



Volume 3: A Research Project



The Book of Luke



A FIVE YEAR JOURNEY

VOL. 3 | LUKE
2024



A FIVE YEAR JOURNEY

2022 | VOL. 1

JESUS:
An Eyewitness Account
[Matthew]

2023 | VOL. 2

JESUS:
From the Friend of a Friend
[Mark]

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JESUS:
A Research Project
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The Storyteller
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JESUS:
The Crossovers

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MARKS OF A FOLLOWER



LOVES RADICALLY

The self-sacrificing love of Jesus transforms our lives to display the fruit of the Spirit and actively seeks ways to love God and our neighbors.



WORSHIPS PASSIONATELY

A life of personal worship inspires us to glorify God in all we do as we participate in corporate worship and praise of our worthy God.



ENGAGES SCRIPTURE

A disciple pursues Biblical holiness through personal Bible study and small groups to seek a lifestyle surrendered to the authority of Scripture.



PRAYS FERVENTLY

An active and ongoing prayer life is vital to an intimate relationship with God.



SERVES JOYFULLY

We have all been uniquely created and find our purpose in God's Kingdom by using our gifts inside the church and by serving in the community.



GIVES GENEROUSLY

Tithing (10%) to the local church is a target for practicing financial generosity, moves us toward greater charity, and flows from God's generosity toward us.



MAKES DISCIPLES

As transformed people of God, we invite people into a relationship to follow Jesus and equip believers to follow Him more deeply through personal relationships.

Research.

Who likes to do research?

It's a lot of work. Interviews, reading, cross-referencing. You have to dig to get the truth. But, what comes out is often beautiful and thorough. You sometimes end up with a deeper understanding of the subject. That is the story of Luke.

Luke did not know Jesus. He likely never met Him. Some scholars believe he may have even been a Gentile, meaning he would have been the only author in the entire Bible who was not Jewish. At the very least, if he was born a Hebrew, he had led a Hellenistic life. Meaning, he had been raised and practiced life as a Greek rather than a Jew. He was well educated and spent time traveling with Paul on his missionary journeys (Colossians 4:10-14).

Nevertheless, as he embarked on his endeavor to write an account of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, he was behind the eight-ball, especially compared to Matthew and John, both disciples of Jesus, and Mark, a disciple of Peter. So he "carefully investigated everything from the beginning" that he might be able to write "an orderly account" (Luke 1:3).

The beauty of this is that we get stories in Luke that are nowhere to be found in other Gospels. The birth stories are the most profound example. Luke also has miracle stories and parables that only he shares that are rich with profound meaning about the character of God and the heart of Jesus. You can tell Luke was listening in whenever someone recounted a story that Jesus had shared about those in the upper reaches of society. Perhaps he was convicted upon hearing those.

Here's what we know: Luke shared these accounts on purpose. He knew they needed to be told. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Luke shares a look into the Father's heart for the least and the lost. What we'll study over the next several weeks are stories found only in his account. I'm so glad Luke liked research. I'm so glad he listened to the guidance of the Spirit to write down what he heard about the Savior that changed his life.



Carter McInnis
Lead Pastor
Mountaintop Church

MESSAGES

Luke

February 11 **The Miraculous Catch of Fish**
Luke 5:1-11

February 18 **The Sinful Woman**
Luke 7:36-50

February 25 **The Good Samaritan**
Luke 10:25-37

March 3 **The Rich Fool**
Luke 12:13-21

March 10 **The Place of Honor**
Luke 14:1-14

March 17 **The Prodigal Son**
Luke 15:11-32

March 24 **The Rich Man & Lazarus**
Luke 16:19-31

March 29 **The Trial & Crucifixion**
Good Friday
Luke 23:1-49

find messages at mountaintopchurch.com/messages

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK



Luke

Whether you're completing this as a group or an individual, we want you to get the most out of spending time in Luke. So, we've given you tools for each week of the series.

You'll see we've broken it down like this:

MESSAGE

This is the title of the Sunday message for the week.

READ THIS WEEK

If you want to read through the entire book of Luke as we go through this series, we've given you a weekly reading plan.

REFLECT ON VERSES

These are the verses that will be covered in the Sunday message and in your group. Group questions refer to these verses.

RESPOND IN PRAYER

We've given you a prayer, based on the verses of the week, so you can respond to God through prayer during the week.

GROUP WARM-UP QUESTION

This is the question that will kick off your time together in group. We find that warm-up questions are the easiest way to settle in to group, find out more about the people in your group, and make new friends.

- Each week of the study opens with Scripture. Be sure to read the weekly verses **before** attending group.
- Questions are meant to be answered **before** attending group. Your time in group will be spent sharing and discussing your thoughts.
- Note pages are included, so you can write down anything you want to remember from the Sunday messages or your group discussions.

RESOURCES

Luke

PAPER BIBLE

If you do not have a Bible, please feel free to take one as you enter or leave the Mountaintop Church Auditorium. It is our gift to you.

DIGITAL BIBLE

You can take the Bible with you wherever you go with these websites and free apps for your phone or tablet.



