

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**What Is Hidden Will Be Revealed**

LUKE 12:1-12

**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*).

**OBSERVE, INTERPRET & APPLY // LUKE 12:1-12**

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:** Fear of man produces hypocrisy leading to condemnation. Fear of God produces joyful obedience leading to Spirit-wrought confidence.

1. Read Luke 12:1-12.
2. What's the overall flow of this passage? What main themes do you notice?
3. In verse 1, Jesus says to "beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy." Remembering what Jesus has just said in 11:37-54, how would you define hypocrisy? What is leaven? Why does Jesus use that imagery to warn the disciples? How might hypocrisy spread in our church?
4. In verses 2-3, what is Jesus' reasoning for avoiding hypocrisy? What does it mean that everything will be revealed and known? How does the gospel help us live now in the fullness of light?
5. In verse 4, Jesus issues a warning to "not fear those who kill the body." What does he mean by this? What does this fear look like? How is this fear connected to the hypocrisy Jesus discussed in the previous verses?
6. In verse 5, Jesus tells us who to fear. Who are we to fear? Why are we to fear this person? Is this type of fear the same type of fear found in verse 4? Why or why not?
7. What is Jesus' point in verse 6-7? How does this tie back to "do not fear those who kill the body" and "fear him who, after he has killed you, has authority to cast into hell"? How does the gospel confirm what Jesus says about our value in these verses? How can we help each other cultivate the right kind of fear?
8. In verse 8, Jesus moves on to talk about acknowledging him before others. How does this tie back to the two fears discussed in verses 4-7?
9. What does it mean to "acknowledge me [Jesus] before men"? What does it mean "the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angles of God"? How about the others side: what does

- it mean to deny Jesus and be denied by the Son of Man? Why might we be tempted to not acknowledge Jesus before others?
10. In verse 10, what does it mean to blaspheme the Holy Spirit? Why will this not be forgiven?
    - a. **NOTE:** *This does not mean some people have out sinned God's forgiving grace. Rather, it means they are settled into a life of unrepentance, denying the grace of the gospel.*
  11. In verse 11, Jesus says "don't be anxious" when you have to defend yourself/your beliefs before others. What does the mere presence of this verse tell us? What is Jesus' reasoning for not being anxious in these moments?
  12. What might verses 11-12 look like in our own lives?
  13. How does the gospel help us live in fear/awe of God and not in fear of others and what they might think about us or do to us?

From ESV Study Bible regarding Luke 12:10:

*Key to understanding this passage is the distinction Jesus makes between, on one hand, the extreme case of blasphemy against "the Holy Spirit" and, on the other hand, the lesser case of speaking in a dishonorable way against "the Son of Man." One who asks to be forgiven for disrespectful words hastily spoken against Jesus (the Son of Man) will be forgiven. (Note, e.g., Peter's rejection of Jesus [see 22:54–62] and his subsequent restoration [John 21:15–19].) But blasphemy against the Holy Spirit—that is, the persistent and unrepentant resistance against the work of the Holy Spirit and his message concerning Jesus (cf. Acts 7:51)—this, Jesus says, will not be forgiven.*

*The person who persists in hardening his heart against God, against the work of the Holy Spirit, and against the provision of Christ as Savior, is outside the reach of God's provision for forgiveness and salvation. Christians often worry that they have committed this sin, but such a concern is itself evidence of an openness to the work of the Spirit (see also notes on Matt. 12:31–32 and Mark 3:29).*

- 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 there areas in your life where fear/awe of God needs to replace fear of others?