18.

Recall the confession of sin in our liturgy.

Did Jesus keep this law of loving God and neighbor?

Read Luke 10:29-37.

The lawyer wanted to find out that he was already doing what he needed to be doing to be saved. Do you seek the same when you listen to a sermon? Do you hope to hear you are already doing God's will or do you seek to understand what God's will is?

Who are you most like in the parable – the Samaritan, the man who was robbed, the Levite, the priest or the innkeeper?

What are the competing loyalties that interfere with your loving God with all your heart and soul and strength?

What are the competing loyalties that interfere with your loving your neighbor as yourself?

Read Luke 10:38-42.

Whose home was it? Who was in charge there?

Does being responsible get in the way of your having time for Jesus?

What things are you choosing in your life?

Did Jesus expect Martha to sit and listen to him? Did he compare the sisters? Did he speak about Mary carrying her fair share?

Martha is made unhappy in her serving by the leisure of Mary. Has this ever happened to you? What have you found helpful in dealing with feelings carrying the load alone?

The story of Mary and Martha is a story of sibling rivalry. From this story who do you think was the elder, who the younger? In scripture, who does God most often choose, the elder or the younger?

Read Luke 11:1-4. What do you think Jesus was praying about? What was he praying for?

Do you think Jesus prayed parts of the prayer he taught? All of this prayer?

Read Luke 11:5-8. Would you go to a neighbor and beg food at midnight?

The word translated “persistence” is really “shamelessness”. Are you likely to be persistent? Are you likely to be shameless? What would it mean to be shameless before God?

Read Luke 11:9-13. Are verses 9-10 general truths? Have these verses been true or false in your experience?

Do you think the disciples spent weeks praying for the Holy Spirit before the day of Pentecost?

Is the Holy Spirit the best gift that God has to give? Do we receive the Holy Spirit in baptism? Is there any evidence?

Read Luke 11:14-23. What is the kingdom of God?

Can evil people do good things? Are people evil or good or are their deeds evil or good?

What does Jesus gather?

Read Luke 11:24-26. Is it enough to drive out evil? What more is needed?

Does this parable have anything to suggest about the mission of the church?

Read Luke 11:27-28. How is closeness to Jesus measured?

Why do we think of ourselves as belonging more to those with whom we have kinship? Is kinship part of the kingdom of God?

Read Luke 11:29-32. What signs do people ask for today? What signs of faith do we believe in?

What should we desire instead of signs?

Read Luke 11:33-36. What is the light? Who are “those who come in”?

Look at Isaiah 49:6. Israel was to have been a light to the nations. Does Jesus assume this role? Read Luke 11:37-54.

Why is Jesus upset with the Pharisees and the lawyers?

Whom do they harm?

Jesus does not react against their outward appearance but what is within. What was within that Jesus attacked?

Does Jesus have mercy on the Pharisees and lawyers? Why does he reserve his wrath for them rather than for sinners?

What are signs that we are becoming like the Pharisees and the lawyers?

Read Luke 12:1-12. How did Jesus communicate with crowds numbering thousands (literally tens of thousands)?

Is the uncovering of what is secret good or bad news? What might a person's reaction to this verse teach one about oneself?

What context do you imagine for verse #3? Is Jesus speaking secretly or openly?

Whom do you fear? Whom does Jesus say you should fear?

Can you be without fear?

If you truly knew God would you be more afraid or less afraid?

Does Jesus fear God?

What would it mean to acknowledge Jesus before others in your life?

Read Luke 12:13-21. What role does Jesus reject? Why do you think he rejected this role?

Should Christians save for the future?

Is retirement pleasing to God? When did the idea of retirement first occur?

What good is accomplished by people retiring? How is society harmed?

Is an endowment fund maintained by a church a violation of what Jesus teaches here?

In financial matters are you more ruled by God or by our culture? Is the church more ruled by God or by our culture?

In what ways does wealth leave us more alone? In what ways does poverty isolate people?

Read Luke 12:22-32. Are these verses to be taken seriously? Literally?

