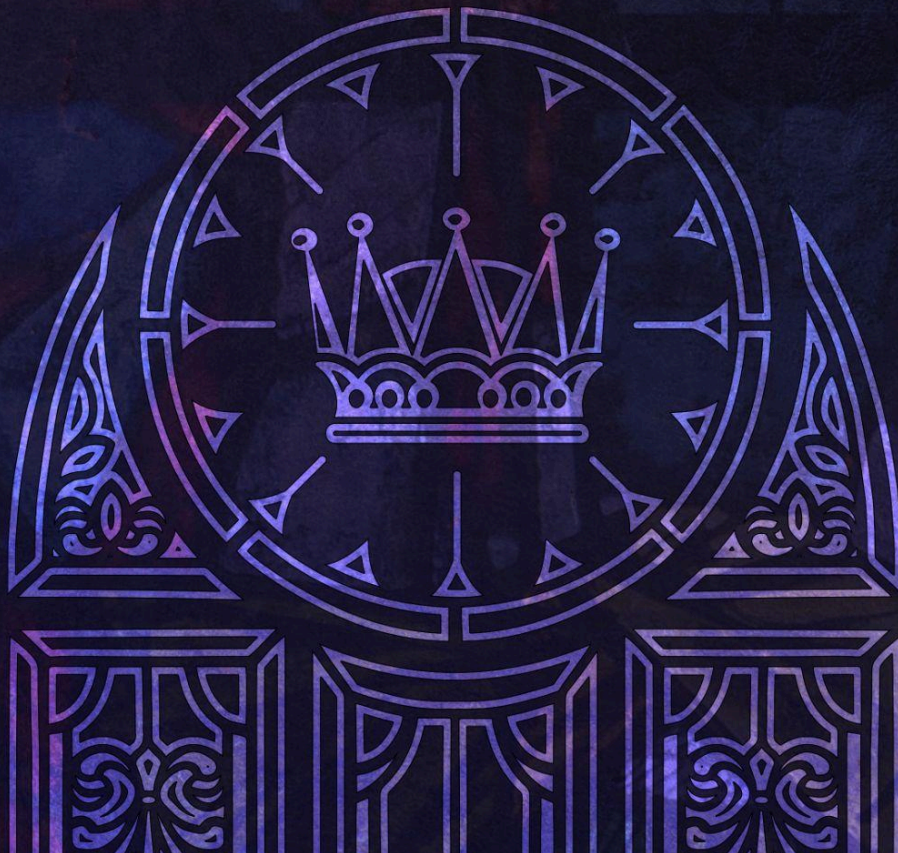


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CHURCH

# *Kingdom* COSTS

SERIES COMPANION



# INTRODUCTION

The word *passion* means to love something so much that you are willing to suffer for it. Throughout the Gospel of Luke we see Jesus willing to suffer for the things that he loves, and this willingness will eventually culminate in the Cross. This Lent we will consider, do we love the Kingdom of God like Jesus does? Would we allow that love to grow so that we also would be willing to pay the kind of costs that Jesus pays? Wherever you are on your faith journey, we hope you will join us as we reflect on Jesus's great love for us, and how that love might compel us to pay great costs in response.

## RESOURCE OVERVIEW

Here we provide space to take notes on the sermon and Scripture text and answer reflection questions that you can discuss with others. When considering the reflection questions, remember that the goal is not to have all the "right" answers—instead, let these questions serve as a starting point for curiosity in your conversation with God and others. See the Appendix of this guide for more resources and opportunities to engage with this study.

Please note this discussion guide is created before the series begins. Discussion questions are prepared before the sermons are written and based on the theme and text for the week. Thank you for your understanding that the topic and focus of the sermon as the pastor writes it may differ from what is written in the discussion questions.

## APPENDIX (PAGE 15)

Offers a deeper dive into the topic as well as resources for Bible study, leading small groups, and links for further support.

Works Cited & Links

Luke Bible Study Tools

"Icebreaker" Questions

Tips for Guiding Conversations

General Resources for Individual Support

## SERMON SCHEDULE & REQUIRED READING

*\*Subject to change at the discretion of the pastors.*

Along with the sermons and the questions in this guide, there will be weekly reading for participants to complete.

