

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH CURRICULUM

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Jesus Christ, the Savior of All People



13 Sessions · Teacher Guide · Student Handouts · Slide Decks

“...that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.” — Luke 1:4

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The Gospel of Luke

Middle School Youth Curriculum

13 Sessions of 45 Minutes

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Published by Quantum Reality Programming LLC
Developer: Ron Whittam
qrprogramming.com · QuantumRealityprogrammingLLC@Gmail.com

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Welcome, Teacher

Thank you for investing in the next generation. This curriculum walks middle school students through the Gospel of Luke in 13 sessions of 45 minutes each. Luke wrote so that his readers “may know the certainty of those things” they were taught about Jesus (Luke 1:4). Our goal is the same: that every student would see Jesus Christ clearly as the Savior of all people, and that they would learn from His example how to love people well.

All Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version (NKJV). Please read the passage in your own Bible before each lesson, and use the NKJV for the best match with the lesson text.

What Is in Each Session

- A session banner with the Big Idea, Key Verse, Memory Verse, and Key People.
- A 45-minute plan with timings and an opening activity.
- Bible teaching written in plain language for middle schoolers, in short sections you can read, tell, or adapt.
- A Christ Connection (how the passage points to Jesus) and a section on loving people the way Jesus did.
- Discussion questions, ready to use with the whole group or in small groups.
- Teacher Background Notes on the history, culture, and society behind the passage. These are for you. Share what helps.
- A one-page Student Handout with fill-in-the-blanks, questions, a Love in Action challenge, and Think • Feel • Do prompts, plus an answer key.
- A slide deck (PowerPoint) outline. The matching .pptx file is included with this book.

Tips for Teaching Middle Schoolers

- Start with something fun that connects to life, then bring in the Scripture. The openers do this for you.
- Keep your teaching to about 17 minutes. Tell the stories with expression. Pause and ask questions.
- Let students read the Bible aloud. Many will want to, and this builds confidence.
- Ask “What do you think?” and wait. Silence is okay.
- Be honest about what is hard. Jesus’s teaching on loving enemies and counting the cost is hard, and students will respect honesty.
- Pray for each student by name this week. The Holy Spirit does the changing.

The Think • Feel • Do Reflection

Each session ends with three questions that move from head, to heart, to hands: What do I think about what we studied? How do I feel about it? What will I do with it? Students can answer on the handout or in the companion web app, where their reflections are saved privately on their own device.

The Gospel of Luke at a Glance

Author	Luke, a Gentile doctor and traveling companion of the apostle Paul (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24). He also wrote the book of Acts.
First reader	Theophilus (“friend of God”), and through him, all who want to know the truth about Jesus.
When	Likely written around AD 60, based on interviews with eyewitnesses (Luke 1:1-4).
Main theme	Jesus is the Savior of all people. “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).
Key words	Savior, joy, prayer, the Holy Spirit, “today,” the Son of Man, mercy.
Only in Luke	Gabriel and Mary; Zacharias and Elizabeth; the shepherds; Jesus at age 12; the Good Samaritan; the prodigal son; Zacchaeus; the thief on the cross; the road to Emmaus.
Who Luke notices	Women, children, the poor, tax collectors, Samaritans, and outsiders. Luke shows that Jesus’s love reaches everyone.

Outline of Luke

- Birth and childhood of Jesus (chapters 1–2)
- Preparation: baptism, family tree, temptation (3:1–4:13)
- Ministry in Galilee (4:14–9:50)
- The journey to Jerusalem (9:51–19:27)
- The final days: cross and resurrection (19:28–24:53)

The 13 Sessions

#	TITLE	PASSAGE
1	An Orderly Account: God Keeps His Promises	Luke 1
2	Good News of Great Joy	Luke 2
3	Prepare the Way and Stand Firm	Luke 3:1–4:13
4	Good News for the Outcast	Luke 4:14–5:39
5	Love Your Enemies	Luke 6–7
6	Who Is This?	Luke 8:1–9:17
7	Who Is My Neighbor?	Luke 9:18–10:42
8	Lord, Teach Us to Pray	Luke 11–12
9	The Narrow Door and the Open Table	Luke 13–14
10	Lost and Found	Luke 15–16
11	Thank You, Humble Faith	Luke 17–18
12	The King Comes to Seek and Save	Luke 19–21
13	Father, Forgive Them — He Is Risen	Luke 22–24

An Orderly Account: God Keeps His Promises

Luke 1 · 45 minutes · Middle School

THE BIG IDEA

God always keeps His promises, even when the wait is long and the news sounds impossible, and He loves to use humble, willing people to do it.

KEY VERSE & MEMORY VERSE

“For with God nothing will be impossible.”

Luke 1:37

KEY PEOPLE

- Luke — a doctor and careful researcher who wrote this Gospel (and the book of Acts)
- Theophilus — the first person Luke wrote to; the name means “friend of God”
- Zacharias and Elizabeth — an older, faithful couple who had prayed for a child for years
- The angel Gabriel — God’s messenger who stands in God’s presence
- Mary — a young woman from Nazareth who said yes to God
- John (the Baptist) — the baby who would prepare the way for Jesus

YOUR 45-MINUTE PLAN

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT HAPPENS
0–5	Welcome & Opener	Play “Impossible?” Read out a list of things (flying without wings, a 90-year-old running a marathon, a virgin having a baby) and have students stand up if they think it’s possible and stay seated if not. Then say: “Today we meet people who were told something impossible, and God did it anyway.”
5–10	Open in Prayer & Read the Passage	Pray together, then read or summarize the passage. Show the Key Verse slide and read it aloud.
10–27	Teach the Story	Teach from the teaching notes below, using the slide deck. Pause for quick questions.
27–35	Discussion	Break into small groups or use the whole group. Use the discussion questions.
35–40	Love in Action & Handout	Hand out the student page. Let students fill in the blanks and choose their Love in Action challenge.
40–45	Think • Feel • Do & Closing Prayer	Students answer the three reflection questions. Close in prayer.

BIBLE TEACHING

Meet Luke the Investigator

Before we meet anyone in the story, we meet the writer. Luke was a doctor (Colossians 4:14) who traveled with the apostle Paul. He was not one of the twelve disciples and he never walked with Jesus, so he did what a good doctor and scientist would do: he asked questions and interviewed the people who were there. He says it himself: “It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed” (Luke 1:3-4). Luke wants you to know that what you believe about Jesus is not a fairy tale. It is true, and it can be checked.

A Quiet Miracle in the Temple (1:5-25)

Zacharias was a priest, and his wife Elizabeth came from a priestly family too. Luke says they were both righteous before God. But they had a sad problem: Elizabeth could not have children, and now they were old. One day Zacharias was chosen by lot to burn incense in the temple, a once-in-a-lifetime honor. Suddenly the angel Gabriel appeared and said their prayer had been heard: Elizabeth would have a son named John. John would turn many hearts back to God and prepare the way for the Lord. Zacharias doubted (“How shall I know this?”), so Gabriel said he would not be able to speak until the baby was born. God keeps His promises even when we doubt, but doubt can cost us the joy of saying so out loud.

“Let It Be to Me According to Your Word” (1:26-56)

Six months later Gabriel visited a young woman in the small town of Nazareth. Her name was Mary, and she was engaged to a carpenter named Joseph. Gabriel told her that she was highly favored and that she would give birth to a Son, and that “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest” and His kingdom would never end (1:32-33). Mary asked an honest question: “How can this be?” That was different from Zacharias’s doubt. She was asking how, not whether. Gabriel explained that the Holy Spirit would come upon her, and then gave her the verse for today: “For with God nothing will be impossible.” Mary answered, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word” (1:38). Mary was probably a young teenager. She knew people might misunderstand and even shame her. She trusted God anyway.

Two Women Encourage Each Other (1:39-56)

Mary hurried to visit her relative Elizabeth. The moment she arrived, baby John leaped in Elizabeth’s womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, called Mary the mother of her Lord. What a welcome! Mary then burst into a song of praise: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior” (1:46-47). She stayed about three months. Notice that when Mary got hard, scary news, she went to someone who would encourage her faith. That is love in action: being the person who says, “I believe God is at work in you.”

A Name, a Song, and a Sunrise (1:57-80)

When baby John was born, neighbors expected the family name Zacharias. Elizabeth said, “He shall be called John.” Zacharias wrote on a tablet, “His name is John,” and immediately his voice returned. The first thing he did was praise God. His song says that God has visited His people, and that a “Dayspring from on high” (the sunrise) is coming to give light to those who sit in darkness. John was the messenger. Jesus is the sunrise. Everything in Luke 1 tells us the same thing: God made promises hundreds of years earlier, and now He is keeping every one.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Gabriel said Jesus would be great, would be called the Son of the Highest, and would sit on the throne of His father David forever. That is a direct fulfillment of God's promise to King David (2 Samuel 7) and of the prophets. From the very first chapter, Luke shows us that Jesus is the long-promised King and the Son of God.

LOVING PEOPLE THE WAY JESUS DID

Elizabeth and Mary show us how to love people: celebrate what God is doing in others without jealousy, and encourage someone who is scared. Mary's humble "yes" also shows that loving God starts with trusting Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Luke wanted to write an "orderly account" of Jesus's life? What does that tell us about the Bible?
2. What is the difference between Zacharias's question and Mary's question? Is it okay to ask God honest questions?
3. Mary was young, and her news was scary. Who was the first person she went to? Who could you go to when you are afraid?
4. Think of something you are waiting on God for. What does Luke 1:37 say to you?

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: HISTORY & CULTURE

For your preparation. Share the pieces that help your students picture the scene.

- Luke was a Gentile (non-Jewish) physician. He is the only Gentile writer in the New Testament. His Gospel shows that Jesus came as Savior for all people, not just for Israel. Luke and Acts together make up about one quarter of the New Testament.
- Theophilus ("friend of God") may have been a real Roman official, since Luke calls him "most excellent," a title used for people of rank. The Gospel was likely written around AD 60.
- Herod the Great ruled Judea as a Roman-approved king from 37 to 4 BC. He was known for building projects and for brutal cruelty.
- Priests were divided into 24 groups (1 Chronicles 24), each serving at the temple twice a year for one week. With thousands of priests, a priest might only burn incense in the Holy Place once in his lifetime, so Zacharias's moment was a huge honor. Lots were cast for the duty.
- In Jewish culture, being childless was seen by many as a source of shame, which is why Elizabeth says God has taken away her reproach (1:25).
- Nazareth was a small, unimportant village in Galilee. Girls were often engaged (betrothed) at around 13 to 16. Betrothal was legally binding, and breaking it required a formal divorce, which is why Joseph's struggle in Matthew 1 makes sense.
- Mary's song (the Magnificat) echoes Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2. Zacharias's song is called the Benedictus. Both are packed with Old Testament Scripture, showing how well Mary and Zacharias knew God's Word.

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1	Session 1: An Orderly Account: God Keeps His Promises	8	Two Songs of Praise
2	The Big Idea	9	Jesus Christ in This Passage
3	Key Verse	10	Love in Action
4	Key People	11	Let's Talk About It
5	Luke: The Careful Investigator	12	Memory Verse
6	Zacharias & Elizabeth: A Long Wait	13	Think • Feel • Do
7	Mary: "Let It Be to Me"		

Closing prayer: Lord God, thank You that You keep every promise. Help us to say like Mary, "Let it be to me according to Your word." Teach us to encourage one another and to trust You when things look impossible. In Jesus's name, amen.

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. doctor 2. Gabriel 3. John 4. word 5. impossible

An Orderly Account: God Keeps His Promises

Luke 1

Name: _____

Date: _____

MY MEMORY VERSE

“For with God nothing will be impossible.”

Luke 1:37

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: word • John • Gabriel • doctor • impossible

1. Luke was a _____ who investigated the story of Jesus carefully.
2. The angel who visited Mary was named _____.
3. Zacharias could not speak until baby _____ was born.
4. Mary said, “Let it be to me according to your _____.”
5. “For with God nothing will be _____.”

DIG DEEPER

1. Who in your life has encouraged your faith the way Elizabeth encouraged Mary?

2. What is one “impossible” thing you are asking God to help with?

3. How can you encourage someone this week?

LOVE IN ACTION CHALLENGE

Write an encouraging note or text to someone who may be going through something scary or hard. Tell them one way you see God at work in their life.

THINK • FEEL • DO

THINK: What do you think it means that “with God nothing will be impossible”? What is one thing in Luke 1 that shows it?

FEEL: How do you feel when you have to wait on God or when something looks impossible?

DO: What is one way you will trust God or encourage someone this week?

Good News of Great Joy

Luke 2 · 45 minutes · Middle School

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus came as a Savior for everyone, and God announced it first to ordinary shepherds, showing that no one is too small or too overlooked for God's love.

KEY VERSE

Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:10-11

MEMORY VERSE

“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:11

KEY PEOPLE

- Mary and Joseph — Jesus's mother and earthly father, who obeyed God
- The shepherds — everyday workers who were the first to hear the news
- Simeon — a devout old man who waited his whole life to see the Messiah
- Anna — an elderly prophetess who prayed at the temple night and day
- The boy Jesus — age 12, “about My Father's business”

YOUR 45-MINUTE PLAN

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT HAPPENS
0–5	Welcome & Opener	Ask: “Who would you tell first if you had the most exciting news ever?” Then ask who God chose to tell first. Let students guess (king? priest? Herod?). The surprise is: shepherds.
5–10	Open in Prayer & Read the Passage	Pray together, then read or summarize the passage. Show the Key Verse slide and read it aloud.
10–27	Teach the Story	Teach from the teaching notes below, using the slide deck. Pause for quick questions.
27–35	Discussion	Break into small groups or use the whole group. Use the discussion questions.
35–40	Love in Action & Handout	Hand out the student page. Let students fill in the blanks and choose their Love in Action challenge.
40–45	Think • Feel • Do & Closing Prayer	Students answer the three reflection questions. Close in prayer.

BIBLE TEACHING

A Journey to Bethlehem (2:1-7)

Luke begins by naming the emperor, Caesar Augustus, and the governor, Quirinius. He is telling us this really happened at a real time in history. Caesar ordered a census, so everyone had to return to their ancestral hometown. Joseph was from the line of King David, so he took Mary, who was close to giving birth, about 90 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem. There was no room in the guest room, and Mary gave birth and laid the baby in a manger (a feeding trough), wrapped in swaddling cloths. The King of the universe was born without a palace, a crown, or even a bed. God chose humility.

The First Christmas Announcement (2:8-20)

That night, out in the fields, shepherds were watching their sheep. In those days shepherds were poor, and many people looked down on them. Yet an angel appeared, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. The shepherds were terrified, and the angel said, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.” Then a whole army of angels praised God, saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” The shepherds said, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing,” and they went with haste. They found the baby just as the angel said, and then they could not keep quiet: they told everybody. Meanwhile “Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart” (2:19).