What would change in your life if you believed and followed this teaching of Jesus?

What would you fight a war for? Would you fight a war to bring aid to starving orphans?  
Would you fight a war to keep the price of oil low?

How do you think God regards our attitude toward material things?

Read Luke 12:33-34? Where is your treasure? Where is your heart?

What is the goal of advertising?

What effect does comparing yourself to your neighbors have on your “needs”? What effect does a community of like-minded people have on perceived “needs”?

Read Luke 12:35-48.

What is the tone of vs. 35-28?

What is the tone of vs. 39-40?

What is the tone of vs. 41-48?

Does the word of Jesus’ coming again seem more threat to you or promise?

What responsibilities has the Lord entrusted to you?

What are the signs of your readiness for your Lord’s return?

Read Luke 12:49-53. How might the gospel divide a family?

How might Jesus demands about money divide a family?

Are there any divisions evident so far in this gospel?

Read Luke 12:54-56. Are there signs in the present that we should be heeding? How would our behavior change if we did?

Read Luke 12:57-59. What is Jesus calling us to do in this passage? How does this fit with vs. 53?

Read Luke 13:1-5. Is there any connection between righteousness and blessings? Is there any connection between tragedy and sin?

Read Luke 13:6-9. Is this parable a warning or a message of hope?

Does God give up on people?

Read Luke 13:10-17. What does the spirit do to the woman? Who is at work through the spirit that is in this woman?

Who takes the initiative in this encounter?

The word “ought” in verses 14 and 16 translates the Greek word, “dei” meaning “it is necessary”. When Jesus speaks of his dying on the cross and resurrection in Luke 24:26 he uses this word. What is necessary for you in living out your faith in Jesus Christ? Observing religious requirements (Sabbath)? Freeing those who are bound?

Is there any bondage from which you need to be set free? Have you prayed to Jesus about this?

How does Christ Lutheran continue this freeing work of Jesus?

Luke 13:18-21. Is there anything surprising in these parables? In order to understand God's rule does Jesus use examples from international politics or from peasant life? Is this important?

What do you learn about the kingdom of God in these parables?

Read Luke 13:22-30. Does Jesus answer the question in vs. 23? Is it important that we know the answer to this question? What is important to each of us?

Jesus refers to limits of space (narrow) and time (once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door). How do you understand these limits? Are they the same?

Who is speaking in verse 26? What evil do you think they have done? Do they acknowledge Jesus as Lord? How are they like us? Different from us?

What effect does Jesus hope his teachings here will have on us when we read them?

Would you say that you are making a (choose one) great, large, moderate, modest, small, insignificant effort to enter the kingdom of God? Of what does your effort consist?

If you had to pick words which describe Christ Lutheran what words would you choose? Committed, complacent, striving, strident, confident, full of faith (faithful), full of fear (fearful), generous, bold, stingy, timid, courageous.

What words from the list above might the people who live adjacent to the church building use to describe this congregation?

Read Luke 13:31-35. Who is the fox and who is the hen? Will the fox get the hen?

Look at Luke 19:38 and Psalm 118:26-27. Jesus seems to be saying that his death will come at the time of God's choosing (see also Luke 4:29,30). Who controls Jesus future? Was this obvious to those who saw what happened to him?

How does your life demonstrate that God is in control of your future?

Read Luke 14:1-6. Dropsy is edema – an abnormal accumulation of serous fluid in connective tissues or cavities of the body accompanied by swelling, distention, or defective circulation.

What is the purpose of Sabbath observation? Honoring God? Being tested on how well we can keep the rules? Rest?

How does Jesus use Sabbath time?

What is the most significant thing you do to honor God? Keep the rules? Follow religious practice? Help those in need?

Read Luke 14:7-14. Verses 8-10 are called a parable. Is this a teaching that we are to follow literally or a story the points to a deeper truth? If the purpose of life in this world is to attain the highest position for ourselves what is the purpose of life in the kingdom of God?

Do you live more by the purposes of the kingdom of God or the purposes of the world?