Bible.com
BibleGateway.com



You'll find the Kid's Bible available at:
BibleAppForKids.com



BlueLetterBible.org
For a more in-depth study where you can search commentaries and translations.



Olive Tree Bible Software
OliveTree.com

SUNDAY MESSAGES

Every Sunday morning message is archived on the Mountaintop website. If you miss a message or want to share a message with a friend, go to mountaintopchurch.com/watch to view on-demand.

Luke is the Gospel writer we can most relate to.

He may have been a Gentile, but it's clear that he wasn't raised in the Jewish tradition. At birth, he wasn't handed a belief in a coming Messiah that would save him and make things right. He had to come to that conclusion on his own.

Luke was also a doctor, accustomed to research and seeking understanding on a variety of subjects. A physician has in-depth knowledge of the human body. As a physician, Luke had a profound understanding of how final death is and yet, he found himself believing in the reality of a man rising from the dead.

But not just any man and not just any resurrection. He came to believe in the one resurrection that broke the grip of the Law so that Love could grab hold of lost souls. It's exactly like you and I believing that same thing today. Like us, Luke had to suspend his disbelief to become a disciple.

Through his research, he sought out those who had been with Jesus, asking them questions, collecting their stories, and gathering the facts. Luke listened to story after story about Jesus. It seems he had a voracious appetite for anything about the One who did miracles.

There are accounts in the book of Luke that are not found in any other Gospel. Most notably is Mary's account of Jesus' birth. According to the Law, a woman's witness held no weight; her story held no value. Still, Luke not only spoke with women, he included their testimonies in his transcription. Proving that he left no stone unturned in finding out all he could about Jesus.

So, what makes an "outsider" believe in a resurrected Savior? What has to happen for a man of science to find faith in the supernatural? We'll find out over the next 8 weeks as we venture with Luke on a research project.




WEEK ONE

Luke

The Miraculous Catch of Fish





**“ —
| Put out into
| deep water,
and let down
the nets
for a catch. |
— ”**

WEEK 1

Luke

MESSAGE

The Miraculous Catch of Fish

READ THIS WEEK

Luke 1:1 – 5:11

REFLECT ON VERSES

Luke 5:1 – 11

RESPOND IN PRAYER

Father, I want to thank You for always giving me another chance to surrender, obey, and follow You. Help me be the kind of disciple that says, “because You say so,” as I live my life in pursuit of You. Like Simon Peter, I want to be astonished by how You move in response to a heart offered up for Your leading. Help me be steadfast in laying down my will, so I can take hold of Your commands. Help me be brave enough to leave behind my stubbornness and pride, so I can go forward in Your strength and provision. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

GROUP WARM-UP QUESTION

What is your best fish story?

What do you think motivated Simon Peter to initially resist Jesus' suggestion to cast the nets again? What are the ways you resist God's leading?

What might the miraculous catch of fish symbolize in terms of God's abundance and provision in our lives?

In Simon Peter's response to the miracle (Luke 5:8-10), what aspects of his character stand out? How can we learn from his response and recognition of Jesus' authority in our own lives?

Why do you think Jesus chose to call fishermen, like Simon Peter, James, and John, to become fishers of men? What significance might there be in this choice, and what does it tell us about how God might be calling us?

Explore the concept of leaving everything to follow Jesus. What do you think it means practically and symbolically to leave our "nets" behind in order to fully respond to Jesus' call?

How does this passage challenge our understanding of discipleship? In what ways can we actively follow Jesus and engage in the mission of being "fishers of men" in our contemporary context? What does it mean in our city, neighborhood, jobs and everyday lives?

Reflect on the immediate response of Simon Peter, James, and John to Jesus' call. What lessons can we draw from their willingness to leave everything behind, and how can we apply these lessons in our own journey of faith?

Luke

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WEEK TWO

Luke

The Sinful Woman





“ —

***Your faith
has saved
you; go
in peace.***

— ”

WEEK 2

Luke

MESSAGE

The Sinful Woman

READ THIS WEEK

Luke 5:12 – 8:56

REFLECT ON VERSES

Luke 7:36 – 50

RESPOND IN PRAYER

Father, because You have forgiven much, I come to You with gratitude and great love. I'm grateful that You don't turn away from a sinner like me, but instead turn toward me, ready to embrace me as I am. Thank You for always welcoming me and my affection and for accepting the worship and praise I offer You. Nothing could ever be enough in repaying You, and yet, all You request is my love. May my heart always remember Your sacrifice, always respond to Your presence, and always rejoice in Your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

GROUP WARM-UP QUESTION

What's the most expensive perfume/cologne you've ever bought?

Read the preceding scene in John 7:18–35. What additional context do Jesus’ words about John the Baptist and how the religious leaders received both He and John give to this week’s passage?

Who are the main characters mentioned in this passage, and what do we know about them from what Luke tells us?

What do you think the act of anointing Jesus' feet with perfume symbolized, considering the culture of that time? What other story of 'washing feet' are we reminded of?