Simeon and Anna Meet the Savior (2:21-40)

When Jesus was eight days old He was circumcised, and about a month later Mary and Joseph brought Him to the temple in Jerusalem to dedicate Him to God. Their offering was two turtledoves or pigeons, the offering of poor families (Leviticus 12:8). An old man named Simeon, who had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before seeing the Lord’s Christ, took the baby in his arms and praised God, saying that this child was “a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.” Then Anna, a prophetess who was 84 and who never left the temple, gave thanks to God and told everyone looking for redemption about Jesus. Think about it: Simeon and Anna had waited their whole lives, and they were not disappointed.

The Boy Jesus at the Temple (2:41-52)

Every year Jesus’s family traveled to Jerusalem for Passover. When Jesus was 12 He stayed behind, and His parents searched for three days. They found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening and asking questions. “All who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.” When Mary scolded Him gently, Jesus said, “Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” These are the first recorded words of Jesus, and they tell us He knew who His real Father was. And yet He went home to Nazareth and was subject to His parents. Luke sums it up: “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (2:52). Jesus grew in His mind, body, relationship with God, and relationships with people.

CHRIST CONNECTION

The angel gave Jesus three titles in one sentence: Savior (He rescues), Christ (the promised Messiah and King), and Lord (God Himself). Every one of those is for “all people.” Christmas is not just a nice story. It is God’s rescue plan arriving on earth.

LOVING PEOPLE THE WAY JESUS DID

God’s good news was for everyone, beginning with the people society overlooked. If we want to love like Jesus, we pay attention to the people nobody else notices. Jesus also shows love by obeying and honoring His parents.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think God announced Jesus’s birth to shepherds first instead of to kings or priests?
2. What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus? What can we learn from that?
3. Simeon and Anna waited their whole lives. What helps you keep trusting God while you wait?
4. Luke 2:52 says Jesus grew in four ways. Which of the four do you most want to grow in?

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: HISTORY & CULTURE

For your preparation. Share the pieces that help your students picture the scene.

- The census was part of Roman efforts to count people for taxes. Quirinius served as governor of Syria; Luke’s details are consistent with a registration conducted in the final years of Herod the Great’s reign. Mary’s travel with Joseph shows a practical family, and it also fulfilled Micah 5:2, which promised a ruler from Bethlehem.
- The “inn” in Luke 2:7 most likely refers to the guest room (the same Greek word is used in Luke 22:11 for the upper room). Many village homes had a family room with an animal area at one end. Mary probably gave birth in the lower area of a crowded house.
- Swaddling cloths were strips of cloth used to wrap newborns. A manger was a feeding trough carved from stone or wood.
- Bethlehem’s fields were near Jerusalem, where sheep were raised for temple sacrifice. Shepherds were often looked down upon and were not allowed to serve as legal witnesses in some rabbinic traditions. God chose them as the first witnesses anyway.
- Under the law of Moses, a mother was ritually clean 40 days after the birth of a son (Leviticus 12). The offering of two birds instead of a lamb showed that Joseph and Mary were poor (Leviticus 12:8).
- Jewish boys became accountable for the law at about age 13. Passover week pilgrimage caravans were large, which explains how Joseph and Mary could travel a full day without noticing Jesus was missing: women and children often traveled together, and men in a separate group.
- Luke gives special attention to the poor, women, and outsiders throughout his Gospel. Watch for this theme in each session.

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1	Session 2: Good News of Great Joy	8	Jesus at Age 12
2	The Big Idea	9	Jesus Christ in This Passage
3	Key Verse	10	Love in Action
4	Key People	11	Let's Talk About It
5	A Real Time and Place	12	Memory Verse
6	Shepherds Hear It First	13	Think • Feel • Do
7	Simeon & Anna		

Closing prayer: Father, thank You for sending Jesus, our Savior, Christ, and Lord. Thank You that the good news is for everyone. Help us to notice the people others overlook and to share Your joy with them. In Jesus's name, amen.

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. Bethlehem 2. shepherds 3. all 4. Lord 5. stature

Good News of Great Joy

Luke 2

Name: _____

Date: _____

MY MEMORY VERSE

“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:11

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: Bethlehem • all • shepherds • Lord • stature

1. Jesus was born in the town of _____.
2. The first people to hear the good news were _____.
3. The angel said the news was for _____ people.
4. Jesus is called Savior, Christ, and _____.
5. Jesus increased in wisdom and _____, and in favor with God and men.

DIG DEEPER

1. Why is it important that the good news was for “all people”?

2. Who is someone at school or church that nobody seems to notice? How could you show them Jesus’s love?

3. What did Mary do with everything she saw and heard? What could that look like for you?

LOVE IN ACTION CHALLENGE

Be a “shepherd.” Find one person who is often left out and include them: sit with them, invite them, or send them a kind message. Then tell someone about the best news you know: Jesus is Savior.

THINK • FEEL • DO

THINK: Why do you think God told the shepherds first? What does it say about who matters to God?

FEEL: How does it feel to know the good news of Jesus is for you and for everyone?

DO: Who is one person you will include or share good news with this week?

Prepare the Way and Stand Firm

Luke 3:1–4:13 · 45 minutes · Middle School

THE BIG IDEA

True repentance shows up in how we treat people, and Jesus, the sinless Son of God, shows us how to beat temptation by trusting and using God’s Word.

KEY VERSE

But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’”

Luke 4:4

MEMORY VERSE

“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’”

Luke 4:4

KEY PEOPLE

- John the Baptist — the preacher in the wilderness who called people to repent
- Tax collectors and soldiers — people who asked John, “What shall we do?”
- Jesus — baptized by John and tested by the devil
- The devil (Satan) — the tempter who tried to get Jesus to sin

YOUR 45-MINUTE PLAN

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT HAPPENS
0–5	Welcome & Opener	Ask: “What is the hardest temptation to say no to? Snacks? Phones? Gossip?” After a few answers say, “Jesus faced the biggest temptation tests ever, and He won. Today we learn how.”
5–10	Open in Prayer & Read the Passage	Pray together, then read or summarize the passage. Show the Key Verse slide and read it aloud.
10–27	Teach the Story	Teach from the teaching notes below, using the slide deck. Pause for quick questions.
27–35	Discussion	Break into small groups or use the whole group. Use the discussion questions.
35–40	Love in Action & Handout	Hand out the student page. Let students fill in the blanks and choose their Love in Action challenge.
40–45	Think • Feel • Do & Closing Prayer	Students answer the three reflection questions. Close in prayer.

BIBLE TEACHING

A Voice in the Wilderness (3:1-6)

Luke again names real rulers: Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, and the high priests Annas and Caiaphas. This is history. Into that world came John, the son of Zacharias and Elizabeth (from last week), preaching in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight.” Just as workers used to level roads before a king arrived, John called people to get their hearts ready for King Jesus.

“What Shall We Do?” (3:7-20)

John did not just say, “Say you’re sorry.” He said, “Bear fruits worthy of repentance.” Repentance means turning around, and it shows. The crowds asked, “What shall we do then?” John answered, “He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.” Tax collectors, who were famous for cheating, were told to collect no more than what was required. Soldiers were told, “Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.” Notice that every answer is about how we treat other people. Real faith always shows up in love for others. John also said that someone far greater was coming who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. Because John bravely told King Herod that his behavior was wrong, Herod locked John in prison.

The Father Speaks (3:21-38)

Jesus came to be baptized too, even though He had no sin to repent of. He was identifying with the people He came to save. Luke tells us Jesus was praying. Then heaven opened, the Holy Spirit came down like a dove, and the Father’s voice said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.” That’s the whole Trinity on the scene: Father speaking, Son being baptized, Spirit descending. Luke then lists Jesus’s family tree. Unlike Matthew’s, which goes back to Abraham, Luke’s goes all the way back to Adam, “the son of God.” Jesus belongs to the whole human family, not just to Israel.

Three Tests in the Desert (4:1-13)

Right after the Father’s voice, “Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit... was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,” where He fasted forty days. Then the devil came after Him with three temptations. First: “Command this stone to become bread.” Jesus was hungry, but He quoted Deuteronomy 8:3: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” Second: the devil offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him. Jesus answered with Deuteronomy 6:13: “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.” Third: the devil took Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple and quoted Psalm 91, twisting it to say, “Throw Yourself down.” Jesus replied with Deuteronomy 6:16, “You shall not tempt the Lord your God.” Each time, Jesus did not argue or use fancy powers; He just used Scripture. Notice, too, that the devil can quote the Bible, so we must know it well enough to see when it’s being twisted. When the devil finished, he left Jesus “until an opportune time.”

CHRIST CONNECTION

Adam failed his test in a garden with everything he needed. Jesus passed His test in a desert with nothing. Luke places the family tree back to Adam right before the temptation, to show us that Jesus is the new, perfect Man who succeeds where Adam failed. He can be our Savior because He is sinless.

LOVING PEOPLE THE WAY JESUS DID

John’s answers to the crowd tell us how repentance becomes love: share what you have, be honest, don’t bully people. Jesus’s victory over temptation also shows that love for God comes first: “Him only you shall serve.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. John told people to share what they had and be honest. Why does real repentance always show up in how we treat others?
2. Why do you think the Father spoke from heaven before Jesus began His ministry? What does that tell us about God the Father's love?
3. Which of Jesus's three temptations feels most like a temptation you face (comfort, power, testing God)?
4. How can memorizing Scripture help you when you're tempted?

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: HISTORY & CULTURE

For your preparation. Share the pieces that help your students picture the scene.

- Luke dates John's ministry in "the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar," about AD 29. Pontius Pilate governed Judea AD 26-36. Herod Antipas ruled Galilee and Perea. Annas had been high priest earlier and still held great influence, while his son-in-law Caiaphas was the official high priest.
- The Jordan River valley is a hot, dry wilderness. John's clothes (camel's hair and a leather belt) and food (locusts and wild honey) recall the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). Malachi 4:5 had promised an "Elijah" would come before the Lord.
- Baptism was already used by Jews for Gentile converts. John's call for Jews themselves to be baptized was shocking: it said even God's people needed to repent. Tax collectors worked for Rome, often by bidding on the right to collect taxes and then adding extra for themselves. Soldiers here were likely Jewish or local troops serving Herod.
- Luke's genealogy runs from Jesus backward through David and Abraham to Adam. Matthew's runs forward from Abraham, through Joseph's line. Many scholars believe Luke follows Mary's line (Heli being Mary's father or Joseph's father-in-law), and others believe both are Joseph's with differing branches. Either way, both show Jesus's royal and human credentials.
- The wilderness of Judea is rocky and barren, near the Dead Sea. The "pinnacle" of the temple was probably the southeast corner, which overlooks the Kidron Valley more than 400 feet below.
- Jesus answered all three temptations from Deuteronomy 6 and 8, passages about Israel's forty years in the desert. Israel failed there; Jesus succeeds. This links neatly to the Deuteronomy study if the class completed it.
- Notice the pattern: each temptation was to meet a real need (food), gain a good thing (rule the world), or prove a good thing (God's protection) in the wrong way or at the wrong time. The devil often tempts us with shortcuts.

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1	Session 3: Prepare the Way and Stand Firm	8	How to Fight Temptation
2	The Big Idea	9	Jesus Christ in This Passage
3	Key Verse	10	Love in Action
4	Key People	11	Let's Talk About It
5	John Prepares the Way	12	Memory Verse
6	Jesus Is Baptized	13	Think • Feel • Do
7	The Three Temptations		

Closing prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for living a perfect life for us and for beating temptation. Help us to hide Your Word in our hearts and to show our repentance by loving people. In Your name, amen.

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. repentance 2. dove 3. forty 4. written 5. bread

Prepare the Way and Stand Firm

Luke 3:1–4:13

Name: _____

Date: _____

MY MEMORY VERSE

“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’”

Luke 4:4

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: bread • forty • repentance • dove • written

1. John said to bear fruits worthy of _____.
2. At Jesus’s baptism the Holy Spirit came down like a _____.
3. Jesus fasted _____ days in the wilderness.
4. Jesus answered every temptation with “It is _____.”
5. “Man shall not live by _____ alone, but by every word of God.”

DIG DEEPER

1. What is one thing you can share with someone this week, like John said (3:11)?

2. What is a temptation you often face? Which Bible verse could help?

3. Why do you think it matters that Jesus faced temptation but never sinned?

LOVE IN ACTION CHALLENGE

Memorize Luke 4:4 and one other verse that will help when you are tempted. Write it on a card or in your phone and keep it where you will see it.

THINK • FEEL • DO

THINK: What do you think it means to “bear fruits worthy of repentance”? What did Jesus use to win over temptation?

FEEL: How do you feel when you’re tempted? How does it feel to know Jesus understands and has already won?

DO: What verse or action will you use this week when you face temptation?

Good News for the Outcast

Luke 4:14–5:39 · 45 minutes · Middle School

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus came to rescue people who know they need Him, and He welcomes the sick, the sinful, and the left-out with power, compassion, and forgiveness.

KEY VERSE

“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

Luke 5:31-32

MEMORY VERSE

“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

Luke 5:32

KEY PEOPLE

- Jesus — the Anointed One announcing good news to the poor
- Simon Peter, James, and John — fishermen who left everything to follow Jesus
- The man with leprosy — an outcast whom Jesus touched
- The paralyzed man and his four friends — who cut a hole in a roof
- Levi (Matthew) — a tax collector who became a disciple
- The Pharisees and scribes — religious leaders who grumbled

YOUR 45-MINUTE PLAN

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT HAPPENS
0–5	Welcome & Opener	Ask: “Have you ever been the last one picked for a team or left out of a group chat?” Let a few share. Then say, “Today we see how Jesus treats people who were left out.”
5–10	Open in Prayer & Read the Passage	Pray together, then read or summarize the passage. Show the Key Verse slide and read it aloud.
10–27	Teach the Story	Teach from the teaching notes below, using the slide deck. Pause for quick questions.
27–35	Discussion	Break into small groups or use the whole group. Use the discussion questions.
35–40	Love in Action & Handout	Hand out the student page. Let students fill in the blanks and choose their Love in Action challenge.
40–45	Think • Feel • Do & Closing Prayer	Students answer the three reflection questions. Close in prayer.

BIBLE TEACHING

Jesus Announces His Mission (4:14-30)

After the desert, Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit. In His hometown of Nazareth He stood up in the synagogue and read from the prophet Isaiah: “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.” Then He sat down and said, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” At first people were amazed. But when Jesus reminded them that God had often helped outsiders, like the widow in Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian, the crowd got furious and tried to throw Him off a cliff. Jesus walked right through them. Sometimes people do not like to hear that God loves outsiders too.

Power and Authority (4:31-44)

In Capernaum, Jesus taught with authority, and people were astonished. He commanded an unclean spirit to leave a man, healed Peter’s mother-in-law of a high fever, and by evening, the whole town lined up at the door. Jesus laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. Early the next morning Jesus slipped away to pray. When the crowds begged Him to stay, He said, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.”