Jesus speaks to situations of daily living. Who does your daily living reflect that you are a Christian? In your home? At work? In your leisure time? At church?

Read Luke 14:15-24. What point is Jesus making?

Have you ever made an excuse to get out of an invitation you received? How did you feel after you made the excuse? Do you think the person you made the excuse to felt different about you afterward? Did you feel differently about that person?

What invitations does God give you?

Read Luke 14:25-33. How do these verses fit with the parable that precedes it? Those who refused the invitation? Those who were at the banquet?

What point is Jesus making? Is this an invitation?

Read Luke 14:34. What does this verse say to you? What does this verse mean in the context in which it is found in this gospel?

Read Luke 15:1-10. What point is Jesus making in these parables? What is the significance of calling the friends and neighbors?

What are the scribes and the Pharisees complaining about?

Do you think the tax collectors and sinners were repentant? Is there any indication of repentance in the parables?

Read Luke 15:11-32. Who is in charge in this parable? What realization causes the son to return? Has he repented?

What changed in the speech he prepared to the speech he gave? Why do you think this change occurred?

What does the father want from the older brother?

What does the older brother want from the father?

What do the Pharisees want from Jesus?

What does Jesus want from the Pharisees?

Why do you think there are so many parties and celebrations in these parables(14:15-24, 15:3-32)?

Read Luke 16:1-13. What is the surprise in this parable?

What do you think Jesus wants to teach us through this surprise?

Why do people believe in Jesus? Is it because we hope to escape what we deserve?

Does God commend us for being wise in using Jesus to our advantage?

What is the point of verses 10-13? Does this point fit with the parable?

Sometimes children do not think that parents really love them but love what the child can do for them (e.g. get good grades so that parents will look good, score a goal in soccer so the parents do not feel like such failures). Is God showing love for us to make us more useful?

How does this parable compare to the parable of the prodigal son?

Read Luke 16:14-18. Do you love God or love money?

What is the purpose of the law? Why is divorce prohibited?

In the parable of the unjust steward the steward and the master both know how the steward is – no one is trying to fool anyone. Does God know how we are? Are we trying to convince God of something that is not true – that we are good?

What is the first thing you think of when you hear the law about divorce? What does the law do in us?

Read Luke 16:19-31. What does the poor man do in the parable?

Why do you think the gate is mentioned?

What would you expect the rich man to do when he was still on earth?

What would you expect Abraham to do for his child who trusts in him?

For whom does the rich man have concern? Is this what keeps him on his side of the gate?

For whom do you have concern? How is this evident in your life?

What do Moses and the prophets say?

What could get us to act in accord with Moses and the prophets?

Read Luke 17:1-4. Who are the “little ones”? (See Romans 15:1(14:13))

What might be a cause of stumbling?

How can you know when another has repented? Are words of apology sufficient?

Compare 17:3-4 with Mat. 18:21-22. What do you notice?

Read Luke 17:5-6. Why do the disciples ask for greater faith? What miracle do they think greater faith would bring?

What would change in your life if you had greater faith?

The disciples made a request – how is Jesus’ response related to their request?

Read Luke 17:7-10. What has Jesus ordered us to do in the 15th –17th chapters of Luke? Consider 1 Corinthians 13:3.

Are Christians more deserving than those who are not Christians?

Read Luke 17:11-19. How do you understand vs. 19?

What attitude does the Samaritan display? How is this related to 17:7-10?

Can gratitude be developed? Learned? Commanded?

Read Luke 17:20-21. What is the kingdom of God?

If Jesus has been teaching the kingdom of God since Luke 14:15 what has he been saying about it?

Read Luke 17:22-37. What point is Jesus making in vs. 22-24? Vs.25-30? Vs.31-33? Vs. 34-35? Vs.37?

How does this passage make you feel?

Reading this section do you want to change in any way?

How does this section go with what has gone before it?

Read Luke 18:1-8. What is the reason Jesus spoke this parable?

What is the point of this parable?

Do you hope for justice from God?

What do the chosen ones cry to God for day and night?