How does Simon, the Pharisee, react to the sinful woman's actions, and what does it reveal about his perspective on sin, forgiveness, and, perhaps, people like this woman? Do you ever find yourself looking down at others who sin differently than you?

Jesus tells a parable in response to Simon's thoughts. What is the parable about, and what spiritual truth does it convey about grace and gratitude?

How does Jesus connect the woman's actions with the forgiveness of her sins in verse 47? What role does faith play in this narrative? How do your acts of faith signify your gratitude for mercy and forgiveness?

In what ways can we apply the principles and teachings from Luke 7:36–50 to our own lives today? How does it impact our understanding of forgiveness, humility, and faith? How should it shape how we understand our own sin? What does it say about comparing our sin to others?

Luke

[illegible]

A faint, golden-yellow line drawing serves as the background for the entire page. It depicts the parable of the Good Samaritan, showing a man on a donkey being attacked by robbers, while a Samaritan on a donkey stops to help him. Other figures are shown in the background, some on foot and some on donkeys, in a desert setting with a castle in the distance.

WEEK THREE

Luke

The Good Samaritan





“ —

***Do this
and you
will live.***

— ”

WEEK 3

Luke

MESSAGE

The Good Samaritan

READ THIS WEEK

Luke 9:1 – 10:42

REFLECT ON VERSES

Luke 10:25 – 37

RESPOND IN PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for noticing me, having mercy on me, and carrying me when I couldn't care for myself. Your kindness and goodness know no bounds. Your compassion and sacrifice are immeasurable. Your grace and love reach depths I can't describe. You paid my debt and keep covering my mistakes. You saved me and keep soothing my wounds. You rescued me and keep lifting me up. You never grow tired of me, You're never too busy for me, and You always want to know how I am. May the warmth of Your gaze generate in me a heart for others, so my eyes are open, my heart is pure, and my hands are ready when You say, "Look! Go! Love!" In Your holy and healing name, I pray. Amen.

GROUP WARM-UP QUESTION

Has a stranger ever helped you out when you were broken down on the side of the road?

Why does the expert in the Law ask Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" What might be his motive behind this question?

Discuss Jesus' response, referencing the two commandments (love God and love your neighbor). How do these commandments summarize the essence of God's Law? How does everything 'hang' on these two commandments?

Why does the expert ask, "And who is my neighbor?" What is he seeking to clarify or challenge in Jesus' teachings? Do you think he's looking for a loophole?

What do the main characters of the parable represent if anything? How does their role contribute to the tension that builds throughout the story?

In the cultural context, Samaritans were often despised by Jews. Discuss the significance of Jesus choosing a Samaritan as the hero of the story. What does this teach us about God's view of compassion and love?

Explore how the Samaritan demonstrates practical love and compassion. How does he go above and beyond? What actions does he take to help the injured man, and what does this teach us about genuine care for others?

How can we apply the lessons from the Parable of the Good Samaritan to our own lives today? What changes can we make in our attitudes and actions to align with Jesus' teachings on love and compassion, especially for people not like us or who may not even like us?

Luke

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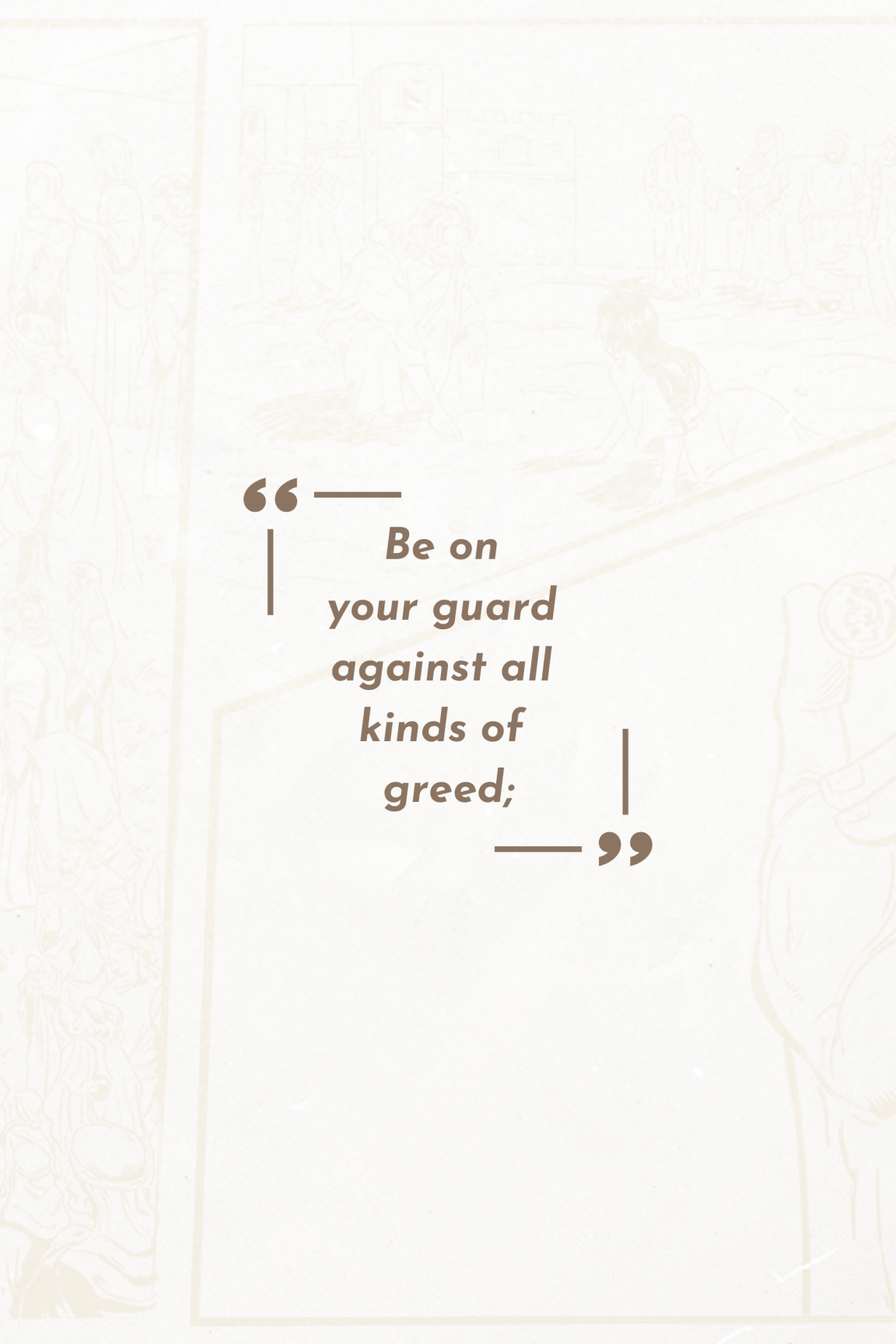


