

4-WEEK STUDY

ON THE LIES WE BELIEVE

WEEK 3

Discussion Guide

Luke 12:16-21, Isaiah 46:5-7, 9-10

WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Luke 12:16-21, Isaiah 46:5-7, 9-10

GETTING STARTED

Goals this week: To identify and replace the lie that says, "You are in control"

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: If you could control the weather, what would a typical week look like?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What was one thing that stood out to you from Sunday's sermon that you'd like to discuss?
- 2. This week, Pastor Doug talked about the *illusion of control*. What are one or two areas of your life that you often try to control?
- 3. Pastor Doug mentioned six *idols of control* that we often rely on to help us control our circumstances (and other people), including: knowledge and information, power, money, autonomy, theology and shame. What idols of control do you typically rely on to cope with unpredictability or lack of control?
- 4. Can you think of a recent experience where you tried to control a situation and it left you feeling more anxious?
- 5. Read **Genesis 3:1-10**. What do the events of this passage reveal about our desire for control? What does this passage reveal about the paradoxical results of control? (hint: look at what Adam felt in verse 10)
- 6. Read Genesis 4:1-8. In what ways were Cain's actions an effort to control?
- 7. Re-read **Luke 12:16-21**. In what ways were the rich man's actions an effort to control? Read what Jesus said to His disciples in **Luke 12:22-31** immediately after the parable of the rich fool. What do Jesus' words reveal about control and trust?
- 8. Read Colossians 1:15-20. What do these words remind us about control and trust?
- 9. What is one intentional, practical way you can practice trusting God in a current situation this week?



PRAYER

Pray for each other: As a group, pray for God to help each person in the group release the idols of control that you have each trusted in and more fully trust God this week.

Pray for yourself: Pray and ask God to help you remember that His purposes will stand and He will accomplish His intentions.

Pray for your four: Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently. Pray that (1) God would reveal Jesus to them, (2) that God would turn their hearts towards Him, (3) that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and (4) that God would give you an opportunity to share what Christ has done in your life.

ACTION STEPS

This week, every time you catch yourself trying to control something (or someone) that you cannot control, stop and pray, "Lord, help me to trust You more in this area. Amen."

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