Book: "[Luke: the New Testament for Everyone](#)," by N. T. Wright

Sermon	Topic	Assigned pages from N.T. Wright
Week 1	Luke 9:51–62	115–119
Week 2	Luke 10:25–37	126–129
Week 3	Luke 12:13–26	150–154
Week 4	Luke 15:11–31	185–192
Week 5	Luke 16:1–15	192–198
Week 6	Luke 19:28–44	228–233
Week 7	Luke 24:1–12	288–291

# WEEKLY FORMAT

**(PRE-WORK) REFLECT:** Listen to the sermon, read weekly selections and scripture passages, and answer questions. (30-40 mins)

**RELATE:** Discuss reflection questions with your small group. (50 mins)

**PRAY:** Use the suggested prayer prompt to conclude your time (5-10 mins)

# CONVERSATION COVENANT

We hope all small group discussions are lively and enriching, but sometimes tough topics will be discussed. The Conversation Covenant\* is an agreement to hold respect and grace toward all participants within a small group, no matter the conversation. Please adhere to the Conversation Covenant or consider creating one that fits your context.

\*Adapted from <https://conversational-leadership.net/conversation-covenant/>

I pledge:

**To act in good faith, with curiosity.** I will assume the best about my conversation partners when entering into our groups. I will give the benefit of the doubt, recognizing that they may know something I don't.

**To show respect.** I will show respect. I will be polite and give due regard to the feelings and traditions of others. I understand that I do not have to agree with someone to show them respect.

**To speak the truth.** I won't use rhetorical tricks to try to win an argument. I will speak what I genuinely believe is the nuanced truth.

**To aim to discover the truth.** I will not enter into a conversation with the purpose of changing the mind of anyone to my way of thinking.

**To focus on what we can change.** I will focus on what we can do differently in the future since we cannot change what we did in the past.

**To take responsibility for the conversation.** I will take responsibility for the quality of the conversation and the abidance of the rules both in principle and in spirit.

**To follow the covenant even when others fail to do so.** I will abide by the rules regardless of whether another person breaks them.

**To respect the confidentiality of the group.** I will not share the stories of group members verbally or in written form (including on social media and online outlets).

**To lighten up and approach the conversation in good humor.** I recognize that humor is a hallmark of a constructive, generative conversation and take the conversation in good humor.

# PREPARE

The following questions are jumping-off points for personal reflection. Engage with them to awaken your awareness of themes in this sermon series. Pay attention to the questions that stand out to you and look back on them throughout the series to see how God might be speaking to you.

## CONSIDER

- How, if at all, has engaging with the Bible, particularly the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John) been part of your faith life? How has it shaped you and your relationship with God? List some of these things.
- What factors help you get the most out of reading and studying Scripture with others? Is there anything that makes it hard for you to read and study the Bible? Write down one or two of these reflections. What might enrich your experience with this sermon series on Luke?
- What questions do you have about the Gospels, perhaps, Luke's Gospel in particular, or the teachings of Jesus? If you used the previous Sermon Discussion Guides on Luke, where are you sensing God's movement in your life? What do you think God might be asking of you? List them below.

# WEEK 1

## Luke 9:51–62

**(PRE-WORK) REFLECT** | Before your small group gathering, complete the following and reflect on the discussion questions. These will be the basis for your small group time.

- Listen to the Sermon on Highrock's [YouTube channel](#) and note any reactions you had – curiosities, concerns, or delights
- Read pages 115–119 in "[Luke: the New Testament for Everyone](#)," by N. T. Wright

**RELATE** | Use these questions as a launching point for your small group conversation or personal reflection:

1. What from the sermon or reading has brought up new questions or interesting points you would like to discuss?
2. What do you see in Jesus' faithfulness to his calling from God (9:51, "Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.")? How does this illuminate who Jesus is and what he's about?
3. How does this passage and/or this sermon help you think differently about the 'costs' of following Jesus?
4. Where do you see a challenge in these passages/this sermon? Where do you sense an invitation? What would it look like for you to act on these?

**PRAY** | Ask God to make you open and ready to hear God's voice, and to give you what you need to respond to God faithfully and in love.

## Luke 9:51–62

51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; 53 but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. 54 When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" 55 But Jesus turned and rebuked them. 56 Then he and his disciples went to another village.