WEEK FOUR

Luke

The Rich Fool





**“ —
Be on
your guard
against all
kinds of
greed;
— ”**

WEEK 4

Luke

MESSAGE

The Rich Fool

READ THIS WEEK

Luke 11:1 – 12:59

REFLECT ON VERSES

Luke 12:13 – 21

RESPOND IN PRAYER

Father, teach me to live with an open hand, so I don't become enamored with storing things up for myself. May I see blessings as gifts from You that live beyond me. May I understand that provisions are Your way of caring for me as I care for others. May I embrace my gifts, talents, and treasures as the ways you reach others through me. Help me grow in generosity and expectation knowing that You are faithful, trusting that You are moving, and believing that You are good. Use me, Lord, as You see fit. May my life be spent making Kingdom impact. By the power and name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

GROUP WARM-UP QUESTION

What is thing or collectible you probably have too much or too many of?

This teaching and parable is about money and our material possessions. Why do we get on edge when Jesus starts talking about our financial resources? What is it about money that feels different than other steps of faith?

What do you think prompts the man in the crowd to ask Jesus to tell his brother to divide the inheritance? What might this reveal about the man's mindset?

How does Jesus respond to the man's request, and what does it indicate about Jesus' priorities and teachings regarding wealth and possessions? Why do you think Jesus' warnings are so harsh?

Talk about the ways you've seen others or experienced yourself the temptation to make life about the abundance of possessions? How does our current culture make it even more difficult? How do we get free from this mindset?

In the parable, what does the rich fool prioritize, and how does his perspective on wealth differ from what Jesus teaches?

How does God respond to the rich man, and what does this reveal about God's perspective on material wealth and earthly pursuits? Is there something fundamentally wrong with wealth? If not, what's the problem?

In what ways can we apply the lessons from the Parable of the Rich Fool to our own lives? How does it challenge our attitudes towards possessions and encourage a Kingdom-focused mindset? In what ways are you challenged to step toward generosity through Jesus' teaching?