What do we cry out to God for?

Read Luke 18:9-14. What does the Pharisee give thanks for?

Is the prayer of the Pharisee like someone saying, "I am so thankful I am not hungry like some people are."?

Is sorrow for sin pleasing to God?

Should we begin worship with confession of sins? Praise of God? Thanksgiving?

Is the conclusion of this parable meant to guide us to humble ourselves or is it simply a statement of fact?

Read Luke 18:15-17.

What did the people want from Jesus? What do you think they expected of Jesus' touch?

Why do you think the disciples were stern with the parents?

Is the church childlike? Childish?

Is this passage primarily about Jesus and how he receives children? Do you think Jesus spent a lot of his time with children?

What significance does the word "receive" have for understanding what Jesus is saying about the kingdom and being like a child?

Read Luke 18:18-30. What was lacking in the ruler who came to Jesus?

What is lacking in you?

How does Jesus deal with people who have something lacking?

Is the kingdom of God earned by faith, by works, or by knowledge?

What do people who are financially well-off lack?

What did the disciples lack? What did they possess?

How is giving of money related to faith? Does giving increase faith? Does not giving decrease faith?

Which comes first – giving or faith?

Read Luke 18:31-34. What sort of poverty will Jesus undergo? What will he lack? What will he possess?

What does a child lack? What does a child possess?

What is difficult for the disciples to grasp?

Do you find it difficult to grasp the kind of poverty God wants for you? How would you describe that poverty?

Read Luke 18:35-43. How does the reaction of the people compare to the reaction of the disciples to those who wanted Jesus to touch the children?

What does the man lack? What does he possess?

What does he receive?

What result follows his receiving from Jesus?

Where is Jesus going? What does it mean to follow Jesus there?

Was the ruler afraid to follow Jesus (18:18-30)?

Are you afraid to follow Jesus?

What would you gain by following Jesus?

What would you lose?

Read Luke 19. What did Zacchaeus want? What stood in his way?

What other stories begin with people being prevented from encountering Jesus? In what ways are they like this story? In what ways different?

When Jesus passed that way who did the seeing – Jesus or Zacchaeus?

What did the crowd see? What was their reaction?

The verbs in verse 8 are present tense verbs that usually are translated to describe continuing action. (Example: I eat three meals a day.) In a few instances verbs in this tense can be translated in a future sense. (Example: I will be eating three meals a day.) In this instance how these verbs are translated depends on whether Zacchaeus is wanting to show Jesus that

Zacchaeus has changed or whether Zacchaeus wants to defend himself before the accusation of the crowd.

Present tense indicating continuing action: Look, half of my possessions I give to the poor and if I have defrauded anyone of anything I pay back four times as much.

Future tense: Look, half of my possessions I will give to the poor and if I have defrauded anyone of anything I will pay back four times as much.

Who does Jesus address in his response to what Zacchaeus says?

Some questions to consider:

If Zacchaeus did change that day does this indicate that salvation can be purchased?

Has salvation come to Zacchaeus' house in Jesus being there or in what?

What did Jesus ask Zacchaeus to do?

Compare the wording in verse 5 to the wording in verse 9.

Can rich people be saved? What must they do?

The Hebrew word "zikkay" means "clean, innocent". Compare the story of Zacchaeus to Luke 18:9-14.

Read Luke 19:11-27. To whom is this parable told?

Who are you in this parable?

Where does fear lead?

For whom do they earn the money? Who benefits from what they have earned?

For whom do you work in the church? Who benefits from what you do?

Read Luke 19:28-40. See also Zech. 9:9.

Why is Jesus being honored? Whose idea is it?

What is the Pharisees' reaction?

What did Jesus hope to accomplish by this event?

Read Luke 19:41-44. Why does Jesus weep over Jerusalem?

Imagine how history would have been different if Jerusalem had worshipped Jesus.

What is hidden from the eyes of Jerusalem? Who is doing the hiding?

Is there anything hidden from our eyes? Does Jesus weep over us?