A Great Catch and a Great Call (5:1-11)

Jesus used Simon’s fishing boat as a pulpit, then told Simon, a professional fisherman, to put out into the deep and let down his nets. Simon said, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.” The net filled so full it began to break. Simon fell at Jesus’s knees and said, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” Jesus did not leave. He said, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” When they had brought their boats to land, “they forsook all and followed Him.” Jesus does not choose the perfect; He chooses willing people and changes them.

“I Am Willing” and “Your Sins Are Forgiven” (5:12-26)

A man covered with leprosy came and begged, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” People with leprosy were not allowed near anyone and had to shout “Unclean!” Nobody had touched this man in years. Jesus “put out His hand and touched him, saying, ‘I am willing; be cleansed.’” Immediately the leprosy left. Soon after, four friends carried a paralyzed man to a house packed with people. Since they couldn’t get through the door, they climbed up, removed roof tiles, and lowered him in front of Jesus. “When He saw their faith, He said to him, ‘Man, your sins are forgiven you.’” The religious leaders thought, “Who can forgive sins but God alone?” Right! Jesus then healed the man to show that He had the right to forgive sins. The man stood up, picked up his bed, and went home glorifying God.

A Banquet with Sinners (5:27-39)

Levi was a tax collector, a man hated for working for Rome and cheating his own people. Jesus walked by his tax booth and said just two words: “Follow Me.” “So he left all, rose up, and followed Him.” Levi threw a big dinner for Jesus and invited his friends, other tax collectors and sinners. The Pharisees muttered, “Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus answered, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” Jesus is the Great Physician, and Luke is a physician himself. The only people Jesus can’t help are those who think they don’t need a doctor.

CHRIST CONNECTION

In Nazareth Jesus claimed that Isaiah's promised Anointed One (the Messiah) was Himself. Every scene in these two chapters proves it: He preaches good news to the poor, frees the oppressed, heals the sick, touches the unclean, forgives sins, and welcomes sinners.

LOVING PEOPLE THE WAY JESUS DID

This is love in action: Jesus touched the untouchable, honored a team of friends who carried someone in need, and sat at the table with people everyone else avoided. We love like Jesus when we move toward the people others avoid.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the people of Nazareth got so angry? Have you ever resisted something because it didn't fit what you expected?
2. How did the paralyzed man's four friends show love? Who could you carry to Jesus through prayer or help?
3. Why did Jesus touch the man with leprosy when He could have just spoken? What does that touch say?
4. Who are the "tax collectors and sinners" in our world today? How would Jesus treat them?

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: HISTORY & CULTURE

For your preparation. Share the pieces that help your students picture the scene.

- Synagogues were local places of worship, prayer, and teaching. On the Sabbath, a man would read from the Law and Prophets, and visiting teachers were often invited to speak. Jesus read from Isaiah 61:1-2 and 58:6, then stopped mid-sentence because the rest, about judgment, was for His second coming.
- Nazareth's synagogue sat on a ridge. Jesus's reference to Elijah and Elisha pointed out that God had blessed Gentiles (a Phoenician widow and a Syrian general) because Israel would not listen. For proud listeners, that was an insult.
- Capernaum was a fishing town on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee and became Jesus's base of ministry. Excavations have found a first-century house beneath a later church, traditionally Peter's.
- The "Lake of Gennesaret" in Luke 5 is the Sea of Galilee, a freshwater lake about 13 miles long. Fishermen worked at night with large nets (about the time when fish rise) and washed their nets in the morning.
- Leprosy in the Bible included several skin diseases. Leviticus 13-14 required lepers to live outside the camp, tear their clothes, cover their lip, and cry "Unclean!" Touching a leper made a person ceremonially unclean, but Jesus's touch made the leper clean instead.
- Houses in Capernaum had flat roofs made of wooden beams, branches, and clay or tile, reached by outdoor stairs. Friends could dig through quickly and repair it afterward.
- The Pharisees were a respected group who kept strict traditions to stay pure; scribes were experts in the law. Tax collectors were hated as traitors and thieves; "sinners" were people known to openly violate the law. Eating together signaled friendship and acceptance, which is why Jesus's table fellowship shocked them.
- Levi is also called Matthew, the author of the first Gospel. Mark and Luke use his earlier name Levi for this story.

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1	Session 4: Good News for the Outcast	8	Dinner with Sinners
2	The Big Idea	9	Jesus Christ in This Passage
3	Key Verse	10	Love in Action
4	Key People	11	Let's Talk About It
5	Jesus's Mission Statement	12	Memory Verse
6	Fishermen Become Followers	13	Think • Feel • Do
7	Touch and Forgive		

Closing prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You that You came for people who need You, and that includes us. Make us willing, like You, to touch, welcome, and forgive. Help us bring our friends to You. In Your name, amen.

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. Isaiah 2. word 3. willing 4. roof 5. sinners

Good News for the Outcast

Luke 4:14–5:39

Name: _____

Date: _____

MY MEMORY VERSE

“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

Luke 5:32

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: willing • word • sinners • roof • Isaiah

1. Jesus read from the prophet _____ in the Nazareth synagogue.
2. Peter said, “At Your _____ I will let down the net.”
3. Jesus told the leper, “I am _____; be cleansed.”
4. The paralyzed man was lowered through the _____.
5. Jesus came to call _____ to repentance.

DIG DEEPER

1. Who could you “carry to Jesus” this week through prayer, a kind act, or an invitation?

2. Is there a person you tend to avoid? What would it look like to reach out in a Jesus-like way?

3. Peter said, “I am a sinful man,” and Jesus stayed. How does that make you feel about your own mistakes?

LOVE IN ACTION CHALLENGE

Sit with someone new at lunch or invite someone to youth group. Be a friend to someone who might feel left out. Pray for them by name this week.

THINK • FEEL • DO

THINK: What do you think Jesus’s touch and forgiveness show us about how He sees people who are hurting or left out?

FEEL: How do you feel knowing Jesus welcomes people who aren’t perfect, including you?

DO: Who will you include, encourage, or carry to Jesus this week?

Love Your Enemies

Luke 6–7 · 45 minutes · Middle School

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus teaches a love that goes beyond what is easy: loving enemies, showing mercy, and treating others the way we want to be treated, and He shows that love by His compassion.

KEY VERSE

“But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.”

Luke 6:27-28

MEMORY VERSE

“And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.”

Luke 6:31

KEY PEOPLE

- The twelve apostles — chosen by Jesus after a night of prayer
- The centurion — a Roman officer with great faith and a caring heart for his servant
- The widow of Nain — a mother whose only son had died
- John the Baptist — in prison, with honest questions
- The sinful woman — who wept at Jesus’s feet in Simon’s house
- Simon the Pharisee — the host who judged her

YOUR 45-MINUTE PLAN

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT HAPPENS
0–5	Welcome & Opener	Play “Golden Rule Rewind.” Read a scenario (someone spreads a rumor about you, someone cuts in line, someone doesn’t invite you). Ask: “What do we usually do? What does Jesus say to do?” Collect the answers on a whiteboard.
5–10	Open in Prayer & Read the Passage	Pray together, then read or summarize the passage. Show the Key Verse slide and read it aloud.
10–27	Teach the Story	Teach from the teaching notes below, using the slide deck. Pause for quick questions.
27–35	Discussion	Break into small groups or use the whole group. Use the discussion questions.
35–40	Love in Action & Handout	Hand out the student page. Let students fill in the blanks and choose their Love in Action challenge.
40–45	Think • Feel • Do & Closing Prayer	Students answer the three reflection questions. Close in prayer.

BIBLE TEACHING

A Night of Prayer, a Day of Choosing (6:1-19)

Chapter 6 opens with Jesus's clashes with Pharisees about the Sabbath. Jesus healed a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath, showing that doing good and saving life is what the Sabbath is for. Then He spent the whole night in prayer on a mountain, and in the morning He chose twelve men to be His apostles, including Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Matthew, Thomas, and Judas Iscariot, who would betray Him. Notice that Jesus prayed before making a big decision.

The Sermon on the Plain (6:20-49)

Jesus came down to a level place, with crowds from as far away as Tyre and Sidon, and started teaching His disciples. He turned the world upside down: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled." Then comes the hardest teaching: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you." If someone strikes you on the cheek, don't strike back. Then Jesus gave us the Golden Rule: "And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise." Why? Because even sinners love people who love them, but God's children are different. "Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful." Jesus continued: don't judge, forgive, give generously, and take the plank out of your own eye before pointing at the speck in someone else's. He ended with the story of two builders: one built his house on the rock by hearing and doing Jesus's words, and the other built on sand by hearing and not doing. When the flood came, only the house on the rock stood.

A Soldier with Great Faith (7:1-10)

A Roman centurion in Capernaum had a servant who was dying. Though he was a Gentile and a soldier from an occupying army, the Jewish elders said, "He loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue." The centurion felt unworthy to have Jesus come into his house. He said, "But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man placed under authority." He understood that Jesus's word carried authority over sickness. Jesus marveled: "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" The servant was healed from a distance. Notice the centurion's kindness: he cared deeply about his servant, which was unusual for his time.

Compassion at a Funeral (7:11-17)

The next day, in a town called Nain, Jesus met a funeral procession for a widow's only son. With her husband and son gone, she had no one to provide for her. "When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, 'Do not weep.'" Then He touched the coffin and said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus presented him to his mother. The people said, "God has visited His people." Jesus did not wait to be asked. He saw pain and moved toward it.

A Woman Who Loved Much (7:36-50)

A Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus to dinner. During the meal an uninvited woman known as a sinner came in with an alabaster flask of fragrant oil. She stood behind Jesus at His feet, weeping, and began to wash His feet with her tears, wipe them with her hair, kiss them, and anoint them with oil. Simon thought, “If this Man were a prophet, He would know who and what manner of woman this is.” Jesus told a short story about two debtors, one who owed a lot and one who owed a little, and both were forgiven. “Which of them will love him more?” Simon answered, “I suppose the one whom he forgave more.” Jesus then showed that Simon had not offered Him even the basic courtesies of water, a kiss, or oil, but the woman had done them all. “Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.” Then Jesus said to her, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

CHRIST CONNECTION

John the Baptist, from prison, asked if Jesus was the Coming One. Jesus answered by pointing to His works: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the gospel preached to them (7:22). That matches Isaiah’s prophecy and shows that Jesus is the Messiah.

LOVING PEOPLE THE WAY JESUS DID

This is the heart of the unit on loving people. Jesus teaches love for enemies, mercy, and generosity, and then He lives it: He shows compassion to a grieving widow, honors a Gentile soldier’s faith, and forgives a woman who was rejected. Because we have been forgiven much, we can love much.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which is harder: loving your enemies or treating people how you’d want to be treated? Why?
2. What did the centurion do that showed love for his servant? What does it teach us?
3. Jesus saw the widow’s need and acted without being asked. What needs around you might Jesus be asking you to notice?
4. Simon thought he was better than the woman. How do we sometimes do that? What does the story say about how much we’ve been forgiven?

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: HISTORY & CULTURE

For your preparation. Share the pieces that help your students picture the scene.

- The Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:17-49) is a shorter parallel to Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount. Jesus likely taught similar material many times. Luke’s version emphasizes concern for the poor and practical love.
- “Blessed” can also be translated “happy” or “favored.” Jesus is describing the deep joy of those who rely on God rather than on wealth or comfort. The “woes” in 6:24-26 warn people who trust in riches and approval.
- Striking someone on the cheek (6:29) was an insult as much as an injury. Jesus’s teaching is about not retaliating, not about letting someone be seriously hurt. A coat and a tunic were the outer and inner garments; giving both showed extreme generosity.
- A centurion commanded about 100 soldiers in the Roman army. Gentiles who admired Judaism were called “God-fearers,” and this centurion appears to be one. A Roman soldier building a synagogue was highly unusual. The Jewish elders vouched for him.

- Nain is a small village about 25 miles southwest of Capernaum, near Mount Tabor. The city is near where Elisha raised the Shunammite woman's son (2 Kings 4), which would have reminded the crowd of that prophet. Burials took place the same day, and mourners processed to a tomb outside the town with the body on an open bier, not in a closed coffin.
- Widows without sons were among the most vulnerable people in the ancient world, with no one to care for them. Both Old Testament and Jesus show special care for widows (Deuteronomy 10:18; Luke 18).
- In Simon's home, guests reclined on cushions around a low table, with their feet extended away from the table, which is how the woman could reach Jesus's feet. A host normally offered water for dusty feet, a kiss of greeting, and olive oil for the head. A woman letting down her hair in public was considered improper, which makes her act of devotion even more striking.
- This woman is not named, and Luke never says she is Mary Magdalene. Do not combine her with other Marys. The Bible does not tell us what her sin was; the point is her love and forgiveness.

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1	Session 5: Love Your Enemies	8	She Loved Much
2	The Big Idea	9	Jesus Christ in This Passage
3	Key Verse	10	Love in Action
4	Key People	11	Let's Talk About It
5	Choosing the Twelve	12	Memory Verse
6	Love Your Enemies	13	Think • Feel • Do
7	Faith and Compassion		

Closing prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for loving us when we did not deserve it. Give us Your heart for people who are hard to love. Help us to treat others the way we want to be treated and to be merciful as our Father is merciful. Amen.

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. twelve 2. enemies 3. word 4. son 5. Father

Love Your Enemies

Luke 6–7

Name: _____

Date: _____

MY MEMORY VERSE

“And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.”

Luke 6:31

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: enemies • twelve • word • Father • son

1. Jesus chose _____ apostles after a night of prayer.
2. Jesus said to love your _____ and do good to those who hate you.
3. The centurion said, “Say the _____, and my servant will be healed.”
4. At Nain, Jesus raised a widow’s only _____.
5. “Be merciful, just as your _____ also is merciful.”

DIG DEEPER

1. Think of someone who is hard to love. What is one kind thing you could do or pray for them?

2. Which of Jesus’s commands in Luke 6 do you most need help with?

3. The woman loved much because she was forgiven much. What has Jesus forgiven you for? How do you want to show your thanks?

LOVE IN ACTION CHALLENGE

For three days, pray for someone who has hurt you or is difficult to be around. Then do one kind thing for them without expecting anything in return.

THINK • FEEL • DO

THINK: What do you think Jesus meant when He told us to love our enemies? Why is that so different from how the world works?

FEEL: How do you feel when someone is mean to you? How do you feel knowing Jesus loves even people who have hurt Him?

DO: Who is one person you will pray for or show kindness to this week?

Who Is This?

Luke 8:1–9:17 · 45 minutes · Middle School

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus has power over nature, evil spirits, sickness, and even death, and He asks us to trust Him and to use what we have to serve others.

