

Gospel Centered | Mission Focused

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

Luke's Gospel | Week of January 24

Our invitation this New Year is to live gospel centered lives, encouraged and equipped by our gospel centered relationships (especially in Connect Groups). The questions below are designed specifically for Connect Groups and can also be used in households or spiritual friendships.

Gospel Centered

Who is the most trustworthy person you know? What makes them that way?

Read Luke 1:1-4 Luke's gospel emphasizes the desire to communicate certainty in telling the good news – using a term that does not mean a certainty of facts or personal conviction but one that means rooted, secured, even safeguarded. How certain do you personally feel about the testimony handed down to us in the Bible?

Laurie quoted Luke Timothy Johnson who writes this about the Gospel accounts:

"These writings are concerned primarily with the ways in which an identity shaped by a commitment to Jesus can consistently be lived in the world. Their explicit focus is the story of Jesus as continued in the lives of believers."

In addition to keeping the Bible at the center of Connect Groups what other practices or interactions in a Connect group help to transform your identity shaped by Jesus that can consistently be lived out in the world?

Try a rapid round of salvation stories/sayings found in Luke by taking turns reading some of the passages below. What does each suggest about salvation that is for all people in all of life?

(The larger readings surrounding these verses are all included in our weekly readings, so if you run out of time just check in with each other next week on what you noticed as you reflected and prayed in your own devotional times at home.)

Luke 1:47 and 1:69, 71

Luke 7:50

Luke 8:36

Luke 8:48 and 8:50

Luke 18:42

Luke 19:9-10

Mission Focused

How did forgiveness practices work out in your household/families/friendship last week?

When you hear the word "mission" do you tend to think about special mission projects and careers or about joining in God's salvation mission in every part of life?

What might it mean to live as a missionary in your own life?

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Gospel Practice | On Mission!

When missionaries move into a new place there are a few things they do to prepare to share and show the gospel – practices like...

- praying by name for the people they meet at work, school or in the neighborhood
- asking questions about what matters to people, what they hope or fear or love or despise and even what they believe about God
- becoming students of the priorities in a culture
- paying attention to the situations or systems that take life and joy away from people

This week what if you choose one of these practices to experiment with being a missionary in your own city?

Wondering what Pastor Laurie means when she talks about joining Jesus in his salvation mission?

"Salvation in Luke-Acts means participation in the reign of God." (Mark Allen Powell)

Join us for the BIG Story Sunday Seminary on **Sunday January 31 at 8:45am** as Craig Chamberlain looks at the Good News of the Kingdom in the gospels – in other words, the good news that we can participate in the reign of God! Zoom link is online and in the Worship Notes.

Readings

The readings this week focus on salvation in Luke's gospel account.

Monday, January 25 | Luke 1:46-55; 1:68-79; 2:11-14; 2:29-32

All of Luke's Nativity Songs refer to salvation. Choose one or read all!

Tuesday, January 26 | Luke 7:36-50

Wednesday, January 27 | Luke 8:26-39

Thursday, January 28 | Luke 8:40-56

Friday, January 29 | Luke 18:35-43

Saturday, January 30 | Luke 19:1-10

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