Luke

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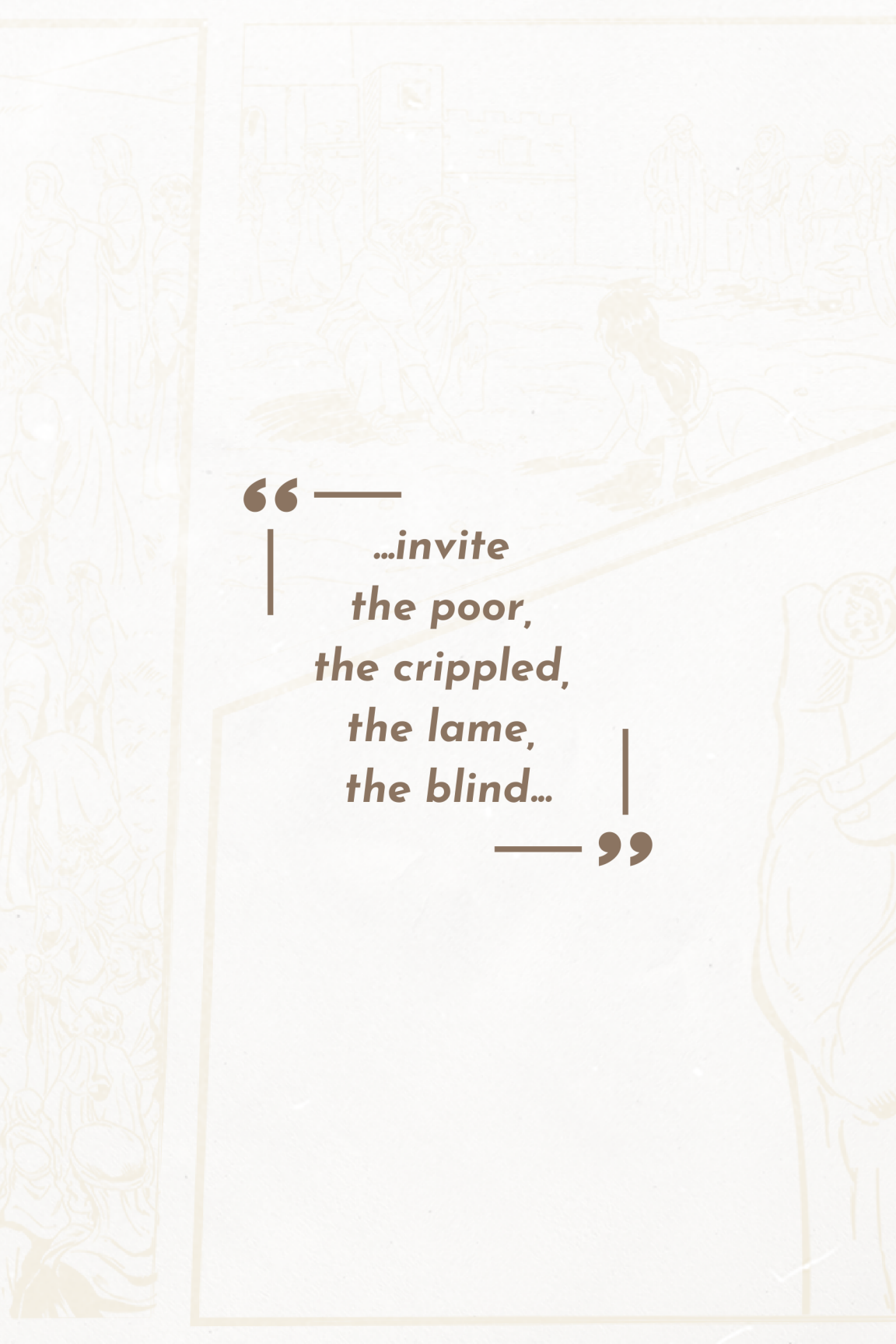


WEEK FIVE

Luke

The Place of Honor





“ —
| *...invite*
| *the poor,*
the crippled,
the lame,
the blind... **|**
— ”

WEEK 5

Luke

MESSAGE

The Place of Honor

READ THIS WEEK

Luke 13:1 – 14:35

REFLECT ON VERSES

Luke 14:1 – 14

RESPOND IN PRAYER

Father, You are to be honored and praised because You are good and You are God. I bestow honor as a gift to You because I am humbled in Your presence and recognize Your place in my life. I do this in gratitude and in response to You doing it first. You humbled Yourself and became a human with one purpose in mind. You granted honor to the lost by laying down Your life, so You could clearly convey our place in Your heart. Help me see others, whether friend or foe, as being worth Your life. Remind me, especially in difficult circumstances, that when I give honor to others, I'm really giving honor to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

GROUP WARM-UP QUESTION

What's the fanciest dinner party you've ever been a part of?

What is the significance of Jesus healing a disabled man on the Sabbath, and how do the Pharisees and experts in the Law react to this?

In the parable about choosing seats at a banquet, what does Jesus teach about humility? How does this apply to our relationships and interactions with others, particularly those different than us?

Why does Jesus emphasize inviting the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind to the banquet? What is the lesson behind this teaching for the Church? For followers of Jesus in everyday life? For you?

In the context of the parable, what does Jesus say about the motivation for hospitality? What should our motives be when showing kindness to others?

Jesus mentions receiving a reward at the resurrection. What does this suggest about the eternal impact of our actions, particularly acts of kindness and hospitality? How can this teaching help give us an eternal perspective?

What are the ways we show favoritism? While it's easy to point fingers at the failures of the global Church, how does this come out in our own personal lives?

In what practical ways can we apply the principles of humility, hospitality, and compassion in our own lives? How can we mirror the love Jesus demonstrated in our personal lives?

Luke

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WEEK SIX

Luke

The Prodigal Son





“ —

*There was
a man
who had
two sons.*

— ”

WEEK 6

Luke

MESSAGE

The Prodigal Son

READ THIS WEEK

Luke 15 – 16:18

REFLECT ON VERSES

Luke 15:11 – 32

RESPOND IN PRAYER

Father, there are so many moments when I feel lost. There have been days where I chose to do things on my own, only to find I am hungry for the things that only You can provide. There have been times where I wandered too far, wasted too much, and wrestled too long. There have been decisions that waged war with my very own soul. I've even felt too wretched to find my way home. And every time You have been there, waiting patiently for my return. Your grace reaches me on the road, while Your forgiveness scoops me up and carries me the rest of the way. Your love, like a lullaby, leads me to a place of complete rest and restoration in You. I am so grateful that my place as Your child does not depend on what I've done, but is decided and declared by Who You are. Thank You for always making a way for me to come home. In Jesus' name. Amen.