KEY VERSE

“But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”

Luke 8:15

MEMORY VERSE

“Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”

Luke 8:48

KEY PEOPLE

- Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna — women who supported Jesus’s ministry
- The disciples — afraid in the storm, asking “Who can this be?”
- The man from Gerasenes — freed from a legion of demons
- Jairus — a synagogue leader whose daughter was dying
- The woman with the flow of blood — who touched Jesus’s garment
- The boy with five loaves and two fish (from John’s Gospel) — the offering Jesus multiplied

YOUR 45-MINUTE PLAN

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT HAPPENS
0–5	Welcome & Opener	Show a picture of a seed and a toy boat (or draw them). Ask: “What do seeds, storms, and a lunch have in common?” Tell them they are about to find out how Jesus handles each one.
5–10	Open in Prayer & Read the Passage	Pray together, then read or summarize the passage. Show the Key Verse slide and read it aloud.
10–27	Teach the Story	Teach from the teaching notes below, using the slide deck. Pause for quick questions.
27–35	Discussion	Break into small groups or use the whole group. Use the discussion questions.
35–40	Love in Action & Handout	Hand out the student page. Let students fill in the blanks and choose their Love in Action challenge.
40–45	Think • Feel • Do & Closing Prayer	Students answer the three reflection questions. Close in prayer.

BIBLE TEACHING

Women Who Served (8:1-3)

Luke is the Gospel writer who tells us the most about the women around Jesus. Mary Magdalene, whom Jesus had delivered of seven demons, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward, Susanna, and many others used their own money to support Jesus's ministry. Jesus welcomed women as disciples in a culture that often did not.

The Parable of the Sower (8:4-21)

A farmer scattered seed. Some fell on the path and birds ate it. Some fell on rock and withered because it had no moisture. Some fell among thorns that choked it. And some fell on good ground and produced a crop a hundredfold. Jesus explained: the seed is the word of God. The path is the heart that hears, and then the devil takes the word away. The rock is the person who receives it with joy but has no root and falls away in testing. The thorns are the worries, riches, and pleasures of life that choke it. And the good ground are "those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience." The big question is: what kind of soil is my heart? Jesus also said that His true family is those who hear the word of God and do it (8:21).

Who Can This Be? (8:22-39)

One evening Jesus said to His disciples, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." While Jesus slept in the boat, a fierce windstorm came down, and the boat started filling with water. The disciples, including experienced fishermen, woke Him in fear: "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and the raging water, and "there was a calm." He asked, "Where is your faith?" They were amazed and asked, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!" On the other side, in the country of the Gerasenes, a man who was naked, lived in the tombs, and could not be chained met Jesus. A "legion" of demons lived in him. Jesus sent them out into a herd of pigs, and the man was found "sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind." The townspeople were afraid and asked Jesus to leave. The healed man begged to go with Jesus, but Jesus said, "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." He went and told the whole city.

Two Impossible Situations (8:40-56)

Jairus, a leader of the synagogue, fell at Jesus's feet and begged Him to come to heal his only daughter, who was twelve and dying. On the way a crowd pressed around Jesus, and a woman who had suffered a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her money on doctors touched the hem of His garment. She was healed instantly. Jesus stopped and asked, "Who touched Me?" She came trembling and told Him everything, and Jesus said, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace." Jesus didn't just want her healed. He wanted her to know she was seen and accepted. While He was speaking, someone came from Jairus's house: "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." Jesus said, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." At the house, He took the girl by the hand and said, "Little girl, arise." Her spirit returned, and she got up immediately. He told them to give her something to eat. That tells us how personal His care is.

Five Thousand Fed (9:1-17)

Jesus sent the twelve out with power and authority to preach and heal. When they returned, a crowd of about five thousand men (plus women and children) followed Jesus to a lonely place. Evening came and the disciples wanted to send the people away. Jesus said, "You give them something to eat." They had only five loaves and two fish. Jesus had the people sit in groups, blessed the food, broke it, and gave it to the disciples to distribute. All ate and were filled, and twelve baskets of leftovers were gathered. Jesus can do a lot with a little when we hand it to Him.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Look at the question the disciples asked: “Who can this be?” In this section we see Jesus command a storm, defeat demons, heal sickness, raise the dead, and multiply food. Only God does these things. Herod even asks the same question in 9:9: “Who is this?” Next week Peter will answer.

LOVING PEOPLE THE WAY JESUS DID

Jesus loved people one at a time: the woman who needed to be seen, the father whose daughter was dying, the man who had been abandoned in the tombs, and the hungry crowd. Notice that Jesus gives us a part in His love: “You give them something to eat.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which kind of soil do you think best describes your heart right now? What helps the word grow?
2. The disciples were afraid even though Jesus was in the boat. When have you felt that Jesus was asleep during your storm?
3. Why do you think Jesus stopped to talk to the woman when He was on His way to Jairus’s house?
4. What do you have (time, talents, money, lunch) that you could put into Jesus’s hands for Him to use?

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: HISTORY & CULTURE

For your preparation. Share the pieces that help your students picture the scene.

- The Sea of Galilee lies about 700 feet below sea level and is surrounded by hills. Cold air rushing down from the hills over the warm lake can create sudden, violent storms. Several disciples were fishermen who knew these storms well, so their fear shows this storm was serious.
- The “country of the Gerasenes” was in the Decapolis, a league of ten Greek-style cities, mostly Gentile. Pigs were considered unclean by Jews, so a herd of pigs shows this was Gentile territory. A Roman “legion” was about 6,000 soldiers, though here it likely means “a great many.” Tombs were caves or burial chambers; living among them made the man ritually unclean.
- The healed man was the first missionary to the Decapolis. Mark 5:20 says he proclaimed what Jesus had done in the ten cities.
- A woman with a continuous flow of blood was considered ceremonially unclean under Leviticus 15, and anyone she touched would also be unclean. She had been isolated for twelve years. Jesus did not scold her for touching Him. He called her “Daughter,” a tender word that welcomed her back into the community.
- Jairus was a ruler of the synagogue, a respected lay leader who handled the building and order of worship. He risked his reputation by begging Jesus for help. The girl was twelve, the same number of years the woman had suffered.
- The wording “Little girl, arise” (Aramaic: *talitha cumi*) is preserved in Mark 5:41. Mourners and flute players were typically hired for funerals, which shows they expected death. Luke’s Gospel includes three resurrections: the widow’s son (7), Jairus’s daughter (8), and Jesus Himself (24).
- Five loaves and two fish were a boy’s lunch: barley loaves (the bread of the poor) and small dried fish (John 6:9). The numbering “about 5,000 men” did not include women and children. The twelve baskets symbolize the twelve disciples, each carrying away leftovers.
- Women supporting a rabbi financially was unusual. Luke highlights them because they played a key role in Jesus’s ministry, and they would also be the first witnesses to the resurrection.

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1	Session 6: Who Is This?	8	Feeding the Five Thousand
2	The Big Idea	9	Jesus Christ in This Passage
3	Key Verse	10	Love in Action
4	Key People	11	Let's Talk About It
5	The Sower and the Soils	12	Memory Verse
6	Storm and Legion	13	Think • Feel • Do
7	Jairus and the Woman		

Closing prayer: Lord Jesus, You are Lord over the storm, over sickness, over death, and over everything. Help us make our hearts good soil, trust You in our storms, and offer what we have for You to use. Amen.

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. word 2. winds 3. things 4. twelve 5. loaves

Who Is This?

Luke 8:1–9:17

Name: _____

Date: _____

MY MEMORY VERSE

“Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”

Luke 8:48

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: word • loaves • winds • twelve • things

1. The seed in the parable of the sower is the _____ of God.
2. The disciples asked, “Who can this be? For He commands even the _____ and water.”
3. Jesus told the freed man to tell what great _____ God had done.
4. Jairus’s daughter was _____ years old.
5. Jesus fed the crowd with five _____ and two fish.

DIG DEEPER

1. What are the “thorns” in your life that crowd out God’s Word?

2. What “storm” are you in right now? How can you remember that Jesus is in the boat?

3. What is your “five loaves and two fish”? How could you offer it to Jesus?

LOVE IN ACTION CHALLENGE

Tell one person this week “what great things God has done” for you. It can be a story of answered prayer, a time Jesus helped you, or a verse that encouraged you.

THINK • FEEL • DO

THINK: What do you think the disciples learned about Jesus when He calmed the storm? What do you think about Him?

FEEL: How do you feel when you are in a storm or something feels out of control? How does it change knowing Jesus has power over everything?

DO: What is one thing you will give to Jesus or tell someone about Him this week?

Who Is My Neighbor?

Luke 9:18–10:42 · 45 minutes · Middle School

THE BIG IDEA

Loving God with all we are and loving our neighbor as ourselves means being willing to follow Jesus, to show mercy to anyone in need, and to make time to sit at Jesus's feet.

KEY VERSE

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,” and “your neighbor as yourself.”

Luke 10:27

MEMORY VERSE

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

Luke 10:27

KEY PEOPLE

- Peter — who said, “The Christ of God”
- Peter, James, and John — who saw Jesus transfigured
- Moses and Elijah — who appeared with Jesus
- The lawyer — an expert in the law who asked, “Who is my neighbor?”
- The Good Samaritan — the hero of Jesus's story
- The priest and the Levite — who passed by
- Mary and Martha — sisters in Bethany who welcomed Jesus

YOUR 45-MINUTE PLAN

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT HAPPENS
0–5	Welcome & Opener	Ask: “Who is your neighbor?” Write answers. Then ask, “If a neighbor needed help, how far would you go? Would you do it for someone you do not like?” Say: “Today Jesus answers the question, ‘Who is my neighbor?’”
5–10	Open in Prayer & Read the Passage	Pray together, then read or summarize the passage. Show the Key Verse slide and read it aloud.
10–27	Teach the Story	Teach from the teaching notes below, using the slide deck. Pause for quick questions.
27–35	Discussion	Break into small groups or use the whole group. Use the discussion questions.
35–40	Love in Action & Handout	Hand out the student page. Let students fill in the blanks and choose their Love in Action challenge.

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT HAPPENS
40–45	Think • Feel • Do & Closing Prayer	Students answer the three reflection questions. Close in prayer.

BIBLE TEACHING

“Who Do You Say That I Am?” (9:18-27)

After a time of prayer, Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” They answered: John the Baptist, Elijah, one of the prophets. Then Jesus asked, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “The Christ of God.” It was the most important answer in the world. Jesus then said something the disciples did not expect: the Son of Man must suffer, be rejected, be killed, and be raised the third day. And anyone who wants to follow Him must do this: “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” Following Jesus is not about getting what we want. It is about giving Him everything.

A Glimpse of Glory (9:28-36)

About eight days later, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up on a mountain to pray. As He prayed, “the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.” Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Jesus about His coming death, or “decease,” in Jerusalem. The disciples had been sleepy but woke up and saw His glory. Peter blurted out an idea about building three tents, but a cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!” Then Moses and Elijah were gone, and Jesus was alone. God the Father wanted them to listen to Jesus above everyone else.

Setting His Face Toward Jerusalem (9:51-62)

From here on, Luke’s Gospel moves toward the cross. “He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem.” When a Samaritan village refused to welcome Jesus, James and John asked, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” Jesus rebuked them. He had come to save, not to destroy. Then Jesus taught about the cost of following Him: no excuses, no delays, no looking back. Soon after, He sent out seventy others in pairs to prepare towns for His visit. When they returned with joy, Jesus told them not to rejoice over power but because their names were “written in heaven” (10:20).

The Good Samaritan (10:25-37)

A lawyer, an expert in the law of Moses, stood to test Jesus: “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus asked, “What is written in the law?” The lawyer answered with the two greatest commandments: love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. “You have answered rightly,” said Jesus. But the lawyer wanted to justify himself and asked, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus told a story. A man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho was attacked by robbers, stripped, beaten, and left half dead. A priest came by and passed on the other side. A Levite, another temple worker, did the same. Then a Samaritan, someone Jews looked down on, saw him, “had compassion,” bandaged his wounds with oil and wine, put him on his own animal, took him to an inn, and paid for his care, promising to return and pay whatever more was needed. Jesus asked, “Which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?” Notice that the lawyer never said the word “Samaritan.” He said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Jesus said, “Go and do likewise.” The question is not “Who is my neighbor?” but “Am I being a neighbor?”

One Thing Is Needed (10:38-42)

In a village (Bethany), a woman named Martha welcomed Jesus into her home. Her sister Mary sat at Jesus's feet and listened to His word. Martha, distracted by all the preparations, complained, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." Jesus answered gently: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." Serving is good, but sitting at Jesus's feet comes first. Love for people flows from time with Jesus.

CHRIST CONNECTION

The Good Samaritan shows us a picture of Jesus Himself. Jesus is the One who came to us when we were helpless, bound up our wounds, paid the price in full, and promised to return. He is the ultimate neighbor.

LOVING PEOPLE THE WAY JESUS DID

This is the clearest lesson on loving people in the whole Gospel. Our neighbor is anyone in need, including people we would not usually choose. Real love is compassion that costs us something: time, money, comfort. And it begins with loving God and listening to Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Peter said, "The Christ of God." Who do you say Jesus is, and how does that change how you live?
2. Why do you think the priest and the Levite passed by? What excuses do we make for not helping?
3. Who is the "Samaritan" in your world, someone you might be tempted to ignore or avoid? How can you be a neighbor?
4. What is the difference between being busy for Jesus and being with Jesus?

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: HISTORY & CULTURE

For your preparation. Share the pieces that help your students picture the scene.

- Caesarea Philippi, where Peter's confession took place (Matthew 16), was a center of pagan worship. Peter's statement was made in a place full of false gods.
- Cross-bearing in the first century meant a condemned person carrying the instrument of his execution. When Jesus said to take up your cross "daily," He meant dying to self every day.
- The Transfiguration probably happened on Mount Hermon or Mount Tabor. Moses (the Law) and Elijah (the Prophets) represent all of the Old Testament, and both talked with God on a mountain. They discussed Jesus's "exodus" (the Greek word for "decease" in 9:31), the way Jesus would lead people out of slavery to sin. Peter later wrote about this in 2 Peter 1:16-18.
- Samaritans were descendants of Israelites who intermarried with other peoples after the Assyrian conquest of 722 BC. They worshiped on Mount Gerizim instead of at the temple in Jerusalem. Jews and Samaritans had deep hostility; Jews often avoided traveling through Samaria. Many Jews would not even speak to Samaritans (John 4:9).
- The road from Jerusalem to Jericho dropped about 3,300 feet over 17 miles through rocky, desolate hills. It was known for robbers and was nicknamed the "Way of Blood." Priests and Levites often lived in Jericho and served in Jerusalem. They may have worried that touching a half-dead man would make them ritually unclean, but Jesus's point is that mercy outweighs ritual.

