
Life Group Guide: Jubilee

Overview

This guide is based on a sermon exploring the biblical concept of Jubilee and how Jesus applied it to himself and his ministry. Through the lens of Leviticus 25 and Luke 4:16-21, we examine what it means to live in the freedom and restoration that Christ has purchased for us, and how that shapes the way we treat one another.

Key Takeaways

- 1. Jesus declared himself the fulfillment of Jubilee.** When Jesus read from Isaiah in the synagogue and said "today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing," he was announcing that his life, death, and resurrection would accomplish everything the Year of Jubilee symbolized -- freedom, restoration, and a complete reset for all who trust in him.
 - 2. Jesus sets you free from sin and condemnation.** Just as the trumpet blast on the Day of Atonement signaled that the high priest's sacrifice had been accepted and the people's sins were covered, the resurrection of Jesus signals that his atoning work is complete. Romans 8:1-2 declares there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
 - 3. Jesus restores your dignity.** The Year of Jubilee returned people to their original inheritance. In the same way, trusting in Christ restores believers to their identity as children of God and joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:15-17). What was lost through sin is reclaimed through him.
 - 4. Things that are not of God can be sent back to their original owner.** Bitterness, shame, condemnation, fear, and generational bondage do not have legal authority to remain in the life of someone who belongs to Christ. The cross is the moment those chains were broken.
 - 5. If you have been "Jubileed," you are called to Jubilee others.** Living out Jubilee means practicing daily confession, forgiving grievances, extending radical generosity, and building rhythms of rest into your life.
-

Discussion Questions

Opening

1. Before the sermon, had you ever heard of the Year of Jubilee? What did you already know about it, and what surprised you as you learned more?
 2. The sermon opened with this question: What if there was a specific day when every debt was wiped away, every lost possession was returned, and every broken family was restored? How did that question land with you personally?
-

Going Deeper

3. In Luke 4:16-21, Jesus reads from Isaiah and then declares that the scripture is fulfilled in their hearing. Why do you think that moment was so significant to his audience? What do you think it meant to them, and what does it mean to us?
 4. The Sabbath year required Israel to stop working and trust God to provide. The Year of Jubilee extended that trust for two consecutive years. What does that kind of dependence on God look like in your own life? What makes it difficult?
 5. The sermon described the high priest coming back out of the Holy of Holies as the moment everyone knew the atonement had been accepted. The resurrection of Jesus is described in a similar way. How does thinking about the resurrection through that lens change or deepen the way you understand what Jesus accomplished?
 6. The sermon made this statement: "Things that are not of God get to go back to their original owner." Bitterness, shame, poverty mindset, fear, and generational sin were all mentioned. Are there things in your life you have been carrying that you need to release? What would it look like practically to stop giving those things a place in your life?
 7. The Year of Jubilee was designed to prevent intergenerational poverty and land monopolies. It meant that one generation's failures did not have to permanently define the next generation. How does the gospel speak to people who feel defined by the mistakes or sins of those who came before them?
 8. The sermon described the kinsman redeemer as someone who shared your name, had the means to step in, and was willing to buy back what was lost. How does that image help you understand what Jesus has done for you?
-

Application-Focused Questions

9. The sermon gave four practical ways to live out Jubilee:
 - Daily confess your sins
 - Cancel emotional debts by forgiving grievances

-
- Practice radical generosity with your time, talents, and resources
 - Practice sabbatical rest

Which of these four is most challenging for you right now, and why?

10. The sermon said, "If you've been Jubileed, Jubilee others." Who in your life -- a family member, a friend, a coworker -- needs you to extend grace, encouragement, or practical help right now? What is one step you could take this week?
11. Regarding forgiveness, the sermon said: "Facilitate your trauma's healing by forgiving." Is there a name or a situation that came to mind during the sermon that you have not yet released? What is holding you back from forgiving that person?
12. The sermon challenged the group to break an addiction to constant stimulation and to practice genuine rest -- physically, mentally, and spiritually. What does rest look like in your current season of life? Is it something you actually practice, or is it something you have been avoiding?

Practical Applications for the Week

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice before your group meets again.

- **Daily confession:** Set aside five minutes each morning or evening to honestly bring your struggles and failures before God. Do not let things accumulate. Practice the rhythm of confession and release.
- **Cancel an emotional debt:** Identify one person you have been holding a grudge against. Write their name down, pray over it, and speak forgiveness over them -- even if they never know you did it. If appropriate, take a step toward reconciliation.
- **An act of radical generosity:** Look for one opportunity this week to give something -- your time, a skill, an encouraging word, a financial gift, or a practical act of service -- to someone who needs restoration.
- **A sabbatical moment:** Choose one block of time this week -- even just an hour -- to put down your phone, step away from media, and be still. Use that time to pray, read scripture, or simply be present with God and the people around you.

Closing Prayer Prompts

Close your group time by praying together. Consider using the following prompts to guide your prayer:

- Thank God for the atoning work of Jesus and the freedom it has purchased.

-
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything you are carrying that needs to be released.
 - Pray for anyone in the group who is struggling with condemnation, shame, or a sense that their past defines them.
 - Ask God to make your group a community that practices Jubilee -- forgiving freely, giving generously, and pointing one another back to the identity they have in Christ.
-

Scripture References for Further Study

- Luke 4:16-21 -- Jesus announces his mission in the synagogue at Nazareth
- Leviticus 25 -- The law of the Year of Jubilee
- Romans 8:1-2 -- No condemnation for those in Christ Jesus
- Romans 8:15-17 -- The spirit of adoption and joint heirs with Christ
- 1 John 1:9-10 -- The promise of forgiveness through confession
- Colossians 3:12-13 -- Putting on forgiveness and compassion
- Luke 6:38 -- The principle of generosity