

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

The Kingdom Is Near

LUKE 10:1-24

OVERVIEW

Luke is the longest and most comprehensive of the four Gospels, presenting Jesus as the Perfect Man who came to save sinful men. Growing belief and growing opposition develop side by side. Those who believe his claims are challenged to count the cost of discipleship; those who oppose him will not be satisfied until the Son of Man hangs lifeless on a cross. But the resurrection ensures that his ministry of seeking and saving the lost will continue through his disciples once they have been equipped with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Luke reveals that Jesus is the King, and he has come to inaugurate his Kingdom. (Adapted from *Talk Through the Bible*).

APPLY // LUKE 9:49-62

1. Read Luke 9:49-62
2. What does Jesus' determination to go toward Jerusalem tell us about his character? How does this compel you love and worship him?
3. What excuses do the people in verses 57-62 provide before fully following Jesus? How does Jesus respond? What might these temptations/delays/distractions look like in our lives today? How might we say, "Let me first..."?

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // LUKE 10:1-24

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

Overview/Big Idea: Jesus sends his disciples to proclaim his mission while ultimately rejoicing not in what they do, but where their names are written.

1. Read Luke 10:1-24
2. In verses 1-12, what do we learn about the 72 followers and the purpose of their mission? How are they to prepare? What is their message? How will their needs be met?
3. In verse 2, what does Jesus mean when he says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few"? Notice the "therefore" in verse 2. What does this tell us about the importance of prayer and God's mission?
4. What do you think Jesus means in verse 3 when he says that he sends them out "like lambs in the midst of wolves"?
5. In verses 3-7, what is Jesus trying to teach about being witnesses?
6. What does "the kingdom of God" mean in verses 9 and 11? How is it that the kingdom of God comes near?

7. In verses 10-12 and 13-16, Jesus speaks of rejection. How are these 70 to deal with the rejection they will receive? What or whom are these inhospitable people ultimately rejecting? What's the difference in speaking about coming judgment and being calling down judgment (cf. 9:54-55)?
 8. Verses 17-20 how do the disciples describe their mission experience? What are they excited about? How does Jesus respond to their report?
 9. What is to be the source of the disciples' joy? Why? What is the source of Jesus' joy (verses 21-22)? What does this tell us about Jesus? How do we come to know the Father?
 10. In a private word to the disciples (verses 23-24), Jesus talks about what they have seen and heard. What did they see and hear?
 11. How would you summarize the main idea of this passage? What's the main takeaway?
- General Bible study questions:
 - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
 - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Are you being tempted to delay following Jesus or distracted from follow Jesus? How have you seen God's grace at work in your life as you follow Jesus?