

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Redemption is Drawing Near

LUKE 21

OVERVIEW

Luke is the longest and most comprehensive of the four Gospels, presenting Jesus as the Perfect Man who came to save sinners. Growing belief and growing opposition develop side by side. Those who believe Jesus' 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 20

1. Luke 20 weaves together various challenges to Jesus' authority.
2. How are we tempted to challenge the authority of Christ?
3. Why does submitting to the authority of Jesus bring joy?
4. Jesus is a King with greater authority – how does this comfort us during chaotic and challenging times?

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // LUKE 20

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: The Lord's return is certain yet unexpected—stay alert!

NOTE: This passage is fraught with rabbit trails and difficult verses to interpret (particularly verse 32). Yet, the big idea is clear (see above). As you lead the discussion, try to keep the main idea of the discussion centered on the main idea of the passage. You won't be able to get through all the questions – pick a few themes and proceed accordingly.

Draft Chapter Outline (according to Joey's understanding, which is still being formed on the specifics!)

- Verse 5: Disciples in awe of the temple
- Verse 6: Jesus tells the disciples the temple will soon be destroyed
- Verses 7: Disciples ask two questions (cf. Mt. 24:1-2; Mk. 13:1-4)
 - When will the temple be destroyed?
 - What are the signs of the end of the age?

- Verses 8: Before answering their questions, Jesus warns his disciples to stay alert / not be led astray.
- Verse 9-19: Jesus gives the disciples a warning about global and personal suffering before answering their question
- Verses 20-24: Jesus answers the disciples' first question
- Verses 25-28: Jesus answer the disciples' second question
- Verses 29-36: Jesus wraps us his teaching with a parable and exhortation
 - 29-33: Parable of the fig tree wrapping up the first question
 - If “this generation” means something different than the plain, literal meaning, this parable could be wrapping up the whole section of teaching.
 - 32-37: Exhortation to stay away, praying as they look for the signs
- Verses 1-4: Give an example of a women who was paying attention, not letting the cares of this world distract her from treasuring Christ above all.

1. Read Luke 21:5-9.
 2. What captures the attention of the people in verse 5? How does Jesus respond in verse 6?
 3. Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple, what's the significance of this given the role the temple played in the life of the Jewish people?
 4. What two questions do his disciples then ask Jesus in verse 7?
 - a. Notice they ask a “when” and a “what”
 5. What do you notice about Jesus' immediate response to the disciples in verse 8? What's his first concern for them?
 6. Read Luke 21:10-18. How does this build on what Jesus says in verses 8-9? What is Jesus concern in these verses? What promises does he make his disciples?
 7. Read Luke 20:20-28. Jesus seems to get more specific about the what (vv. 20-24) and when (vv. 25-28). Verses 20-24 seems to be referencing a specific historical event. Why is this significant?
 8. What instruction does Jesus give in verse 21? Why?
 9. What does “until the time of the Gentiles are fulfilled” mean?
 10. In verse 27, Jesus takes this phrase from Daniel. Read Daniel 7:13-14. What results when the Son of Man comes in the clouds?
 11. What does Jesus mean here regarding “your redemption is drawing near”?
 12. In verses 29-33, Jesus offers a parable of the fig tree. What is Jesus exhortation in this parable?
 13. In verse 33, what is Jesus claiming for his words? Why is this significant, especially in light of all that he teaches in this chapter?
 14. Read verses 34-36. What are Jesus explicit concerns for his disciples in verse 34?
 15. In verse 36, what does it mean to “stay awake at all times”? What's the connection between staying away and praying?
 16. What does it mean to “escape all these things”? What does it mean to “stand before the Son of Man”? What does this imply about Jesus, the Son of Man?
 17. Read Luke 20:1-4. Notice yet again Luke uses a marginalize woman to show the value of God's Kingdom. How does this woman display an alertness for the Kingdom of God? How does this woman show us what it means to live by treasuring Christ above all?
- 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: Where are you enjoying the authority of Christ in your life? Are there areas where you need to submit to his authority? Are you rightly using the authority that you have?