



Smith Rock
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group study guide

LUKE

J E S U S F O R E V E R Y O N E

**For the week of
14th of June 2020**



Scarcity: Obstacle or Opportunity

Are you a glass half full or half empty person? The quantity of liquid is the same no matter which way you look at it, the difference is in how you look at it and where your focus is.

If you are a half full person you focus on what's there, and you see opportunities which could come from it. If you are a half empty person you will focus on what's not there and see it as an obstacle which will prevent you from doing what you could do if it was full.

What if we looked at the glass through Jesus' eyes? How would He see it?



9 And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. 3 And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. 4 And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. 5 And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." 6 And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

7 Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, 8 by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen. 9 Herod said, "John I beheaded, but who is this

about whom I hear such things?" And he sought to see him. 10 On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. 11 When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing. 12 Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, "Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place." 13 But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." 14 For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." 15 And they did so, and had them all sit down. 16 And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. 17 And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

Luke 9:1–17 (ESV)

Commentary

So far in Luke's account of Jesus' ministry His disciples have not played much of a role. Back in chapter six Jesus had chosen twelve disciples out of the group following Him whom He named Apostles. The name has the meaning of being sent, like a ship prepared for departure, but it also means a delegate or representative who has a high standing. These twelve then, who Jesus chose are being prepared for departure to be His representatives.

In the previous chapter Jesus had sent out His first missionary, who surprisingly was not Jewish, and had barely known Jesus for any length of time, but he had experienced first hand Jesus' power in freeing him from demon possession.

But the disciples, although they had also seen Jesus' power on numberable occasions, and had been given insight into Jesus' teaching and parables, overall, did not seem to show the same degree of faith. The last time we had heard from the twelve was on the storm on the lake when they had woken Jesus in extreme fear thinking they were all about to die, and after Jesus had stilled the storm, He asked where was their faith? They still often addressed Jesus as master, and were very much watching Him, rather than participating in His ministry.

But suddenly all this changes when Jesus does three things: He calls them, He empowers, them, and He sends them. Jesus had previously told Peter when He had gone fishing with Him providing a miraculous catch that from now on Peter would be catching people, and now is his and the other eleven's chance. Luke does not tell us why Jesus thinks they are ready for this mission

all of a sudden when they haven't shown much sign of it, but the key thing here is they are being sent in Jesus' power not under their own. To help keep them focused on God's power Jesus does not allow them to take anything more than the bare essentials with them so they are completely reliant on the Lord. Their mission was a one off, to get their feet wet, and they are to go back around Galilee where Jesus has been, replicating His ministry by casting out demons, healing diseases, and proclaiming the kingdom of God. They are to stay in the house they are first invited to, and if a village rejects them they are to shake the dust off their sandals on exiting it. This was in symbolism that as the village had rejected the testimony of Jesus, so Jesus would reject them when the time of judgement came.

Before the disciples return Luke sounds a warning by breaking the news that John the Baptist is dead; executed by Herod, and that Herod has heard about Jesus' activity but is confused about the reports of His identity, but wants to find Jesus to see for himself.

Herod does not get the opportunity to see Jesus until Jesus is arrested in Jerusalem and Pilate sends him over, but Jesus does not perform to Herod's requests.

The disciples return, and apparently they have had a successful trip, and now Jesus takes them Bethsaida, which the other gospels tell us was in response to Herod's inquiries about him after John's death, and some R and R for Himself and His disciples after exhausting ministry. But the crowds follow them and Jesus doesn't turn them away but spends the day teaching them about the kingdom of God and healing those who were in need.