- Oil and wine were common medical treatment: wine cleansed wounds, and oil soothed them. Two denarii was about two days' wages. The Samaritan gave sacrificially and promised more.
- Hospitality was extremely important in the ancient Near East. Martha's fuss was understandable. But "sitting at the feet" was the posture of a student with a rabbi, and in that culture women were not generally taught the law as students. Jesus affirmed Mary's right to learn, which was countercultural.
- Bethany was a village about two miles east of Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives. John 11 tells us the sisters' brother was Lazarus.

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1	Session 7: Who Is My Neighbor?	8	The Good Samaritan
2	The Big Idea	9	Mary and Martha
3	Key Verse	10	Jesus Christ in This Passage
4	Key People (1 of 2)	11	Love in Action
5	Key People (2 of 2)	12	Let's Talk About It
6	Who Do You Say That I Am?	13	Memory Verse
7	The Two Great Commands	14	Think • Feel • Do

Closing prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for being the Good Samaritan who rescued us. Teach us to love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Help us sit at Your feet and then go and do likewise. Amen.

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. Christ 2. cross 3. Samaritan 4. likewise 5. part

Who Is My Neighbor?

Luke 9:18–10:42

Name: _____

Date: _____

MY MEMORY VERSE

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

Luke 10:27

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: likewise • cross • part • Christ • Samaritan

1. Peter answered, “You are the _____ of God.”
2. Jesus said to take up your _____ daily and follow Him.
3. The man who stopped to help the injured traveler was a _____.
4. Jesus told the lawyer, “Go and do _____.”
5. Mary chose the good _____, which would not be taken away.

DIG DEEPER

1. Who are the people you tend to walk past (like the priest and the Levite)? What would it take to stop?

2. What do you do when you feel too busy for time with Jesus?

3. Who can you be a neighbor to this week? Name one person and one action.

LOVE IN ACTION CHALLENGE

Be a Good Samaritan this week. Find someone with a need (a classmate, family member, neighbor) and meet it in a practical way. Set aside 10 minutes of quiet time with Jesus, like Mary.

THINK • FEEL • DO

THINK: What do you think Jesus wants us to learn from the Good Samaritan? Who is your neighbor?

FEEL: How do you feel when you see someone in need? What makes it hard to help?

DO: What is one specific way you will be a neighbor to someone this week?

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Luke 11–12 · 45 minutes · Middle School

THE BIG IDEA

Our heavenly Father loves to give good gifts to His children, so we can pray boldly, stop worrying, and find our life in God rather than in things.

KEY VERSE

“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

Luke 11:9

MEMORY VERSE

“Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

Luke 12:15

KEY PEOPLE

- The disciples — who asked, “Lord, teach us to pray”
- A persistent friend — in Jesus’s story at midnight
- The Pharisees and lawyers — who were clean on the outside but not within
- A man in the crowd — who wanted his inheritance settled
- The rich fool — who stored up treasure for himself but was not rich toward God
- The “little flock” — Jesus’s followers, who need not fear

YOUR 45-MINUTE PLAN

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT HAPPENS
0–5	Welcome & Opener	Ask: “What do you spend the most time worrying about?” Collect a few answers on a whiteboard (grades, friends, family, future). Say: “Today Jesus tells us what to do with those worries.”
5–10	Open in Prayer & Read the Passage	Pray together, then read or summarize the passage. Show the Key Verse slide and read it aloud.
10–27	Teach the Story	Teach from the teaching notes below, using the slide deck. Pause for quick questions.
27–35	Discussion	Break into small groups or use the whole group. Use the discussion questions.
35–40	Love in Action & Handout	Hand out the student page. Let students fill in the blanks and choose their Love in Action challenge.
40–45	Think • Feel • Do & Closing Prayer	Students answer the three reflection questions. Close in prayer.

BIBLE TEACHING

Teach Us to Pray (11:1-13)

One day the disciples watched Jesus pray, and when He finished, one of them asked, “Lord, teach us to pray.” Jesus gave them a model prayer. Start with “Father,” which means we come to God as His children. Praise Him: “Hallowed be Your name.” Pray for His kingdom and His will. Ask for daily needs: “Give us day by day our daily bread.” Ask for forgiveness as we forgive others. And ask for protection from temptation. Then Jesus told a story about a man who knocks on his friend’s door at midnight to borrow bread for a guest. The friend finally gets up because of the man’s persistence. How much more will God, who is a good Father, respond to our prayers! Jesus continued: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” Even earthly fathers know how to give good gifts: “How much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Clean Outside, Dirty Inside (11:14-54)

Jesus drove out a demon, and some accused Him of doing it by the power of Satan. Jesus showed how foolish that was and said anyone not with Him is against Him. He warned that those who hear God’s word and keep it are truly blessed. The crowds demanded a sign, but Jesus said the only sign would be Jonah, a picture of His own death and resurrection. At dinner with a Pharisee, Jesus did not wash before the meal, which surprised the host. Jesus said, “Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness.” He pointed out that they obeyed tiny rules, like tithing herbs, but forgot justice and the love of God. The lesson: God cares more about the heart than about appearances.

Fear God, Not People (12:1-12)

Jesus warned His disciples, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.” Leaven (yeast) spreads silently through the whole batch of dough, and so does fake religion. He told them not to be afraid of those who can only kill the body, but to honor God. And then comes one of the most comforting statements in the Bible: God remembers every sparrow. “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

The Rich Fool (12:13-21)

Someone in the crowd shouted, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” Jesus answered with a warning: “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” Then He told a story of a rich farmer who had a bumper crop. He said to himself, “I will pull down my barns and build greater... And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’” But God said, “Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?” The man planned for his barns but not for his soul. Jesus concluded, “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Do Not Worry (12:22-34)

Jesus then said to His disciples: “Do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on.” God feeds the ravens, which do not plant or harvest. God clothes the lilies in more splendor than Solomon. “If God so clothes the grass... how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith?” Worry cannot add even a single hour to your life. Instead, seek God’s kingdom, and these things will be added. Then Jesus gave this tender promise: “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” And He added: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus invites us to call God “Father.” That is possible only because Jesus is the Son of God and brings us into His family. Jesus also says that the greatest gift the Father gives is the Holy Spirit, and after Jesus’s resurrection and ascension, the Spirit would come to live in believers.

LOVING PEOPLE THE WAY JESUS DID

Prayer is how we love God. And because we know God is a good Father who takes care of us, we are free to be generous and not greedy. The rich fool kept everything for himself. When we trust God’s care, we can share with others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus calls God “Father.” How does that change how you pray?
2. Why do you think Jesus tells a story about a friend who keeps knocking? Does that mean God is reluctant to answer?
3. What’s the difference between planning for the future and worrying about it?
4. What treasure are you tempted to store up? How could you be “rich toward God”?

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: HISTORY & CULTURE

For your preparation. Share the pieces that help your students picture the scene.

- Luke’s version of the Lord’s Prayer (11:2-4) is shorter than Matthew’s (6:9-13). Jesus offered it as a model, not just a script. The Jews of Jesus’s day had set times of prayer. John the Baptist also taught his disciples a prayer, which is why the disciples asked.
- Jesus uses “Father” (Abba in Aramaic), an affectionate term used by children for their dads. This was an astonishing way to address God in prayer, but it reflects the closeness believers have through Christ.
- Hospitality to a guest was a sacred duty in the Middle East. A neighbor who refused to help would bring shame on himself. The Greek word translated “persistence” (11:8) can mean shameless boldness. Jesus’s point is a contrast: if an unwilling friend will respond, how much more a loving Father.
- The “sign of Jonah” refers to Jonah spending three days in the fish and then preaching to Nineveh. Jesus’s three days in the grave and resurrection would be the great sign. The Queen of the South (Sheba) and the people of Nineveh will condemn that generation because they responded to less than Jesus.
- Pharisees had elaborate washing rituals before meals that were not commanded in the Law of Moses. These rules were part of the “tradition of the elders.” Jesus did not oppose cleanliness. He opposed religion that cared about outward cleaning while ignoring a dirty heart.
- Leaven (yeast) is used in the Bible as a picture of sin or false teaching spreading quietly. Sparrows were the cheapest bird sold for food: two for a copper coin (Luke 12:6).
- Inheritance disputes were common. Under Jewish law (Deuteronomy 21:17), the oldest son received a double portion. People often asked rabbis to settle such disputes. Jesus refused to be a judge but exposed the real problem: greed.
- The ravens were considered unclean birds (Leviticus 11:15), yet God feeds them. The “lilies” were probably wildflowers growing in the hills of Galilee.

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1	Session 8: Lord, Teach Us to Pray	8	Treasure and Worry
2	The Big Idea	9	Jesus Christ in This Passage
3	Key Verse	10	Love in Action
4	Key People	11	Let's Talk About It
5	Lord, Teach Us to Pray	12	Memory Verse
6	Ask, Seek, Knock	13	Think • Feel • Do
7	Heart, Not Show		

Closing prayer: Our Father in heaven, thank You for being a good Father who loves to give good gifts. Teach us to pray, to trust You, and to stop worrying. Help us to be rich toward You and generous toward others. Amen.

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. pray 2. knock 3. Spirit 4. hypocrisy 5. treasure

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Luke 11–12

Name: _____

Date: _____

MY MEMORY VERSE

“Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

Luke 12:15

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: hypocrisy • treasure • Spirit • pray • knock

1. The disciples asked, “Lord, teach us to _____.”
2. Jesus said to ask, seek, and _____.
3. “Your heavenly Father will give the Holy _____ to those who ask Him.”
4. Jesus warned against the leaven of the Pharisees, which is _____.
5. “For where your _____ is, there your heart will be also.”

DIG DEEPER

1. What is one thing you need to ask God for? Write it down and pray for it every day this week.

2. What do you worry about the most? What would it look like to give that worry to your Father?

3. What are you “storing up” for yourself? How could you be rich toward God?

LOVE IN ACTION CHALLENGE

Each day this week, pray the model prayer in your own words. Then pick one thing you own that you can give or share with someone in need.

THINK • FEEL • DO

THINK: What do you think Jesus wants us to know about our heavenly Father and how He answers prayer?

FEEL: What do you worry about the most? How do you feel when you hear that God knows every detail of your life?

DO: What will you do this week to pray more or to trust God with your worries?

The Narrow Door and the Open Table

Luke 13–14 · 45 minutes · Middle School

THE BIG IDEA

God’s table has room for everyone, but we enter through humility, not pride, and following Jesus means counting the cost and putting Him first.

KEY VERSE & MEMORY VERSE

“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Luke 14:11

KEY PEOPLE

- The woman bent over for eighteen years — healed on the Sabbath
- The synagogue ruler — who cared more about rules than about her
- Jesus, who longs to gather Jerusalem “as a hen gathers her brood”
- The dinner host and guests — who fought for the best seats
- The poor, maimed, lame, and blind — invited to the great supper
- The great crowds — who needed to count the cost of following Jesus

YOUR 45-MINUTE PLAN

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT HAPPENS
0–5	Welcome & Opener	Play “Musical Chairs, Best Seat Edition.” Ask who always wants the best seat in the room or the best spot in line. Then say: “Today Jesus tells a story about a party and where you should sit.”
5–10	Open in Prayer & Read the Passage	Pray together, then read or summarize the passage. Show the Key Verse slide and read it aloud.
10–27	Teach the Story	Teach from the teaching notes below, using the slide deck. Pause for quick questions.
27–35	Discussion	Break into small groups or use the whole group. Use the discussion questions.
35–40	Love in Action & Handout	Hand out the student page. Let students fill in the blanks and choose their Love in Action challenge.
40–45	Think • Feel • Do & Closing Prayer	Students answer the three reflection questions. Close in prayer.

BIBLE TEACHING

Repent or Perish (13:1-9)

Some people brought Jesus news of a tragedy: Pilate had murdered Galileans while they were making sacrifices. Jesus knew people tended to think that bad things only happen to bad people. He answered, “Unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” The point is not to compare ourselves to others. Everyone needs to turn to God. Then He told a story of a fig tree that bore no fruit for three years. The owner wanted to cut it down, but the vinedresser asked for one more year to dig around it and fertilize it. God is patient, but the patience is meant to lead us to repentance, not to be wasted.

A Woman Set Free (13:10-21)

On the Sabbath in a synagogue, Jesus saw a woman who had been bent over by a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years and could not straighten up at all. Jesus called to her and said, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.” He laid His hands on her, “and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.” The ruler of the synagogue was indignant that Jesus healed on the Sabbath. Jesus called him a hypocrite: you untie your ox or donkey on the Sabbath to give it water, shouldn’t this daughter of Abraham, bound by Satan for eighteen years, be loosed? People are worth more than animals and more than our rules. Jesus then used two short stories, a mustard seed and a bit of leaven, to show that God’s kingdom starts small and grows huge.

The Narrow Door and the Weeping Savior (13:22-35)

Someone asked, “Lord, are there few who are saved?” Jesus answered, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate.” There is a door, and one day the master will shut it. Some will say, “We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets,” but He will say, “I do not know you.” Being near Jesus is not the same as knowing Him. People from east, west, north, and south will come and sit down in the kingdom of God. Then Jesus lamented over Jerusalem: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!” Jesus is not a cold judge. He is a mother hen, longing to protect. The tragedy is not that He was unwilling, but that they were.

The Best Seat in the House (14:1-14)

Jesus was invited to dinner at the home of a prominent Pharisee on the Sabbath, and everyone was watching Him closely. A man with dropsy (swelling from fluid) was there, and Jesus healed him. Then Jesus noticed how the guests were picking the best seats and told a parable: when you are invited to a wedding feast, do not sit in the best place, because someone more honorable may come, and you will be embarrassed to move down. Instead, sit in the lowest place, so the host can say, “Friend, go up higher.” Then Jesus summed it up: “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Then He told the host: when you give a dinner, don’t invite just friends who can repay you. Invite “the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind,” and you will be blessed because they cannot repay you.

The Great Supper and the Cost (14:15-35)

Someone at the table said, “Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!” Jesus told a story about a man who prepared a great supper and invited many. But all the invited guests began to make excuses: one bought a field, one bought five yoke of oxen, and one just got married. The master was angry, and sent his servant into the streets and lanes of the city to bring in “the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind,” and then out to the highways and hedges so that his house would be filled. The invitation is real, the table is ready, and the excuses are ours. Then large crowds followed Jesus, and He turned and told them the cost: anyone who comes to Jesus must love Him more than family and even their own life, and “whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.” Like a man building a tower, count the cost first. Like a king going to war, plan ahead. Following Jesus is worth everything, but it costs everything.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is the One who humbled Himself to the lowest place. Philippians 2 says He, though God, took the form of a servant and became obedient to death on a cross, and God highly exalted Him. The invitation to God’s great feast is open because Jesus paid the cost to prepare it.