Is there anything in the world today that causes Jesus to weep?

Read Luke 19:45-48. Read Malachi 3:1. Read Jeremiah 7:11. Read Isaiah 56:7.

Is the action of Jesus in the temple symbolic or is it intended to change what is going on there?

What is the result of this act?

What is the temple of God for Christians? How is that temple cleansed?

Read Luke 20:1-8. Who do the religious leaders pay attention to? Do you expect your religious leaders to pay attention to you?

How do you know when your pastors are being faithful to God? What is the highest authority in the church?

What is the highest authority for you? Has that authority ever misled you or failed you?

Why do you think Jesus gives them no answer to their question? If Jesus had wanted to give them an answer what answer do you think he would have given?

Read Luke 20:9-19. What did the scribes and chief priests understand about the parable? Was their understanding correct?

What would have changed for them had they received Jesus joyfully? What changes for you when you receive Jesus joyfully?

Does this parable make sense before Jesus is crucified?

Read Luke 20:20-26. The word translated, "Head" or "image" is the Greek word "ikona" from which the word icon derives. Icons are at the very center of Eastern Orthodox Christian worship. What gives money its value?

Is trust in money idolatry? Can patriotism be idolatry?

Has God made any promises to America? Has God chosen America?

In medieval Europe the doctrine of the Divine Right of Kings was accepted. Do you think God chose the kings to rule over the people?

Has God chosen the Lutheran Church? Can devotion to the Lutheran Church be idolatry?

When people protest taxes what is their motivation? Does motivation matter?

Read Luke 20:27-40. What does Jesus teach about relationships in the resurrection? What promises does God give to us in the scriptures?

Are there any indications that those who are living the other side of death are recognizable? Are there any indications that they are not?

What does Paul promise will remain for all eternity (1 Corinthians 13)? How do you understand this?

Read Luke 20:41-44. What point was Jesus making in these verses?

What does it mean to say that Jesus is a “son of David”?

Whose son is Jesus?

Could God have sent God’s daughter to save us?

Could Jesus have been born in your family instead of as a descendent of David and still accomplished what he accomplished?

Read Luke 20:45-47. Who was Jesus speaking to in these verses?

In what ways were the scribes like modern day preachers?

Read Luke 21:1-4. Is Jesus pleased with what the widow has done?

Is it easier for her to put in all she has or for a rich person to put in fifty or seventy five or ninety percent of what she has?

Do our offerings go to God?

Read Luke 21:5-6. If someone spoke in this way of our church buildings or of our nation’s capital building or of the White House, what would be your reaction?

If you take Luke 20:45-21:6 all together what point is Jesus making?

Are we responsible for the effect our gifts make or only for the spirit in which they are given? What about people who have given to charities that use some of the money to support Al Qaeda?

Read Luke 21:7-38. What will be the sign of the end?

What things will come before the end?

What promise did Jesus make about the end? Was this promise true?

What does it mean to be alert?

Will the end of the world follow the “script” of this chapter or other parts of scripture or will God be doing something unexpected?

Read Luke 22:1-2. What did the priests and scribes fear? Why did they want to put Jesus to death?

If Jesus were among us today in the same way he was then how would he unsettle the church and especially the clergy? What would he object to? What would he approve of?

Read Luke 22:3-6. Is Judas responsible for what he does? Is he possessed by evil? Do you think Judas thought he was doing the right thing?

Why do the leaders need someone to betray Jesus?

Read Luke 22:7-13.  
Has Jesus made previous arrangements?

What was involved in preparing a Passover meal?

Read Luke 22:14-23.  
What does it mean for the Passover to be “fulfilled in the kingdom of God” (vs. 16)? What themes from the Passover are continued in the Lord’s Supper? What themes are new in this meal?

Compare Luke 22:14-23 with Matthew 26:20-29; Mark 14:17-25; and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

Read Luke 22:24-27. Who is considered greatest among us?

Who is to be served? Is there anyone in the community that is not to serve? See Romans 15:1.

Read Luke 22:28-30. How do we receive or become a part of the kingdom?

