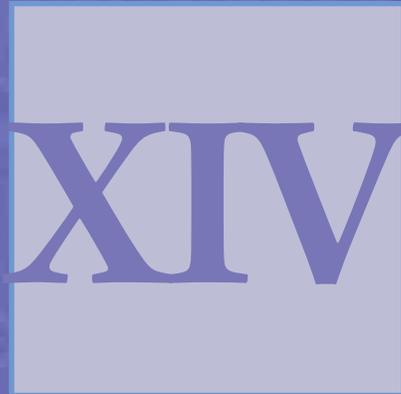
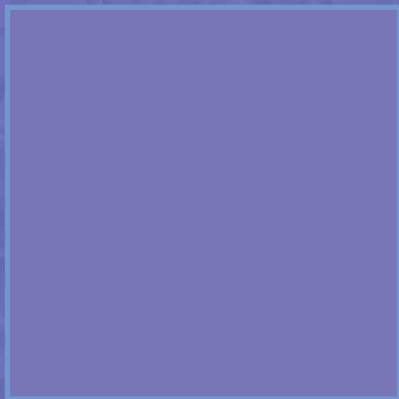
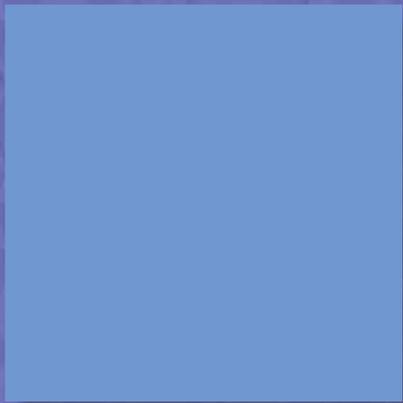


C H A P T E R



Day One

1. We will start this study guide as we do each week, reading the chapter (at least, twice) to become familiar with the people and events.

2. What day of the week is it?

Do you remember why this day was to be different from the other days of the week?
If you are not sure, read Exodus 20:8-11.

3. Jesus was invited to eat in the home of a _____.

4. Many people spent time following Jesus. After reading Luke 14:1, why do you believe Jesus was invited to the Pharisees' home? Was it because this Pharisee wanted to learn or something else?

5. While at the dinner that night, the scripture states, there was a man present who suffered from terrible swelling in his body. Before drawing attention to the man or the miracle Jesus was about to perform, what question did he ask the religious leaders?

6. This is not the first time something like this has come up.
Write the question Jesus posed in Luke 6:9.
What was the attitude of those present that day? Luke 6:11

What was the attitude of this ruler of the synagogue, concerning healing on the Sabbath in Luke 13:14?

7. These Pharisees are realizing they cannot talk their way around Jesus. Jesus will always have the true and final word. Luke 14:4 said they remained silent. Even though they were unwilling to answer, Jesus does not become angry and walk away. Look at Luke 14:5, to what did Jesus compare his healing, to help them understand? Write the question found in verse 5, in your own words. How heartless would it be to see this perilous situation and simply walk away?

8. In verse 6, how did the Pharisees respond to this question?

9. The value of an object is often assigned by the creator or owner of that object. One of my friends has a Precious Moments figurine collection, my son-in-law has a baseball card collection, another friend has a bobble-head collection. Each sees their collection as priceless, but not everyone who sees them places that same value on them. There are many variables to determining value and worth. One of the greatest is love for that object. What do you believe Jesus wants them to understand about the man he healed?

Day Two

10. Verse 1 said the Pharisees were watching Jesus. Then, in verse 7, we see Jesus is watching the Pharisees.
What has he witnessed them doing?

11. Read Luke 14:7-11, who was Jesus addressing here?

12. Jesus uses a parable to help them see one of their biggest problems. Sadly, they were clueless. What is the root of this sin problem? Read Proverbs 11:12 and Proverbs 29:23.

Proverbs 11:12

When pride comes, then comes dishonor, but with the humble is wisdom.

Proverbs 29:23

A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.