LOVING PEOPLE THE WAY JESUS DID

Jesus teaches us to love by giving up the best seat, inviting those who cannot pay us back, and making room for the people we would normally overlook. Pride says, “Look at me.” Love says, “Come sit with us.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the synagogue ruler cared more about the Sabbath rule than about a suffering woman? Have you ever put a rule above a person?
2. What kinds of excuses do people use to avoid coming to Jesus?
3. Who are the people in our lives who can’t repay us? How could we invite them in?
4. Jesus told us to count the cost. What might following Jesus cost you? Why is it worth it?

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: HISTORY & CULTURE

For your preparation. Share the pieces that help your students picture the scene.

- The two tragedies in 13:1-5 are not recorded elsewhere. Pilate was known for cruelty and for attacking Jews. The tower in Siloam was probably part of the Jerusalem city wall. Many Jews believed disasters always came as punishment for specific sins (like Job’s friends). Jesus rejected that idea and called everyone to repent.
- Fig trees take three years to mature and bear fruit. The vinedresser’s request for “one more year” shows God’s patience. Israel is often pictured as a fig tree or vine in the Old Testament.
- The Sabbath was a gift of rest (Exodus 20), but by Jesus’s day religious leaders had added many rules. Rabbis allowed untying an animal for water on the Sabbath, so Jesus’s argument was solid. “Daughter of Abraham” is an honor, since women were rarely addressed this way.
- The mustard seed was the smallest seed a farmer would commonly plant, and it grew into a bush as tall as 10 feet. Leaven was usually a symbol for something bad, but here it pictures the kingdom’s quiet spreading influence. Three “measures” of flour (about 50 pounds) would feed over 100 people.
- “Fox” (13:32) was a term for a sly and destructive person. Herod Antipas had killed John the Baptist. Jesus was not afraid. He would go to Jerusalem on His own timetable. Jerusalem had a reputation for killing prophets (13:34).

- Meals in the first century were not just about food. They displayed rank and honor. Seating was assigned by status, with the honored guests nearest the host. A banquet invitation was normally repaid with a return invitation, so Jesus’s advice to invite those who cannot repay is radical.
- A wedding or great feast typically involved two invitations: first the invitation (RSVP), then a servant sent on the day to say, “Come, for all things are now ready.” Refusing at the last minute was a serious insult to the host. The excuses in 14:18-20 were flimsy: nobody buys land or oxen without inspecting them first.
- “Hate” in Luke 14:26 is a Hebrew way of saying “love less by comparison.” Jesus is not telling us to despise our families, but that He must come first. Carrying one’s cross pictured a condemned criminal marching to execution.

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1	Session 9: The Narrow Door and the Open Table	8	The Great Supper
2	The Big Idea	9	Jesus Christ in This Passage
3	Key Verse	10	Love in Action
4	Key People	11	Let’s Talk About It
5	Repent and Bear Fruit	12	Memory Verse
6	The Narrow Door	13	Think • Feel • Do
7	Pick the Lowest Seat		

Closing prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You that You humbled Yourself for us and that You invite us to Your table. Take away our pride and our excuses. Help us to invite others and to follow You no matter the cost. Amen.

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. loosed 2. narrow 3. hen 4. humbles 5. blind

The Narrow Door and the Open Table

Luke 13–14

Name: _____

Date: _____

MY MEMORY VERSE

“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Luke 14:11

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: humbles • blind • narrow • hen • loosed

1. Jesus told the woman bent over for eighteen years, “You are _____ from your infirmity.”
2. Jesus said we should strive to enter through the _____ gate.
3. Jesus wanted to gather Jerusalem like a _____ gathers her brood.
4. “He who _____ himself will be exalted.”
5. In the great supper, the master invited the poor, the maimed, the lame, and the _____.

DIG DEEPER

1. What “excuse” do you most often use for not putting Jesus first?

2. Whom can you invite to sit with you or join your group who might feel left out?

3. Why is humility hard? What would it look like at school or at home this week?

LOVE IN ACTION CHALLENGE

Practice the “lowest seat.” This week, let someone else go first, take the less-good option, or serve someone without being noticed. Invite someone who can’t pay you back to join you at lunch or an activity.

THINK • FEEL • DO

THINK: What do you think Jesus meant by “he who humbles himself will be exalted”? How does the great supper show God’s heart?

FEEL: How do you feel when you’re not chosen or you’re left out? How do you feel knowing Jesus invites everyone to His table?

DO: What will you do this week to practice humility or to invite someone to the table?

Lost and Found

Luke 15–16 · 45 minutes · Middle School

THE BIG IDEA

Heaven rejoices when even one lost person comes home, and God the Father runs to welcome His children with open arms, so we should welcome them too.

KEY VERSE

“I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.”

Luke 15:7

MEMORY VERSE

“Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Luke 15:10

KEY PEOPLE

- Tax collectors and sinners — who gathered to hear Jesus
- The Pharisees and scribes — who grumbled
- The shepherd, the woman with the coin, and the loving father — pictures of God
- The younger son — who left, wasted everything, and came home
- The older brother — who stayed but resented his father’s mercy
- The rich man and Lazarus — the contrast between earthly riches and eternity

YOUR 45-MINUTE PLAN

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT HAPPENS
0–5	Welcome & Opener	Ask: “Have you ever lost something that mattered, like a phone, a pet, or a favorite item? How did it feel when you found it?” Let a few students share. Then say, “Today Jesus tells three stories about being lost and found.”
5–10	Open in Prayer & Read the Passage	Pray together, then read or summarize the passage. Show the Key Verse slide and read it aloud.
10–27	Teach the Story	Teach from the teaching notes below, using the slide deck. Pause for quick questions.
27–35	Discussion	Break into small groups or use the whole group. Use the discussion questions.
35–40	Love in Action & Handout	Hand out the student page. Let students fill in the blanks and choose their Love in Action challenge.
40–45	Think • Feel • Do & Closing Prayer	Students answer the three reflection questions. Close in prayer.

BIBLE TEACHING

Why Jesus Told These Stories (15:1-2)

Luke 15 begins with a scene: “Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, ‘This Man receives sinners and eats with them.’” They meant it as an insult. Jesus took it as the best summary of His ministry. He answered with three parables.

The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin (15:3-10)

A shepherd had a hundred sheep. One was lost, so he left the ninety-nine to look for it until he found it. Then he put it on his shoulders, rejoicing, and called his friends to celebrate. Jesus said, “There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.” Next, a woman lost one of her ten silver coins. She lit a lamp, swept the house, and searched until she found it. Then she called her friends: “Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!” In both stories, the thing that was lost didn’t find its own way. Someone searched for it. And when it was found, there was a party.

The Lost Son (15:11-24)

A man had two sons. The younger said, “Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.” That was a shocking request, like saying, “I wish you were dead.” The father gave it. The son traveled to a far country and wasted everything on “prodigal living” (reckless spending). When a famine came, he was broke, so he took a job feeding pigs, an unclean animal to Jews, and he was so hungry he longed to eat the pigs’ food. “But when he came to himself,” he decided, “I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.’” And here is the best part: “But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.” The father never gave up watching the road. Before the son could finish his speech, the father said, “Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”

The Older Brother (15:25-32)

The older brother was in the field. When he heard music and dancing, he found out why and became angry and refused to go in. The father went out and pleaded with him. The older brother complained, “Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends.” He called his brother “this son of yours,” but the father said, “this your brother.” The story ends without telling us whether the older brother went in. That’s because the Pharisees listening had to answer. The older brother stayed home but his heart was far away. Both sons needed the father’s love.

God or Money? (16:1-31)

Jesus told His disciples a puzzling story of a manager who was about to be fired and used his master's money to make friends. The point is not to cheat, but to use money wisely for eternal purposes. Jesus said, "No servant can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and mammon (money)." The Pharisees, who loved money, sneered. Jesus then told about a rich man dressed in purple and fine linen who feasted every day, and a poor beggar named Lazarus who lay at his gate covered with sores. Both died. Lazarus was carried by angels to Abraham's side, and the rich man was in torment. The rich man begged for his brothers to be warned, but Abraham said, "If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead." The rich man did not go to hell because he was rich, or Lazarus to heaven because he was poor. The rich man ignored the poor man at his own gate and ignored God's Word. Lazarus's name means "God is my help."

CHRIST CONNECTION

In the three parables, God is the seeker: the shepherd who goes after the lost, the woman who sweeps the house, and the father who runs down the road. Jesus Himself is the Good Shepherd who came to seek and to save the lost, and He ends the Lazarus story by hinting that even someone rising from the dead would not convince hard hearts, which points to His own resurrection.

LOVING PEOPLE THE WAY JESUS DID

The Father's love welcomes sinners home with no lectures first. The older brother shows what happens when we refuse to share in the Father's joy. To love as Jesus loves is to go looking for the lost, to celebrate when they come home, and to notice the Lazarus at our gate.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which character in the story of the lost son do you feel most like: the younger son, the father, or the older brother? Why?
2. What does it tell you about God that the father ran to meet his son?
3. How can we be like the father when someone comes back after making a mistake?
4. Who is "Lazarus" at your gate? What are the needs of people near you?

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: HISTORY & CULTURE

For your preparation. Share the pieces that help your students picture the scene.

- Tax collectors were seen as traitors and thieves. "Sinners" included those who ignored the law. Sharing a meal was considered a sign of acceptance, so when Jesus ate with them, the Pharisees were scandalized.
- Shepherds were not highly respected, yet the Old Testament often pictures God as a shepherd (Psalm 23; Ezekiel 34). Leaving ninety-nine sheep in the open country was done under the care of other shepherds. The woman's ten silver coins (drachmas) may have been part of a dowry headdress. Each coin was about a day's wage. Houses had dim lighting and dirt floors, so searching required a lamp.
- In Jewish law the younger son would receive one-third of the estate, and the older son two-thirds (Deuteronomy 21:17). Asking for the inheritance while the father was alive was a deep insult. The "far country" was likely Gentile territory. Feeding pigs would have been the lowest job a Jewish man could have.
- Running was undignified for older men in the Middle East, who wore long robes. The father threw dignity aside to reach his son, and to shield him from the village's anger. The robe (the best one), the ring (authority and family identity), and

sandals (sons wore shoes; servants went barefoot) all show restoration as a son, not a servant. A fatted calf would feed an entire village.

- The older brother’s complaint shows a heart of obedience without love. Many scholars note the parable’s open ending: the Pharisees must decide whether to join the party.
- Mammon is an Aramaic word for money or possessions. Jesus personifies it as a rival master. The unjust steward’s story is one of the hardest in the Gospels. The point is that the manager acted shrewdly with the time he had left, and so should we with ours.
- In the story of the rich man and Lazarus, “Abraham’s bosom” was a Jewish way of describing the place of comfort for the righteous dead. Hades was the place of the dead. Dogs licking Lazarus’s sores shows his pitiful condition. Jesus does not name the rich man, but he names the beggar, the opposite of how the world works.
- Jesus’s statement in 16:16-18 about the law and the prophets and about divorce can be difficult in a middle school setting. Teachers can safely focus on 16:13 and 16:19-31.

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1	Session 10: Lost and Found	8	Who Do You Serve?
2	The Big Idea	9	Jesus Christ in This Passage
3	Key Verse	10	Love in Action
4	Key People	11	Let’s Talk About It
5	Lost and Found	12	Memory Verse
6	The Prodigal Son	13	Think • Feel • Do
7	The Older Brother		

Closing prayer: Father, thank You for running to meet us when we come home. Thank You for seeking us when we were lost. Give us Your heart for the lost and help us rejoice with You when they are found. In Jesus’s name, amen.

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. lost 2. pigs 3. ran 4. found 5. mammon

Lost and Found

Luke 15–16

Name: _____

Date: _____

MY MEMORY VERSE

“Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Luke 15:10

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: found • pigs • mammon • lost • ran

1. A shepherd left the ninety-nine to find the one _____ sheep.
2. The prodigal son ended up feeding _____.
3. When his father saw him, he had compassion and _____ to him.
4. The father said, “For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is _____.”
5. “You cannot serve God and _____.”

DIG DEEPER

1. When have you felt “lost” or far from God? How did He bring you back?

2. Is there someone you need to forgive and welcome back, as the father did?

3. How can you notice and help someone like Lazarus near you?

LOVE IN ACTION CHALLENGE

Reach out to someone who has drifted away from friends or church. Send a text, invite them to something, or pray for them by name every day this week. Celebrate with joy when they respond.

THINK • FEEL • DO

THINK: What do you think the three parables in Luke 15 show about how God feels about lost people?

FEEL: How do you feel knowing the Father runs to welcome you home? Have you ever felt like the older brother?

DO: Who is one person you will welcome, forgive, or look for this week?

Thank You, Humble Faith

Luke 17–18 · 45 minutes · Middle School

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus welcomes people who come with humble, thankful, persistent faith, and He invites even children and beggars into His kingdom.

KEY VERSE

“God, be merciful to me a sinner!”

Luke 18:13

MEMORY VERSE

“Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.”

Luke 18:16

KEY PEOPLE

- The ten lepers and the one Samaritan who returned to say thank you
- The persistent widow and the unjust judge — a story about not giving up in prayer
- The Pharisee and the tax collector — two men who prayed at the temple
- The little children — whom the disciples tried to send away
- The rich ruler — who loved his wealth more than Jesus
- The blind man near Jericho — who cried out for mercy

YOUR 45-MINUTE PLAN

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT HAPPENS
0–5	Welcome & Opener	Ask: “Who is someone you forgot to thank this week?” Give students a moment to think of someone. Say: “One man in today’s story did something the other nine forgot to do.”
5–10	Open in Prayer & Read the Passage	Pray together, then read or summarize the passage. Show the Key Verse slide and read it aloud.
10–27	Teach the Story	Teach from the teaching notes below, using the slide deck. Pause for quick questions.
27–35	Discussion	Break into small groups or use the whole group. Use the discussion questions.
35–40	Love in Action & Handout	Hand out the student page. Let students fill in the blanks and choose their Love in Action challenge.
40–45	Think • Feel • Do & Closing Prayer	Students answer the three reflection questions. Close in prayer.

BIBLE TEACHING

Forgiveness and Faith (17:1-10)

Jesus told His disciples that temptations to sin will come, but woe to anyone who causes “little ones” to stumble. He taught: “If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.” The disciples said, “Increase our faith.” Jesus said that faith as small as a mustard seed can do great things. Then He reminded them that serving God is a duty and a privilege, not something to be proud about.

One Out of Ten (17:11-19)

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus entered a village on the border between Galilee and Samaria. Ten men with leprosy stood at a distance and shouted, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” Jesus told them to go show themselves to the priests. As they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, turned back, “and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.” Jesus said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?” Then He said to the man, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.” All ten were healed, but only one came back to say thank you, and he was the outsider. Gratitude is one way faith shows.