GROUP WARM-UP QUESTION

Do you have siblings? Older or younger? Share with the group about them.

What prompts the younger son to ask for his share of the inheritance, and what does this reveal about his attitude towards his father and wealth?

Explore the choices and experiences of the prodigal son during his time away. What consequences does he face, and how does it impact his life? What does this say about choosing our way against the wisdom of the Father?

What does the father's reaction reveal about his character, and how does it reflect God's love and forgiveness? How does this differ from how you've imagined God feeling about you when you choose your own way?

What emotions does the older brother express about his brother's return? How does the father respond to him? Have you ever had an 'older brother' attitude about lost sons and daughters coming home?

Identify symbolic elements in the parable, such as the father, the two sons, and the celebration. What do these symbols represent, and how do they convey deeper spiritual truths? Where do you see yourself in the story?

Study the father's speech to the older son in verses 31-32. What message does the father convey about love, forgiveness, and the importance of reconciliation? How can we work hard to have the heart of the father for those who haven't found their way home?

Take a moment to read Luke 15:1-10. How can we apply the lessons from Luke's three "lost things" stories to our own lives? In what ways do we experience God's unconditional love and forgiveness, and how can we extend the same to others? What does this say about the mission of the Church?

Luke

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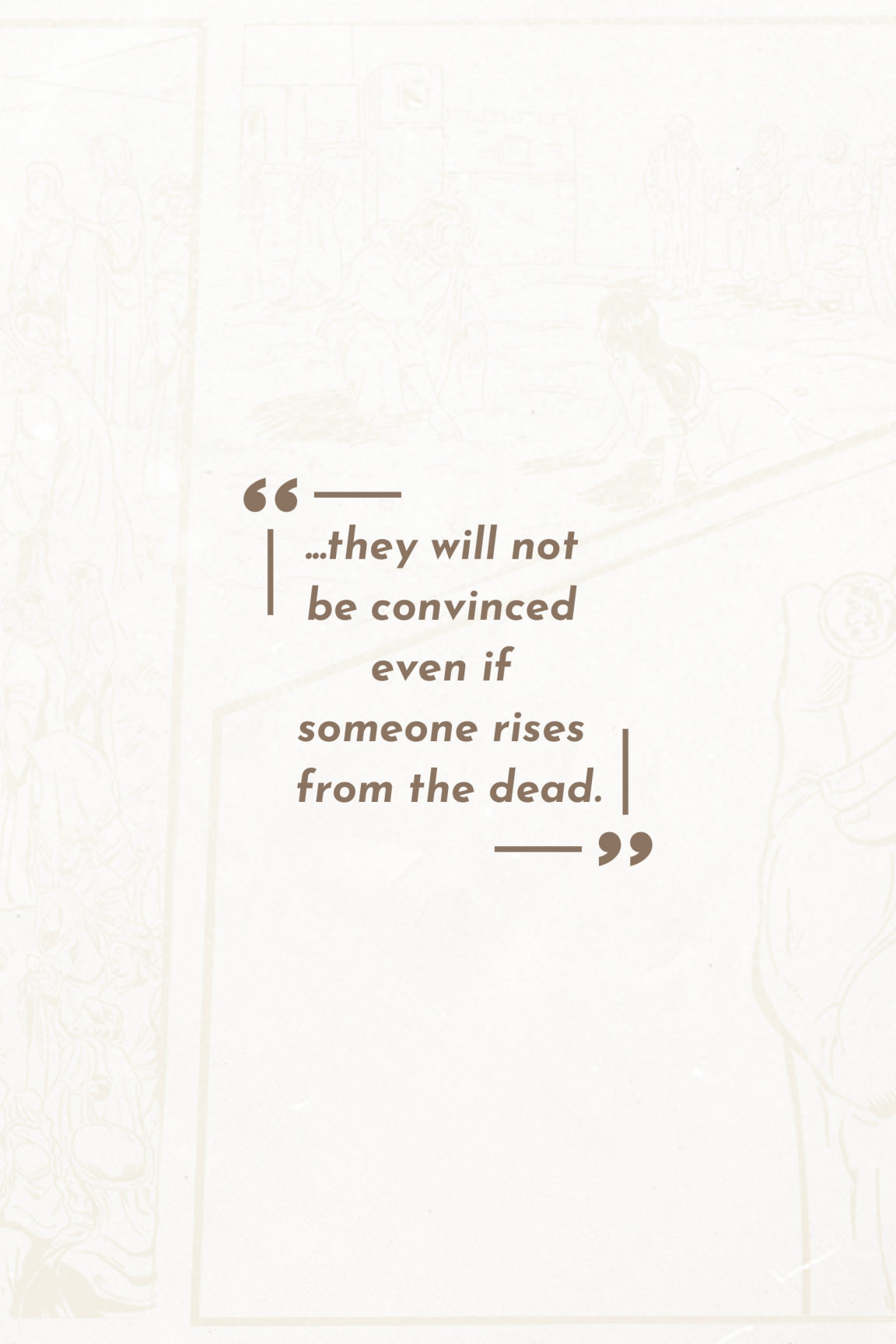