The time is getting on, and the disciples thinking they are showing concern for the people command Jesus to send the people away. The numbers of the crowd far exceed 5,000 and if they are to get anything to eat or find lodging they need to go while there is still some light. But Jesus in response commands them to provide supper. The disciples look at their meagre resources; five loaves and two fish, which is barely enough to feed themselves never mind thousands more! The other option they tell Jesus unconvincingly would be for them to buy food, and we know from the other gospels it is dismissed because it is beyond their financial resources. Jesus takes control, has the crowd sit in groups of fifty, takes the bread and fish, looks up to heaven and says a blessing over them and breaks the bread. He then gives the food to the disciples to distribute. The idea is that bread and fish keep coming until everyone has been fed. Not only was the crowd fed but they were satisfied, in other words they were full. The left overs are picked up and put in baskets - enough to fill twelve of them as an object lesson for the Apostles, who had gone from relying on God's power for their mission to resorting to their own strength to meet the needs of the crowd.

Group Study

Open the group with prayer and discuss how you have used your application from last week's study in your life, and what you have learned from it.

Are you a half empty or half full kind of person? Why?

What "scarcities" do you think are the hardest to overcome?

How do you think God views "scarcity?"

Where do we get a scarcity mindset from?

Read Exodus 3:10 - 4:17

What were the obstacles that Moses saw and how did God see them?

When we have a lot of resources to rely on to "get the job done" who do we look to?

Has God ever sent you out with "nothing" but your faith in Him? What was the result?

Read Exodus 16:1-8

What "scarcities" do you think people in our communities are grumbling about?

how do you think we could help meet them with the resources the Lord has provided for us?

How could the disciples go from seeing the glass overflowing when Jesus sent them out with practically nothing to seeing the glass practically empty when they needed to provide food?

What lesson will you take from this text, and how will you put it into practice this week?

Personal study time

Read the following passages and using the REAP method reflect on how God has met need in the past and how there is no need either physical or spiritual He cannot meet.

21 But Moses said, "The people among whom I am number six hundred thousand on foot, and you have said, 'I will give them meat, that they may eat a whole month!' 22 Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, and be enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, and be enough for them?" 23 And the LORD said to Moses, "Is the LORD's hand shortened? Now you shall see whether my word will come true for you or not."

Numbers 11:21–23 (ESV)

42 A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. And Elisha said, "Give to the men, that they may eat." 43 But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred men?" So he repeated, "Give them to the men, that they may eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left.' " 44 So he set it before them. And they ate and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

2 Kings 4:42–44 (ESV)

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is

Reflection

REAP Method of studying Scripture

READ

Read the passages with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction, and correction (2 Timothy 3:16). Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

Spend some time reflecting and writing about what you've read. Write down one or two of the key verses that stuck out to you. Ask yourself these questions and write down your thoughts:

- * What is going on in the passage?
- * Who is writing and whom is he writing to?
- * When was the author writing?
- * What are the circumstances that the author is addressing?
- * Does the writer mention anything that might indicate his purpose or intent?
- * how do you think the author wants his audience to respond?

APPLY

After examining the passage, apply the text to your own life. Ask yourself these questions:

- * What is God's word for me from this passage?
- * How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

KIDS CORNER



God Provides

1. What are some things that you really need?

Some things in life are essential. Food, water, clothing, and shelter are a few of what we call necessities, since they're necessary for our well-being. People work so hard to make sure they always have plenty of these - and then extra! But what if we didn't have to worry so much about ensuring that we have all we need? What if we're supposed to put our time and energy into focusing on a different, more important goal? When Jesus called His disciples to do those amazing things in Luke 9, He didn't want them to worry about what they would need; He was going to provide for them! All they had to do was focus on obeying God and pursuing His will.

Even today, God still has powerful plans for His followers, and

He still always provides what we need to accomplish them. He doesn't want us to worry about our necessities, our futures, or the tools we need to obey Him - He'll always have those covered! All we need to do is seek Him and His kingdom above everything else! He provided when He called the apostles to travel the lands healing people, and when He asked them to give food to thousands of hungry people, He provided then, too! You see, no matter what His will for our lives turns out to be, as we decide to follow Him, He will always provide for us. We can count on it!

2. Thinking about the rest of your life, will you decide to seek God's will in it and trust Him to provide for you?