Never Give Up Praying (18:1-8)

Jesus told a story “that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.” A widow kept coming to an unjust judge, saying, “Get justice for me from my adversary.” The judge didn’t care about God or people, but he finally gave in because she wouldn’t quit. Jesus said, “Shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?” If even an unjust judge will listen, how much more our loving Father. Jesus ended with a question: “When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”

Two Men Who Prayed (18:9-14)

Jesus told another parable “to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others.” Two men went up to the temple to pray. The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself: “God, I thank You that I am not like other men... I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.” The tax collector stood far off, would not even raise his eyes, but beat his chest and said, “God, be merciful to me a sinner!” Jesus said, “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” God is not impressed by a list of our accomplishments. He is moved by a humble heart.

Children, a Rich Ruler, and a Blind Man (18:15-43)

People were bringing babies and little children to Jesus so He could touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. Jesus called the children to Him and said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.” Right after this, a rich ruler asked, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus pointed him to the commandments, and the man said he had kept them since his youth. Jesus said, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” The man became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. Jesus said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.” Finally, near Jericho, a blind beggar heard that Jesus was passing by and shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” People told him to be quiet, but he cried out all the more. Jesus stopped, called for him, and asked, “What do you want Me to do for you?” “Lord, that I may receive my sight.” Jesus said, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he saw and followed Jesus, glorifying God.

CHRIST CONNECTION

The blind man called Jesus “Son of David,” a title for the promised Messiah-King. Jesus accepted it. In the very next chapter, Jesus would enter Jerusalem as that King. Also notice that three times in Luke Jesus tells His disciples He must go to Jerusalem to suffer, die, and rise again (18:31-34). He is walking toward the cross on purpose.

LOVING PEOPLE THE WAY JESUS DID

In these chapters, Jesus shows love by welcoming the people others push away: lepers, a persistent widow, a repentant tax collector, little children, and a blind beggar. Real love is humble, thankful, and willing to pay attention to the ones everyone else ignores or hushes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think only one of the ten came back to say thank you? When are we like the nine?
2. What is the difference between the prayer of the Pharisee and the prayer of the tax collector?
3. Why did the disciples try to keep the children away? How can we make sure kids and younger students are welcomed?
4. The blind man would not be quiet. What can we learn from his persistence?

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: HISTORY & CULTURE

For your preparation. Share the pieces that help your students picture the scene.

- Leprosy was a general term for several skin diseases, and those who had it lived in isolation. A healed leper had to show himself to a priest, who would pronounce him clean and allow him back into society (Leviticus 14). The ten acted in faith as they set out, before they saw any healing.
- The village was on the border of Samaria and Galilee, so a Samaritan and Jews could be together in their shared misery. Normally Jews and Samaritans had no dealings with each other. Suffering united them until the healing, when the Samaritan alone returned.
- Judges in the ancient Near East were known for corruption. A widow had no power, no money, and no husband to speak for her, yet she kept pressing her case. Jesus’s point is a contrast: God is not like the unjust judge, so we can ask with confidence.

- Pharisees fasted voluntarily two days a week (Monday and Thursday) and tithed even on garden herbs, going beyond the law. His life looked excellent, but his heart was proud. Tax collectors were despised as collaborators with Rome. Standing “afar off,” not looking up, and beating the chest were signs of deep sorrow.
- The word for “mercy be to me” in 18:13 is the language of atonement: “be propitiated.” The tax collector was asking God to cover his sin with sacrifice. That makes it a prayer for the gospel itself.
- Parents often brought children to a respected teacher for a blessing. Children had no social status in the ancient world, and disciples probably thought Jesus was too busy for them. The word “infants” (18:15) implies even babies.
- The rich ruler was probably a leader in a synagogue or a member of the council. Many Jews believed wealth was a sign of God’s favor, so the disciples were shocked when Jesus said it is hard for the rich to enter the kingdom. The “eye of a needle” is a figure for something impossible, a camel being the largest animal in Israel. Jesus was not condemning wealth itself, but a heart that held on to it. This ruler’s question showed he thought he could earn eternal life.
- Luke does not name the blind man. Mark 10:46 calls him Bartimaeus. Blind beggars sat on roadsides, depending on the generosity of travelers. Jericho was about 15 miles from Jerusalem, so Jesus was nearly at the end of His journey. “Son of David” was a Messianic title.

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1	Session 11: Thank You, Humble Faith	8	Rich Ruler and Blind Man
2	The Big Idea	9	Jesus Christ in This Passage
3	Key Verse	10	Love in Action
4	Key People	11	Let’s Talk About It
5	Ten Cleansed, One Returned	12	Memory Verse
6	Persistent and Humble Prayer	13	Think • Feel • Do
7	Welcome the Children		

Closing prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for Your mercy. Make us humble like the tax collector, thankful like the Samaritan, and persistent like the widow and the blind man. Help us welcome children as You do. Amen.

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. thanks 2. heart 3. merciful 4. children 5. David

Thank You, Humble Faith

Luke 17–18

Name: _____

Date: _____

MY MEMORY VERSE

“Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.”

Luke 18:16

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: thanks • heart • David • children • merciful

1. Of the ten lepers, only one returned to give _____.
2. Jesus taught that men always ought to pray and not lose _____.
3. The tax collector prayed, “God, be _____ to me a sinner!”
4. Jesus said, “Let the little _____ come to Me.”
5. The blind man cried out, “Jesus, Son of _____, have mercy on me!”

DIG DEEPER

1. Who has helped you recently, but you haven’t thanked them? How can you say thank you this week?

2. What is something you have been praying about for a long time? What does the widow’s story tell you?

3. How can we welcome younger kids at church or in our families?

LOVE IN ACTION CHALLENGE

Be the “one who returned.” Write a thank-you note to God and to two people who have helped you. Then find a way to include a younger child at church or at home.

THINK • FEEL • DO

THINK: What do you think Jesus is teaching us about humility, gratitude, and persistence in these stories?

FEEL: How do you feel when someone says thank you to you? How do you think Jesus feels when we thank Him?

DO: Who will you thank this week, and what will you keep praying about?

The King Comes to Seek and Save

Luke 19–21 · 45 minutes · Middle School

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus is the promised King who came to seek and to save the lost, and He values the heart of the giver more than the size of the gift.

KEY VERSE

“for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Luke 19:10

MEMORY VERSE

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Luke 19:10

KEY PEOPLE

- Zacchaeus — a short, wealthy chief tax collector who climbed a sycamore tree
- The disciples and the crowd — who praised Jesus as King on the road into Jerusalem
- The chief priests, scribes, and elders — who questioned Jesus’s authority
- The widow who gave two mites — all she had to live on
- Caesar — whose coin Jesus used to teach about giving to God what is God’s

YOUR 45-MINUTE PLAN

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT HAPPENS
0–5	Welcome & Opener	Ask: “Have you ever been told you’re too small, too young, or too bad to do something?” Let a few share. Then say: “Today we meet a very short man who was never too small for Jesus.”
5–10	Open in Prayer & Read the Passage	Pray together, then read or summarize the passage. Show the Key Verse slide and read it aloud.
10–27	Teach the Story	Teach from the teaching notes below, using the slide deck. Pause for quick questions.
27–35	Discussion	Break into small groups or use the whole group. Use the discussion questions.
35–40	Love in Action & Handout	Hand out the student page. Let students fill in the blanks and choose their Love in Action challenge.
40–45	Think • Feel • Do & Closing Prayer	Students answer the three reflection questions. Close in prayer.

BIBLE TEACHING

A Little Man in a Tree (19:1-10)

Jesus was passing through Jericho when He saw a man named Zacchaeus. Luke tells us he was the chief tax collector and was rich. Everyone in town knew he got rich by taking more than he should from his own people. Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was but was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree. Jesus looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” Zacchaeus hurried down and received Jesus joyfully. The crowd muttered that Jesus had gone to be the guest of “a man who is a sinner.” But Zacchaeus stood and said, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house... for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Zacchaeus didn’t earn forgiveness by giving his money away. His changed heart showed up in changed actions.

The Parable of the Minas (19:11-27)

Because people thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately, Jesus told a story about a nobleman who went to a far country to receive a kingdom and then return. Before leaving, he gave ten servants one mina each (about three months’ wages) and said, “Do business till I come.” When the king returned, two servants had put the money to work and increased it, and were rewarded. One servant hid his mina and did nothing, because he was afraid. The king condemned him. The lesson is that we are to be faithful with what Jesus has given us until He comes back.

The King Enters Jerusalem (19:28-48)

Jesus sent two disciples to bring a colt that had never been ridden. The disciples threw their garments on the colt and spread their clothes on the road. The whole crowd of disciples began to rejoice and praise God for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” Some Pharisees told Jesus to rebuke His disciples, but He said, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.” As Jesus came near and saw the city, He wept over it, because the people didn’t recognize the time of God’s visit. Then He entered the temple and drove out those who were selling, saying, “It is written, ‘My house is a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’” And He taught daily in the temple.

Questions and Traps (20:1-47)

The chief priests and scribes challenged Jesus’s authority, asking, “Tell us, by what authority are You doing these things?” Jesus asked them a question about John’s baptism that exposed their dishonesty. He then told the parable of the vine-dressers, in which the owner of a vineyard sends servants and finally his own beloved son, and the tenants kill the son. The religious leaders knew He was talking about them. Next, spies tried to trap Jesus with a question about paying taxes to Caesar. Jesus asked for a denarius and said, “Whose image and inscription does it have?” They said, “Caesar’s.” He said, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” We bear God’s image, so we owe Him ourselves. The Sadducees, who denied the resurrection, asked a trick question about a woman who married seven brothers in turn, and Jesus showed from Moses’s account of the burning bush that God is the God of the living, not the dead.

The Widow's Two Mites and Words That Last (21:1-38)

As Jesus watched people dropping gifts into the temple treasury, He saw rich people putting in large gifts. Then a poor widow dropped in two mites (the smallest copper coins). Jesus said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.” God sees what we keep, not just what we give. When the disciples admired the beautiful temple stones, Jesus predicted that not one stone would be left upon another. He then spoke about trouble ahead, the destruction of Jerusalem, and the coming of the Son of Man in glory. He told them not to be afraid but to watch and pray, and promised: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

CHRIST CONNECTION

Palm Sunday is the day Jesus openly accepted the title of King. He rode in on a colt, as the prophet Zechariah said the Messiah would (Zechariah 9:9). The parable of the vineyard tenants shows that the “beloved son” sent last is Jesus Himself, who would be rejected and killed but would become the chief cornerstone.

LOVING PEOPLE THE WAY JESUS DID

Jesus shows love by going after the person everyone has given up on, Zacchaeus, and by noticing the person everyone else overlooks, the widow. Love gives sacrificially, makes things right when we have wronged others, and cares enough to weep over the lost.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to go to Zacchaeus's house instead of the house of someone respected? What does that tell you?
2. What did Zacchaeus do to show that he had really changed? What does real repentance look like?
3. In the parable of the minas, what has Jesus given you to use for Him?
4. What do you think made the widow's gift so special to Jesus?

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: HISTORY & CULTURE

For your preparation. Share the pieces that help your students picture the scene.

- Jericho was a wealthy trading city in the Jordan Valley and a key stop on the road to Jerusalem, with a customs house. As a “chief tax collector,” Zacchaeus oversaw other tax collectors and kept part of the money for himself. His name means “pure” or “innocent,” which is ironic.
- A sycamore (sycamore-fig) tree has low, wide branches that are easy to climb. Adults in that culture would not run or climb trees, so Zacchaeus put aside his dignity.
- Under the law of Moses, a thief had to restore what he stole plus 20% (Numbers 5:7). Fourfold restitution (Exodus 22:1) was the penalty for stealing and selling a sheep. Zacchaeus was going far beyond what was required.
- A mina was worth about 100 days' wages. The parable resembles the story of Archelaus, son of Herod the Great, who traveled to Rome to be confirmed as king after his father's death, while a delegation of Jews protested to the emperor against him. Jesus's audience would have recognized the setting.
- Palm Sunday: A colt that had never been ridden was suitable for sacred purposes (Numbers 19:2; 1 Samuel 6:7). Spreading garments on the road was a royal welcome (2 Kings 9:13). Luke does not mention palm branches. The crowd's cry echoes Psalm 118:26. Jesus's tears over Jerusalem point forward to the city's destruction by Rome in AD 70, which

He foretold in 19:43-44 and 21:20-24.

- The Court of the Gentiles was the only part of the temple where non-Jews could pray. Money changers and animal sellers had turned it into a marketplace, which crowded out the Gentiles’ place of prayer. “Den of thieves” comes from Jeremiah 7:11.
- The Sadducees were the wealthy priestly party who accepted only the first five books of Moses and denied resurrection and angels. Their question about the seven brothers draws on the levirate law (Deuteronomy 25:5-10). Jesus quoted the burning bush passage (Exodus 3), proving the patriarchs still live.
- The temple treasury had thirteen trumpet-shaped collection chests. A “mite” (Greek: lepton) was the smallest coin, worth a small fraction of a day’s wage. Two mites together were worth a quadrans (Mark 12:42). The widow gave everything, not leftovers.

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1	Session 12: The King Comes to Seek and Save	8	The Widow's Gift
2	The Big Idea	9	Jesus Christ in This Passage
3	Key Verse	10	Love in Action
4	Key People	11	Let's Talk About It
5	Zacchaeus	12	Memory Verse
6	The King Arrives	13	Think • Feel • Do
7	Authority and Questions		

Closing prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for coming to seek and save the lost. Thank You for seeking us. Change our hearts like You changed Zacchaeus. Help us to give from the heart and to make things right with others. Amen.

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. sycamore 2. salvation 3. King 4. God 5. mites

The King Comes to Seek and Save

Luke 19–21

Name: _____

Date: _____

MY MEMORY VERSE

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Luke 19:10

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: God • sycamore • King • mites • salvation

1. Zacchaeus climbed a _____ tree to see Jesus.
2. Jesus said, “Today _____ has come to this house.”
3. The crowd praised, “Blessed is the _____ who comes in the name of the LORD!”
4. Jesus said to give to _____ the things that are God’s.
5. The poor widow gave two _____.

DIG DEEPER

1. What “tree” do you need to climb to get a better look at Jesus?

2. Is there something you have taken or a wrong you need to make right, like Zacchaeus?

3. What does the widow’s gift tell you about what really matters to Jesus when we give?

LOVE IN ACTION CHALLENGE

Make something right this week. Apologize to someone you have wronged, return something you borrowed, or give a gift that costs you something, not just your leftovers.

THINK • FEEL • DO

THINK: What do you think Zacchaeus’s story shows about how Jesus sees people that others have given up on?

FEEL: How do you feel knowing that Jesus came to seek you out personally? How do you feel about giving to God?

DO: What will you do this week to make something right or to give generously to God and others?

Father, Forgive Them — He Is Risen

Luke 22–24 · 45 minutes · Middle School

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus gave His life as the perfect sacrifice, forgave His enemies, and rose from the dead, so that everyone who repents and believes can be forgiven and have new life.

KEY VERSE

“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!”