13. What is their opinion of themselves?
14. Jesus is attempting to teach a lesson on pride and humility. How would you define these two?
Pride
Humility
15. We all suffer from the sin of pride, from time to time. However, these men were constantly looking to elevate themselves. It has been said, *"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less."*
What character qualities should these religious leaders been displaying?
16. Were people being led to a closer relationship with God by the actions of these religious leaders?
17. Instead of throwing too many stones at the Pharisees, what are we doing that is drawing people to our God? What are some ways to show the love and compassion of our God to others?
18. As I write this, it is the Christmas season. I took a card and candy out to the man who drives our recycle truck. He turned his truck off to visit for a few minutes. He was very surprised at the gift and very happy too. He is going through some difficult things at this time. I asked his name and assured him we would be praying for he and his family. I invited him to LifeChurch and to John's men's group. He is very interested. This has set a very good tone for my day. I don't tell you this to brag, but to say it doesn't take much to help others feel loved and cared about. Who might you have a conversation with today that would draw them closer to our good God?
19. Jesus gave them a warning about walking into a banquet and choosing the places of honor for themselves. What did he say might happen if someone older, wiser, or richer came in?
20. Read Proverbs 25:6-7. Do you believe the Pharisees recognized this teaching? After all, they were well versed in the Scriptures.

Proverbs 25:6-7

Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence, and do not claim a place among his great men; ⁷ it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here," than for him to humiliate you before his nobles.

21. Read Luke 14:12-14. Who was Jesus addressing here?
Is Jesus saying that we should never invite our family over for lunch or dinner?
Think about it for a few minutes, what point is Jesus making?
What truth is he trying to help them see?
22. What are some ways you and your family could serve others, those who have no way of repaying your kindness?

23. Kindness, isn't that just the most beautiful word? The very definition of the word inspires us look for ways to express it.

Kindness: *Good will; benevolence; that temper or disposition which delights in contributing to the happiness of others, which is exercised cheerfully in gratifying their wishes, supplying their wants, or alleviating their distresses.*

Let's practice this week. Find ways to contribute to the well-being of others, then share one or two in your small group discussion. The verses below are from the ESV translation, read and summarize. This is by no means an exhaustive list of Bible references concerning kindness. Feel free to add some you know as well.

Bible verses on kindness	Your summary
Luke 6:35 <i>But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.</i>	
Ephesians 4:32 <i>Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.</i>	
Proverbs 31:26 <i>She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.</i>	
1 Corinthians 13:4 <i>Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant</i>	
Galatians 5:22-23 <i>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.</i>	
Micah 6:8 <i>He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?</i>	
Colossians 3:12 <i>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,</i>	
Proverbs 11:17 <i>A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself.</i>	
Proverbs 19:17 <i>Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.</i>	
Galatians 6:10 <i>So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.</i>	

24. Think of the last time you served someone or helped in some way and knew it could not be repaid. How did it make you feel?
25. What type of giving pleases the heart of God? Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. Giving speaks to many things, time, energy, resources, etc.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

26. When we are showing kindness, serving, and loving like this; what are we actually doing? Read Matthew 6:19

Matthew 6:19

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

27. In Luke 14:15, we see a man who had been listening to Jesus’ parable. He spoke up, his words sounded very spiritual, *“Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”* Knowing this man’s heart, Jesus very kindly shares another parable to help him see that following the wrong crowd and can keep one from the very door they long to walk through. Remember, Jesus is in the home of a prominent Pharisee. Pharisees are the religious leaders of their day. There would have been many other Pharisees and prominent Jewish men present. Let’s reason through Jesus’ parable of the great banquet. Identify the characters of this parable.

_____ The man who was hosting this great banquet. Verse 16

_____ The original guestst. Verse 16

_____ The servants who called the original guests when the banquet was ready. Verse 17

28. What was the response to this wonderful invitation?

What excuses did they offer?

a.

b.

c.

Did their excuses make sense?

Great thinking is the heartbeat of great men. Benjamin Franklin said, *“He that is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else.”* George Washington said, *“It is better to offer no excuse, than a bad one.”*

29. This is certainly not the first time the Bible tells us of someone offering a pitiful excuse for disobedience. There were others but here are three that are well known. Genesis 3:12 Who is Adam blaming for his disobedience?

“The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

Exodus 4:10 Who is Moses criticizing and blaming for the way he was created?

“Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”

Exodus 32:22-24 Who is Aaron blaming for his wicked actions?

“Do not be angry, my lord,” Aaron answered. *“You know how prone these people are to evil.*

We must consider carefully what we are offering God today, obedience or excuses.

How might a greater understanding of the sovereignty of our God and his sacrificial love for us change our responses to Him?

30. The host in this parable is God. The original guests invited were the Israelites, and the servants were the prophets. Because of the rejection of the first guests to the hosts invitation, who do you believe are the next guests invited in verses 23-24?

31. Let's look closely at Luke 14:25-27. When read too quickly, these verses are often misunderstood. God's word will never contradict itself. Loving others is a theme throughout the scriptures. "Hating" is a Semitic expression for loving less. Matthew records this same teaching.

Matthew 10:37-39

"Anyone who loves their father or mother _____ is not _____ of me; anyone who _____ their son or daughter _____ is not _____ of me.

³⁸ Whoever does not take up their _____ and _____ me is not _____ of me.

³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

32. Did you notice the repeated phrase "is not worthy of me," in Matthew 10:37-38? Jesus is calling for a genuine commitment from his followers. Following Jesus calls for a decision. This is not an excuse to abandon our responsibility to lovingly care for others, but it demands we identify who sits on the throne of our heart. It has been said, "If he is not Lord of all, then he is not Lord at all." This person is not worthy of the grace and the sacrifice given for him or her. What do you believe is meant by the expression, not worthy of me?

33. In Luke 14:27, Jesus calls those who would follow him to "carry their cross" and follow him.

What do we know about a cross?

What was the purpose of a cross?

34. One last look back at verses 25-27

What is a person committing to when they choose to be a disciple?

Is there one word that comes to mind to describe a life committed to Christ?

Read Romans 12:1 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*

35. In the final verses of Luke 14, Jesus elaborates on the commitment of being a disciple. He uses two examples in verses 28-32. What are the two examples, what is the point of each?

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36. Coming to Christ is so easy, even a child can do it. But it is not to be done on a whim, not to be done because someone else is following him. It is personal and life changing. After answering the previous question, what do you believe Jesus is saying for one who would follow him?

37. Matthew 11:28-30 are possibly some of the most comforting and compelling verses in all of scripture. Read these verses from the NIV and TPT translations, state in your own words Jesus invitation. Who could resist such love?

Matthew 11:28-30NIV

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30 TPT

“Are you weary, carrying a heavy burden? Come to me. I will refresh your life, for I am your oasis. ²⁹ Simply join your life with mine. Learn my ways and you’ll discover that I’m gentle, humble, easy to please. You will find refreshment and rest in me. ³⁰ For all that I require of you will be pleasant and easy to bear.”

38. In verses 33-35, Jesus compares believers to salt. What is salt good for?

a. Salt _____

b. Salt _____

c. Salt _____

39. The crowd Jesus addressed that day would have easily understood his reference to salt and how it can lose its saltiness. When salt gets wet, even if it dries out, nothing is left of the power or the flavor. It is of no value.

Christians are not taken to glory the minute we commit to follow Jesus. We are here for a purpose, to be salt and light. Read Matthew 5:13-16. Are you being salt and light?

Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

40. Jesus was salt and light everywhere he went. Salt and light bring a change. What are some ways we can be salt and light every day?

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Not every act of salt and light needs to be a salt mine or lighthouse beacon. Some of our smallest acts of kindness are also salt and light. List a few small acts consistently done that are salt and light.

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41. The chapter ends with Jesus saying, *“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”*

The word translated “hear” is the Greek word Akouo, it means to attend to, consider what is or has been said, to understand, to perceive the sense of what is said. This is not the first time Jesus has made this statement.

Look back at Luke 8:4-8. The difference between hearing and listening is ‘hearing’ is simply the process of taking in noise and sound, whereas ‘listening’ is when an individual tries to understand what they are hearing.

Hence, listening is different from hearing, because it requires more conscious action. In your own words, what do you believe Jesus meant by his statement?

42. I am so proud of you and the diligence you have shown studying God’s word. God’s word is our daily bread. Think of the effect of a day without eating.

How would you feel?