57 As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

59 He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." 60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

61 Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." 62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

# WEEK 2

## Luke 10:25–37

**(PRE-WORK) REFLECT** | Before your small group gathering, complete the following and reflect on the discussion questions. These will be the basis for your small group time.

- Listen to the Sermon on Highrock's [YouTube channel](#) and note any reactions you had- curiosities, concerns, or delights
- Read pages 126–129 in "[Luke: the New Testament for Everyone](#)," by N. T. Wright

**RELATE** | Use these questions as a launching point for your small group conversation. Open with a check-in/getting-to-know-you question. Group opener options are available in the Appendix.

1. What from the sermon or reading has brought up new questions or interesting points you would like to discuss?
2. What do you think the man (the expert in the law) meant by wanting "to justify himself"? Are there ways you can relate to this?
3. Jesus would have surprised his listeners by making the Samaritan, a religious and cultural outsider, a 'hero' in this story. What impression does that leave on you? Can you name a way that might challenge or change how you view others?
4. How does this passage and sermon encourage you to be more hospitable (neighborly) as a follower of Jesus? How does Jesus himself model hospitality for us?
5. Is there an invitation you sense God making through your conversation or reflections this week? Is there a next step you could take in how you engage, act, or relate to others?

**PRAY** | Ask God to give you eyes of compassion, hands that are ready to welcome others – and to be received by others – and courage to act.

## Luke 10:25–37

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" 28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

# WEEK 3

## Luke 12:13–26

**(PRE-WORK) REFLECT** | Before your small group gathering, complete the following and reflect on the discussion questions. These will be the basis for your small group time.

- Listen to the Sermon on Highrock's [YouTube channel](#) and note any reactions you had- curiosities, concerns, or delights
- Read pages 150–154 in "[Luke: the New Testament for Everyone](#)," by N. T. Wright

**RELATE** | Use these questions as a launching point for your small group conversation. Open with a check-in/getting-to-know-you question. Group opener options are available in the Appendix.

1. What from the sermon or reading has brought up new questions or interesting points you would like to discuss?
2. Compare Jesus' description of the rich man (12:16-21) and the ravens (12:24). What differences do you see, and how does this help you understand a key point in this passage?
3. What fears or anxieties does trusting in God's provision raise for you? What's something (perhaps, someone) that helps encourage you to trust in God's radical provision?
4. What from these passages or the sermon gives you a new perspective of being "rich toward God" (12:21)?
5. Where is one area in life where you desire to experience greater peace through trusting in God's provision? Share with the group.

**PRAY** | Thank God for the great generosity God shows you every day. Pray for a generous spirit, and for strength to trust that God will come through for you and those around you.

## Luke 12:13–26

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." 14 Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" 15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' 18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."'

20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' 21 "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest."



# WEEK 4

## Luke 15:11–31

**(PRE-WORK) REFLECT** | Before your small group gathering, complete the following and reflect on the discussion questions. These will be the basis for your small group time.

- Listen to the Sermon on Highrock's [YouTube channel](#) and note any reactions you had- curiosities, concerns, or delights
- Read pages 185–192 in "[Luke: the New Testament for Everyone](#)," by N. T. Wright

**RELATE** | Use these questions as a launching point for your small group conversation. Open with a check-in/getting-to-know-you question. Group opener questions are available in the Appendix.

1. What from the sermon or reading has brought up new questions or interesting points you would like to discuss?
2. A practice: Take a moment to reflect on a single character from this story. What feelings, thoughts, concerns, or hopes might they have? How does this change your understanding of this passage?
3. What do you think it means the younger son "came to his senses"? What was he missing? (Looking at the end of the story,) What might the older son have been missing as well?
4. Do you resonate with either one of the siblings? How so?
5. How does the father's response to the sons challenge, expand, or deepen your view of how God relates to us?
6. Is there an invitation you sense God making through your conversation or reflections this week? Is there a next step you could take in how you engage, act, or relate to others?

**PRAY** | Ask God to allow the story of the gospel to take hold of your life – your thoughts, feelings, and actions – more and more. Silently ask to receive more of God's transformative love for you. Also, ask God the same thing for someone in your life who is struggling right now.

## Luke 15:11–31

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.'"