WEEK SEVEN

Luke

The Rich Man & Lazarus



The background is a light beige color with a faint, stylized line drawing of a biblical scene. In the center, two figures are kneeling on the ground, possibly in prayer or mourning. To the left, a group of people stands in a line. To the right, more figures are visible, some standing and some sitting. The drawing is done in a simple, sketchy style with no shading.

**“ —
| ...they will not
| be convinced
even if
someone rises
from the dead. |
— ”**

WEEK 7

Luke

MESSAGE

The Rich Man & Lazarus

READ THIS WEEK

Luke 16:19 – 20:47

REFLECT ON VERSES

Luke 16:19 – 31

RESPOND IN PRAYER

Father, I am eternally grateful that there is no longer a chasm between me and You. I can rest assured that I have access to come to You. There are those in my life who have not yet discovered that for themselves. Help me know what to say and when to say it, so Your Truth cuts through the noise of this world. May I never become complacent in speaking Your name and telling others about what You've done. May I represent You in such a way that people recognize You in me and respond. And may I be mindful to pray for those that don't know You yet, so no one else has to experience eternity divided from You. In the mighty name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

GROUP WARM-UP QUESTION

Who's the richest person you've ever met?

What details does the parable provide about the rich man and Lazarus? How are they portrayed, and what do their circumstances reveal about their character?

Explore the stark contrasts between the lives of the rich man and Lazarus, both in their earthly lives and after death. How do these contrasts emphasize the themes of justice and mercy? What does it tell us about judgment?

What is the rich man's request in Hades, and how does Abraham respond? What does this interaction reveal about the consequences of one's choices in life? How does this speak to the importance of the mission of the Church?

The parable mentions a great chasm that separates the place of comfort and torment. What does this chasm symbolize, and how does it relate to the choices people make in life? How is this a hard teaching and what are the consequences for us?

What is the message behind Abraham's statement that "if they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead"? How does this apply to the importance of heeding God's Word? What glimpse does this give us into the future of a post-Easter world and Church?

Reflect on the role of material wealth in the parable. How does the rich man's neglect of Lazarus highlight the importance of compassion and generosity? What would have been a better way for the rich man to live?

How can we relate the lessons from the parable of the rich man and Lazarus to our own lives? In what ways can we cultivate a heart of compassion and prioritize eternal values over temporary wealth? How can this parable inform our ministry as we invite and equip people to follow Jesus?

Luke

[illegible]



WEEK EIGHT

Luke

The Trial & Crucifixion



The background is a light beige color with a faint, stylized line drawing of a biblical scene. In the center, a man in a long robe is kneeling on the ground, facing right. To his right, another person is also kneeling, facing left. In the background, several other figures are standing and talking. On the left side, a group of people is gathered, some looking towards the center. On the right side, a person is standing and looking towards the center. The overall style is simple and illustrative, typical of a religious or educational publication.

“ —

***Father, into
your hands
I commit
my spirit.***

— ”

WEEK 8

Luke

MESSAGE

The Trial & Crucifixion

READ THIS WEEK

Luke 21 – 24

REFLECT ON VERSES

Luke 23:1 – 49

RESPOND IN PRAYER

Jesus, words fail to adequately explain the depths of my love and gratitude for You. You were poked, prodded, and pierced for me. You were hunted, hurt, and hung for me. You were shamed, stripped, and sacrificed for me. Every bruise, every beating, You took in the hope that I would one day take Your hand. Every breath, every drop of blood, you gave in the hope that I would one day give my life to You. How can You love me that much? Your darkest day was the Light of Life for me. Your greatest pain was my entry into Paradise. Your life laid down was my life raised up. Thank You for loving me the way that You do. May I spend my life growing in love for You. I love You, I glorify You, I honor and praise You. And it's in Your holy and anointed name I pray. Amen and amen.

GROUP WARM-UP QUESTION

What is your favorite Easter tradition?

What charges are brought against Jesus during His trial before Pilate? How does Pilate respond, and what does this reveal about the political dynamics at play?

What motivations or influences might have swayed the crowd to choose the release of Barabbas over Jesus? Has 'the crowd' ever swayed you to choose something over Jesus?

How does Luke portray the physical and emotional aspects of crucifixion? What sticks out to you about the brutality of it all?

Explore the reactions of different groups of people witnessing the crucifixion, including the soldiers, religious leaders, and the criminal crucified with Jesus. How do they respond, and what does it reveal about their perspectives? Where are the disciples?

What do Jesus' interactions and prayers on the cross reveal about His character and purpose in His final moments? What does Jesus' response to the criminal say about the nature of salvation and eternal life?