Luke 24:5-6

MEMORY VERSE

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

Luke 23:34

KEY PEOPLE

- Jesus — the Lamb of God who gave His body and blood
- Judas Iscariot — who betrayed Jesus for silver
- Peter — who denied Jesus three times and was restored
- Pilate and Herod — who found no fault in Jesus but gave in to the crowd
- Simon of Cyrene — who carried the cross
- The two criminals — one mocked, one believed
- Joseph of Arimathea — who buried Jesus in his own tomb
- The women at the tomb — Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James
- The two disciples on the road to Emmaus — whose hearts burned as Jesus opened the Scriptures

YOUR 45-MINUTE PLAN

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT HAPPENS
0–5	Welcome & Opener	Begin with a moment of quiet. Say: “This is the most important session of the whole Gospel. We will walk through the last days of Jesus’s life with Luke.” Ask the students to think of one thing they are grateful that Jesus did for them. After a minute of silence, invite two or three to share.
5–10	Open in Prayer & Read the Passage	Pray together, then read or summarize the passage. Show the Key Verse slide and read it aloud.
10–27	Teach the Story	Teach from the teaching notes below, using the slide deck. Pause for quick questions.
27–35	Discussion	Break into small groups or use the whole group. Use the discussion questions.
35–40	Love in Action & Handout	Hand out the student page. Let students fill in the blanks and choose their Love in Action challenge.

MIN	SEGMENT	WHAT HAPPENS
40–45	Think • Feel • Do & Closing Prayer	Students answer the three reflection questions. Close in prayer.

BIBLE TEACHING

The Last Supper (22:1-38)

The chief priests were looking for a way to kill Jesus without upsetting the crowds. Then Satan entered Judas Iscariot, who went to the chief priests and agreed to betray Jesus for money. On the first day of Unleavened Bread, Jesus sent Peter and John to prepare the Passover meal in an upper room. At the table Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” After supper He took the cup and said, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.” Jesus was the true Passover Lamb. Even then, the disciples argued about who was the greatest, and Jesus said, “I am among you as the One who serves.” Then He told Peter, “Simon, Simon, indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.” Peter insisted he would die for Jesus, but Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.”

The Garden of Gethsemane (22:39-53)

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives to pray, as He often did. “Pray that you may not enter into temptation,” He told the disciples. He knelt and prayed, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” An angel appeared from heaven, strengthening Him. Being in agony, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat became like great drops of blood. When He rose, He found the disciples asleep from sorrow. Then Judas arrived with a crowd and betrayed Jesus with a kiss. One of the disciples struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. Jesus said, “Permit even this,” and touched the man’s ear and healed him. That is the last healing miracle Jesus performed before the cross, and it was for one of His enemies.

Denial and Trials (22:54–23:25)

They seized Jesus and led Him to the high priest’s house. Peter followed at a distance and, as he warmed himself by the fire, was identified three times as one of Jesus’s followers. Three times he denied it. “And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.” Peter remembered Jesus’s words, went out, and wept bitterly. In the morning, the council questioned Jesus, and He confirmed that He is the Son of God. They took Him to Pilate, who found no fault in Him and sent Him to Herod Antipas, who mocked Him and sent Him back. Pilate declared three times that Jesus was innocent. But the crowd shouted, “Crucify Him!” and demanded the release of Barabbas, a murderer. Pilate gave in.

The Cross (23:26-56)

They led Jesus away, laying the cross on Simon of Cyrene, a passerby. A great multitude followed, including women who mourned. At a place called Calvary (the Skull), they crucified Jesus between two criminals. And Jesus prayed: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” The rulers sneered, the soldiers mocked, and one of the criminals hurled insults. But the other rebuked him: “Do you not even fear God?... we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” Darkness covered the land from noon until three. The veil of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus cried out, “Father, ‘into Your hands I commit My spirit.’” And He breathed His last. The centurion praised God and said, “Certainly this was a righteous Man!” Joseph of Arimathea, a good and just member of the council, asked Pilate for the body and laid it in a new tomb. The women who had followed Jesus saw where He was laid.

He Is Risen! (24:1-53)

Early on the first day of the week, the women came to the tomb with spices. They found the stone rolled away and the tomb empty. Two men in shining garments said, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!” The women told the apostles, but their words seemed like idle tales. That same day two disciples were walking to a village called Emmaus, discussing everything that had happened. Jesus Himself drew near and walked with them, but they didn’t recognize Him. He asked, “What kind of conversation is this?” and then, beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself. When He broke bread at their table, their eyes were opened and He vanished. “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” They ran back to Jerusalem to tell the others. While they were talking, Jesus Himself stood among them and said, “Peace to you.” He showed them His hands and feet, ate a piece of broiled fish, and opened their understanding. He told them that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. He led them out to Bethany, lifted up His hands and blessed them, and was carried up into heaven. “And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.”

CHRIST CONNECTION

This is the climax of Luke’s Gospel and of all Scripture. On the road to Emmaus Jesus said that all the Old Testament, the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms, is about Him. Every sacrifice, promise, and prophecy points to the cross and the empty tomb. Jesus took our place, paid for our sin, and rose, so that anyone who repents and believes receives forgiveness.

LOVING PEOPLE THE WAY JESUS DID

The cross is the greatest love in history. Jesus forgave the people who nailed Him there, welcomed a dying thief into Paradise, healed the ear of an enemy, and restored Peter. We love others because He first loved us. Forgiveness is how we show it, and then we are sent to share the good news with all nations.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus prayed “not My will, but Yours, be done”? What does that tell us about His love for us and for the Father?
2. What do you notice about Jesus’s response to His enemies and to Peter after his denial? How does that change how we think about forgiveness?

3. The thief on the cross had no good works to offer. What did he do, and what did Jesus promise him?
4. How did Jesus's explanation of the Scriptures change the Emmaus disciples? How can reading the Bible help us see Jesus?

TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES: HISTORY & CULTURE

For your preparation. Share the pieces that help your students picture the scene.

- Passover commemorates Israel's deliverance from Egypt (Exodus 12). A lamb's blood on the doorposts protected from death. Jesus, the true Lamb, instituted the Lord's Supper at this meal. The "new covenant" is promised in Jeremiah 31:31-34 and fulfilled through Christ's blood.
- The Passover meal was held in a room in Jerusalem, as the city was crowded with pilgrims. The upper room was a large, furnished room. Judas was paid thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15), the price of a slave (Exodus 21:32), fulfilling Zechariah 11:12.
- Gethsemane means "olive press," a garden on the Mount of Olives across the Kidron Valley. Luke is a physician, and he alone records Jesus's sweat falling "like great drops of blood." (Some early manuscripts omit 22:43-44, but the passage is in the NKJV.) A rare condition called hematidrosis can occur under extreme stress.
- The high priest at the time was Caiaphas, with Annas as an influential power broker. The Sanhedrin was the Jewish council of 71. They had no authority to carry out the death penalty under Roman rule, so they took Jesus to Pilate. Herod Antipas had killed John the Baptist and wanted to see a miracle from Jesus. Jesus did not answer him a word.
- Barabbas was an insurrectionist and murderer. His name means "son of the father." Jesus took the place of the guilty man.
- Crucifixion was a Roman form of execution for slaves and rebels, designed to be slow and shameful. A victim usually carried the crossbeam to the site. Simon of Cyrene (from North Africa) may have become a Christian, since Mark mentions his sons Alexander and Rufus. The "Skull" in Latin is Calvaria, from which we get "Calvary." Darkness from noon to three (the sixth to ninth hour) was a sign of God's judgment. The temple veil was a thick curtain separating the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple, which was torn from top to bottom, showing that the way to God was now open through Jesus.
- "Paradise" was a Persian word for a garden, used in Jewish writings for the place where righteous people are with God. Jesus's promise to the thief shows salvation by grace through faith, not by works.
- Jewish burial customs involved wrapping the body in linen with spices (about 75 pounds in John 19:39). Burial had to occur before the Sabbath began at sundown on Friday. The women rested on the Sabbath, then came to the tomb at dawn on Sunday. Women were the first witnesses of the resurrection, remarkable in a culture where women's testimony was often not accepted in court. Luke includes this deliberately.
- Emmaus was about 7 miles (60 stadia) from Jerusalem. One disciple is named Cleopas; the other is unnamed. They were discussing the events with sad faces. Jesus's Bible study on the road showed that the Old Testament pointed to the Messiah's suffering and glory. Luke's second book, Acts, begins where this one ends, with the ascension and the promise of the Holy Spirit.
- Teacher tip: This is a lot to cover in 45 minutes. If time is short, focus on four moments: the Last Supper (22:19-20), Gethsemane (22:42), the cross (23:34, 39-43), and the empty tomb and Emmaus (24:5-6, 24:32). Give time for the closing reflection and an invitation to trust Jesus.

SLIDE DECK OUTLINE

1	Session 13: Father, Forgive Them — He Is Risen	8	The Cross
2	The Big Idea	9	He Is Risen
3	Key Verse	10	Jesus Christ in This Passage
4	Key People (1 of 2)	11	Love in Action
5	Key People (2 of 2)	12	Let's Talk About It
6	The Last Supper	13	Memory Verse
7	Gethsemane and Arrest	14	Think • Feel • Do

Closing prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for giving Your life for us. Thank You for forgiving us and for rising from the dead. Open our eyes as You did on the road to Emmaus. Help us to forgive others and to tell the world that You are alive. In Your name, amen.

HANDOUT ANSWER KEY

1. body 2. Yours 3. forgive 4. Paradise 5. risen

Father, Forgive Them — He Is Risen

Luke 22–24

Name: _____

Date: _____

MY MEMORY VERSE

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

Luke 23:34

FILL IN THE BLANKS

WORD BANK: forgive • Paradise • body • Yours • risen

1. At the Last Supper Jesus said, “This is My _____ which is given for you.”
2. In Gethsemane Jesus prayed, “Not My will, but _____, be done.”
3. On the cross Jesus prayed, “Father, _____ them.”
4. Jesus told the thief, “Today you will be with Me in _____.”
5. The angels said, “He is not here, but is _____!”

DIG DEEPER

1. Who do you need to forgive, the way Jesus forgave from the cross?

2. The thief trusted Jesus at the last moment. What does that tell you about God’s grace?

3. When did your heart “burn within you” as you learned about Jesus? What can you do to keep learning about Him?

LOVE IN ACTION CHALLENGE

Forgive someone this week, and tell someone that Jesus is risen. If you have never put your trust in Jesus as your Savior, talk to your youth leader or a trusted adult today.

THINK • FEEL • DO

THINK: What do you think is the most important thing Jesus did for us in Luke 22-24? Why did He do it?

FEEL: How do you feel when you think about Jesus forgiving the people who put Him on the cross, and forgiving you?

DO: Who will you forgive, and who will you tell about Jesus this week?

The Love Thread Through Luke

Each session shows one more way Jesus teaches and models love. Review this list at the end of the series and ask students to name the one that challenged them most.

Session 1: An Orderly Account: God Keeps His Promises

Elizabeth and Mary show us how to love people: celebrate what God is doing in others without jealousy, and encourage someone who is scared. Mary's humble "yes" also shows that loving God starts with trusting Him.

Session 2: Good News of Great Joy

God's good news was for everyone, beginning with the people society overlooked. If we want to love like Jesus, we pay attention to the people nobody else notices. Jesus also shows love by obeying and honoring His parents.

Session 3: Prepare the Way and Stand Firm

John's answers to the crowd tell us how repentance becomes love: share what you have, be honest, don't bully people. Jesus's victory over temptation also shows that love for God comes first: "Him only you shall serve."

Session 4: Good News for the Outcast

This is love in action: Jesus touched the untouchable, honored a team of friends who carried someone in need, and sat at the table with people everyone else avoided. We love like Jesus when we move toward the people others avoid.

Session 5: Love Your Enemies

This is the heart of the unit on loving people. Jesus teaches love for enemies, mercy, and generosity, and then He lives it: He shows compassion to a grieving widow, honors a Gentile soldier's faith, and forgives a woman who was rejected. Because we have been forgiven much, we can love much.

Session 6: Who Is This?

Jesus loved people one at a time: the woman who needed to be seen, the father whose daughter was dying, the man who had been abandoned in the tombs, and the hungry crowd. Notice that Jesus gives us a part in His love: "You give them something to eat."

Session 7: Who Is My Neighbor?

This is the clearest lesson on loving people in the whole Gospel. Our neighbor is anyone in need, including people we would not usually choose. Real love is compassion that costs us something: time, money, comfort. And it begins with loving God and listening to Him.

Session 8: Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Prayer is how we love God. And because we know God is a good Father who takes care of us, we are free to be generous and not greedy. The rich fool kept everything for himself. When we trust God's care, we can share with others.

Session 9: The Narrow Door and the Open Table

Jesus teaches us to love by giving up the best seat, inviting those who cannot pay us back, and making room for the people we would normally overlook. Pride says, "Look at me." Love says, "Come sit with us."

Session 10: Lost and Found

The Father's love welcomes sinners home with no lectures first. The older brother shows what happens when we refuse to share in the Father's joy. To love as Jesus loves is to go looking for the lost, to celebrate when they come home, and to notice the Lazarus at our gate.

Session 11: Thank You, Humble Faith

In these chapters, Jesus shows love by welcoming the people others push away: lepers, a persistent widow, a repentant tax collector, little children, and a blind beggar. Real love is humble, thankful, and willing to pay attention to the ones everyone else ignores or hushes.

Session 12: The King Comes to Seek and Save

Jesus shows love by going after the person everyone has given up on, Zacchaeus, and by noticing the person everyone else overlooks, the widow. Love gives sacrificially, makes things right when we have wronged others, and cares enough to weep over the lost.

Session 13: Father, Forgive Them — He Is Risen

The cross is the greatest love in history. Jesus forgave the people who nailed Him there, welcomed a dying thief into Paradise, healed the ear of an enemy, and restored Peter. We love others because He first loved us. Forgiveness is how we show it, and then we are sent to share the good news with all nations.

The Companion Web App

The companion web app puts all 13 sessions on any phone, tablet, or computer: the Big Idea, Key Verse, teaching, Christ Connection, discussion questions, teacher background notes, downloadable student handouts, and the three-question Think • Feel • Do reflection after each session.

- Warm mahogany and gold design with Light, Dark, and Auto modes.
- Your reflections are stored locally on your device. Nothing is sent to a server.
- Backup and restore: save your reflections to a file on your device or cloud drive (Google Drive, Dropbox, iCloud), and restore them any time.
- A progress bar shows how many sessions you have reflected on.
- Tip Jar and About box in the menu.

ABOUT

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Version: 1.0.0

Company: Quantum Reality Programming LLC

Developer: Ron Whittam

Domain: qrprogramming.com

Contact: QuantumRealityprogrammingLLC@Gmail.com

Tip Jar: [https://cash.app/\\$QRPTips](https://cash.app/$QRPTips)