Is the part about judging the twelve tribes of Israel spoken to the disciples or to all?

Read Luke 22:31-34. What is the relationship between Jesus and Satan implied by this passage?

What would it mean for Peter’s own faith not to fail him? Would it mean that he would not deny Jesus?

Is Peter responsible for denying Jesus or has it already been determined he would do so?

Read Luke 22:35-38. What purpose would the swords fulfill? Is Jesus following a script?

Read Luke 22:39-46. Verses 43 and 44 are sometimes included by translators and sometimes not. How does their inclusion change this passage?

What does it mean to come into the time of trial?

Read Luke 22:47-53. Does Jesus reprimand the disciples for using the sword?

How does Jesus criticize the chief priests and officers of the temple police and the elders?  
Why do you think they arrested him at night?

Read Luke 22:54-71. According to Luke does the trial take place at night?

What was Peter accused of?

What was Jesus asked? What causes the leaders to take Jesus to Pilate?

What is missing from this account of Jesus' suffering that you are familiar with from the other gospels?

Read Luke 23:1-5. What charges were made against Jesus? How do these charges compare with 22:70?

In both of his trials Jesus answers in a very passive way: "You say so" or "You say that I am".  
Why do you think Jesus does not simply tell people who he is?

Read Luke 23:6-25. How did Herod treat Jesus? Is there anyone who has mocked you and treated you with contempt? Is there anyone whom you have mocked and treated with contempt?

In verse 13 whom does Pilate gather? Who is responsible for Jesus' death? Who is not?

Read Luke 23:26-31. What can the women do to change their fate?

Will they be swept along with the events when Rome destroys Jerusalem?

Who is being swept along with events today in the world?

Read Luke 23:32-38. If verse 34 is not a part of scripture does your understanding of Jesus change?

Do you think the sign above Jesus was a mocking of the Jewish people or a statement of the charge against Jesus?

Read Luke 23:39-43. Why was the criminal give this promise from Jesus?

How is this criminal like others who came to Jesus? Does God want us to be beggars? Could Jesus have met the other criminal in paradise also?

Read Luke 23:44-49. What does the darkness signify?

What does the curtain's being torn signify?

Neither the darkness nor the curtain in the temple being torn can be verified from other non-Biblical sources. If these events did not happen would your faith be changed?

If Jesus never did die on the cross would your faith be changed?

If Jesus was never resurrected from the dead would your faith be changed?

According to Luke did the disciples flee or remain faithful to Jesus? What word is used of Jesus' followers in this passage?

Read Luke 23:50-56. Why is it Joseph who buries Jesus? Is he mentioned anywhere else in the scriptures?

Read Luke 24:1-12. What was the woman's reaction to the empty tomb? If you were to go to the funeral home and find the body of a loved one missing what would be your reaction?

Have we seen two men in dazzling clothes before in this gospel? How do the women react to these men?

What proof are the women given? What proof are we given?

If we only had the empty tomb would faith have resulted?

How did the men react to the woman's message? If the men had come with the message would the women have reacted in the same way?

Read Luke 24:13-35. How does the two men's account differ from vs. 1-11? How would you explain these differences? Is truth dependent on complete historical accuracy?

When two people in your family tell the same story are there differences?

How do these two men describe Jesus and their hopes for him?

To what does "Moses and all the prophets" refer? Did God have to follow the scriptures in saving us?

What enabled the disciples to recognize Jesus? How and where do you recognize Jesus?

What effect did seeing Jesus have on the two disciples?

Read Luke 24:36-53. What day did this happen on?

How many indications are there that Jesus' resurrection was bodily? If only his spirit had been raised would Easter still be Easter?

When did the disciples worship Jesus?

How is the account in 36-53 similar to the account of the disciples on the road to Emmaus?

How do you experience the risen Christ? Is there any way that we can know whether our own experiences are related to Christ and not simply our imagination or creation?

Did the disciples have an advantage over us? Is it easier for some to believe than others?

For you what is the proof of Jesus' Lordship?