Focus on the centurion's confession in verse 47. Why does the centurion declare, "Certainly this was a righteous man"? What impact does witnessing Jesus' death have on him? Why do you think he alone comes to that conclusion?

Why do you think that Jesus didn't defend himself before Pilate, the soldiers, or even on the cross? How does this description of Jesus' sacrifice for us open your heart and eyes to the cost of His love? What is the proper response for your gratitude?

Luke

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EASTER

AT MOUNTAINTOP CHURCH

GOOD FRIDAY

March 29 | 7 PM

EASTER SUNDAY

March 31 | 9:15 & 11 AM

**We're FOR ONE
because God is FOR us.**

**Easter is one of the easiest
invite opportunities you have.**

Who are YOU inviting?

Who is your ONE?



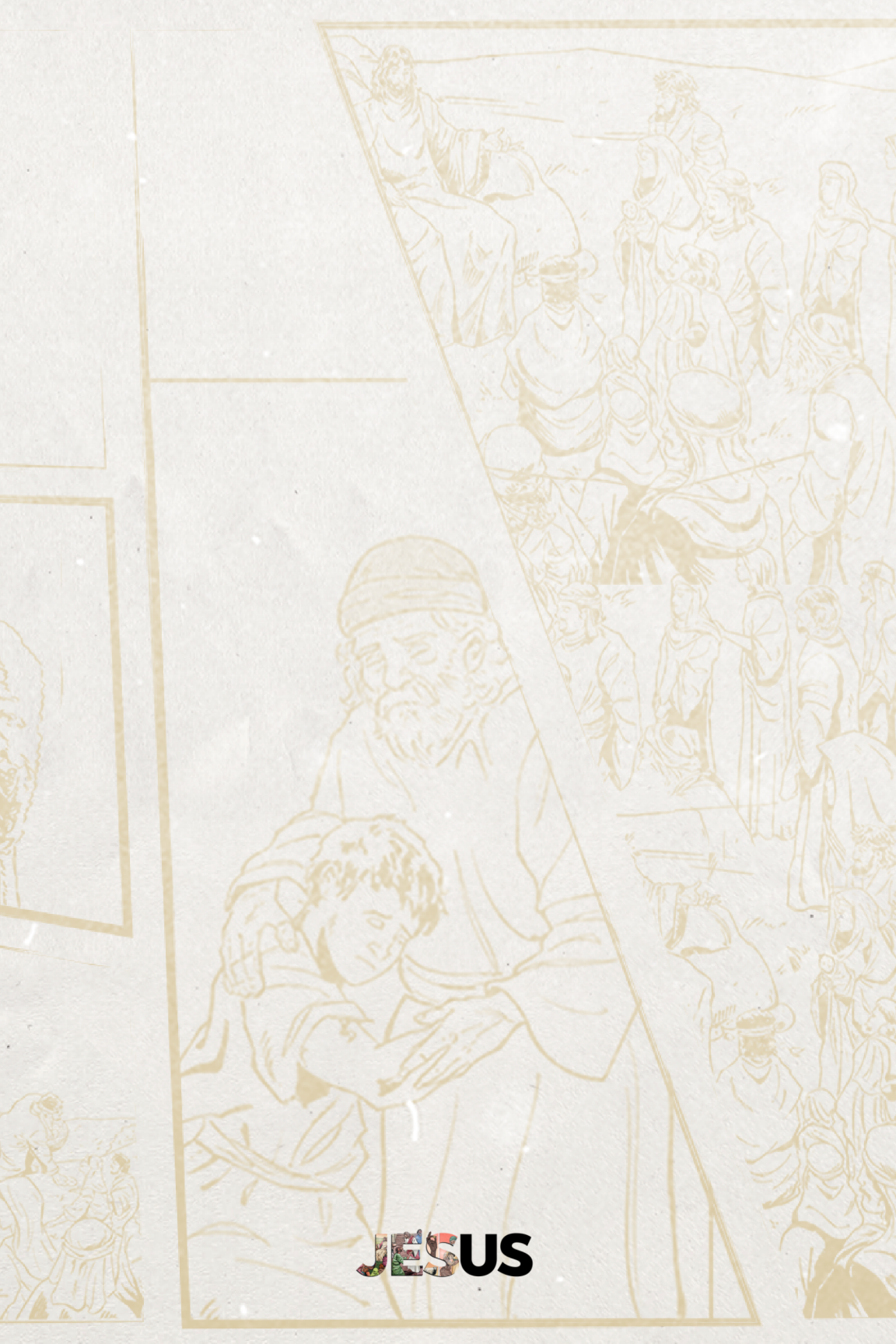
Holy Matrimony

INVITING OUR
MAKER INTO
OUR MARRIAGE

APRIL 7 - 21

Almost everyone wants God to bless their marriage, but do we want God to actually BE in our marriage? Inviting our Maker into Our Marriage will call us to serve and love our spouse in ways that stretch and challenge us. In this series, we'll look at God's direction through the Bible to be the husbands and wives He created us to be, from the bedroom to the living room.





JESUS