# WEEK 5

## Luke 16:1–15

**(PRE-WORK) REFLECT** | Before your small group gathering, complete the following and reflect on the discussion questions. These will be the basis for your small group time.

- Listen to the Sermon on Highrock's [YouTube channel](#) and note any reactions you had- curiosities, concerns, or delights
- Read pages 192–198 in "[Luke: the New Testament for Everyone](#)," by N. T. Wright

**RELATE** | Use these questions as a launching point for your small group conversation. Open with a check-in/getting-to-know-you question. Group opener questions are available in the Appendix.

**An additional note on 16:1–9:** This can be a challenging passage to understand. Consider beginning with a discussion on how the sermon helped illuminate the meaning of the passage.

Also, in the reading for this week, N.T. Wright highlights how this passage may have been received by an original audience of Jewish Christians. Wright claims this passage is *not* about how to use money, or at least that is not the main point. For this group, Jesus' parable would have communicated a sense of ingenuity and generosity in relating to and applying Jewish law. It was intended to encourage listeners to *lead with grace* and *a spirit of love*, expressed by investing in relationships with others. It may be helpful to keep this in mind as we apply the passage (and 16:10–15) to our current context.

1. What from the sermon or reading has brought up new questions or interesting points you would like to discuss?
2. What helps you to be generous and hospitable? What makes this more difficult for you?
3. What encouragements (or challenges) do you find in Jesus' teaching on trust and responsibility in 16:10–12? (If not fresh, read through these 3 verses aloud.)
4. Reflect on Jesus' statement, "You cannot serve both God and money." How does the sermon help you understand Jesus' warning? What's one way you can take it to heart in your life?
5. Is there an invitation you sense God making through your conversation or reflections this week? Is there a next step you could take in how you engage, act, or relate to others?

**PRAY** | Ask God for wisdom in the difficult situations of your life. Pray for courage this week to make decisions that honor God and enable you to love others well.

## Luke 16:1–15

1 Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. 2 So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'

3 "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg— 4 I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.' 5 "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6 "Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. "The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.' 7 "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' "A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied. "He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'

8 "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. 9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"

13 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

14 The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. 15 He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight."

# WEEK 6

## Luke 19:28–44

**(PRE-WORK) REFLECT** | Before your small group gathering, complete the following and reflect on the discussion questions. These will be the basis for your small group time.

- Listen to the Sermon on Highrock's [YouTube channel](#) and note any reactions you had- curiosities, concerns, or delights
- Read pages 228–233 in "[Luke: the New Testament for Everyone](#)," by N. T. Wright

**RELATE** | Use these questions as a launching point for your small group conversation. Open with a check-in/getting-to-know-you question. Group opener questions are available in the Appendix.

1. What from the sermon or reading has brought up new questions or interesting points you would like to discuss?
2. This Scripture passage prepares us for holy week, where we remember and celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection. How might this reading or sermon help prepare you for this upcoming week?
3. How does this reading and message help you understand the humility of Jesus? How can it encourage you to look for God in unexpected places, people, or things?
4. Jesus foresees conflict and destruction in Jerusalem, and he weeps (20:41–44). As we enter into holy week, what things around you, in our world, can you bring to God in prayer, asking for help, hope, and deliverance?
5. Is there an invitation you sense God making through your conversation or reflections this week? Is there a next step you could take in how you engage, act, or relate to others?

**PRAY** | Ask God to show you Jesus' heart for you and this world. Pray that those experiencing suffering and darkness in our world right now would know the love and hope of God.

## Luke 19:28–44

28 After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 30 "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

32 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 They replied, "The Lord needs it." 35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. 36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

38 "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" 40 "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42 and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. 43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. 44 They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

# WEEK 7

## Luke 24:1-12

**(PRE-WORK) REFLECT** | Before your small group gathering, complete the following and reflect on the discussion questions. These will be the basis for your small group time.

- Listen to the Sermon on Highrock's [YouTube channel](#) and note any reactions you had- curiosities, concerns, or delights
- Read pages 288-291 in "[Luke: the New Testament for Everyone](#)," by N. T. Wright

**RELATE** | Use these questions as a launching point for your small group conversation. Open with a check-in/getting-to-know-you question. Group opener questions are available in the Appendix.

1. What from the sermon or reading has brought up new questions or interesting points you would like to discuss?
2. The people in this story discover the startling news that Jesus is risen. When has God done something in your life that surprised you? What did that mean for you?
3. If you could ask God to show up in an area or your life right now, where would that be? What would you ask God to do?
4. Easter is a celebration of new life in Christ. What gives you hope right now? Where do you sense God is leading you toward new life?

**PRAY** | Give thanks for God's faithfulness. Thank God for the hope of a better tomorrow. Ask God to come through for you in a specific way. Ask this also for someone (or a group of people) who is in need right now. Take heart, Christ is risen!

## Luke 24:1-12

1 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " 8 Then they remembered his words.

9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. 12 Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

# APPENDIX

Below are resources to look into if you are interested in diving deeper into some of the topics covered in this series. If you need resources that more specifically address your own experience, demographic, or faith journey, please reach out to a Highrock pastor or to [smallgroups@highrock.org](mailto:smallgroups@highrock.org) and we will be happy to help!

## PRAYER TOOLS

- [The Prayer of Examen: Tracking Our Moods](#)
- [Breath Prayer/Prayer of the Heart](#)
- [Divine/Fixed Hour Prayer](#)
- [SoulCare guide to Imaginative Prayer Spiritual Practice](#)
- [Imaginative Prayer/Ignatian Contemplation](#)
- [SoulCare guide to Recall & Paraphrase Spiritual Practice](#)
- [Lament](#)
- [Laughter and Prayer](#)
- [Palms Up, Palms Down](#)
- [Pray a Psalm in a Nature Setting](#)
- [Praying with your Body](#)
- [Welcoming Prayer](#)

## LUKE BIBLE STUDY TOOLS (Books, Podcasts, Videos, etc.)

- ["Luke: the New Testament for Everyone."](#) by N. T. Wright
- [Dr. Amy Peeler on Luke 1:46-55](#) (12 mins)
- [BibleProject videos: Luke 1-9](#) (8 mins)
- [BibleProject podcast series on Luke-Acts](#) (see episodes 1-4)
- [Blue Letter Bible](#)
- [Bible Gateway](#)
- [Dr. Justo González on Luke](#) (16 mins)

## "ICEBREAKER" QUESTIONS

- What was a small win from your week?
- Share a High/Low from your day or week.
- On a scale of 1-10, how are you doing coming into this meeting?
- If you were to describe yourself as a weather forecast today, what would you be? Example: sunny, partly cloudy, rainy with a chance of snow, etc.
- What song would be the theme track for the day you had?
- What is the season of Advent/Christmas usually like for you? Joyful, challenging, 'Is it spring yet'?

## GENERAL RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

- [Spiritual Practices](#)
- [Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Parenting & Kids—Understanding each other through Milestones](#)

## TIPS FOR GUIDING CONVERSATION

- Allow everyone space to share. It's ok to ask what people are thinking even if they don't volunteer to share right away. But always give people the option to decline to share. Example: "Hey, Fred, you've been a little quiet and I'm curious to know what you think. Would you like to share anything?"
- Remember there aren't necessarily "right" answers. Encourage participants to simply be curious about what came up for them or others without the pressure of feeling like they "should" have thought or felt anything in particular. Example: Instead of asking "What is this story supposed to be communicating?" ask "What did you notice?"

- Embrace the differences. Affirm that different people can come to different conclusions regarding the same thing. Example: "Interestingly, the text reminded Susie of ABC, while it reminded José of XYZ. Both can be present and true."
- Adapt to suit your group's needs. Sometimes conversation is free-flowing and sometimes it's easier to move through discussion questions one at a time. Do what feels suitable for your group, but don't feel pressured to answer/discuss every single question.
- Encourage curiosity by modeling curiosity. Asking someone "Tell me more about XYZ" can be a really simple but effective tool to go deeper in conversation.
- Don't be afraid of silence. It's natural to want to fill silences or pauses in a conversation. But don't be afraid to sit in silence with your group members. Sometimes thoughts just need time to percolate, so don't feel like you have to rush to another question if no one shares immediately.
- Refer back to the Conversation Covenant. This is the posture that we as Highrock hold as we gather in groups. When the conversation gets tough, you can always refer back to the Conversation Covenant to remind the group that everyone has agreed to abide by this covenant in small group meetings.