



PRODIGAL GOD

Discussion Guide

14-WEEK STUDY

IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

WEEK 9

Discussion Guide

Luke 18-19



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WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Luke 18-19

GETTING STARTED

Goals this week: To better understand Jesus' teachings in Luke 18-19

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

Break the Ice: Have you ever met a famous person? Who was it and what were the circumstances?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: Although Sunday's sermon focused on the two stories of Jesus and the rich man, and Jesus and Zacchaeus, our discussion will focus primarily on the other passages contained in Luke 18-19.

1. Did you read **Luke 18-19** last week? What was something that encouraged or challenged you from what you read? Discuss something that stood out to you from Sunday's sermon.
2. In **Luke 18:1-8**, Jesus tells a parable about a persistent widow and an unjust judge. While we can safely conclude that this parable works as a *contrast* (God is *not* an unjust judge) rather than a comparison, what point do you think Jesus is trying to make? How does verse 1 help us understand Jesus' intended message?
3. In **Luke 18:9-14**, Jesus tells another parable—this time about a Pharisee and a tax collector who both go to the temple to pray. Compare this parable to the *Parable of the Lost Son* in **Luke 15** and discuss any similarities you notice between the Pharisee and the older brother, and the tax collector and the younger son.
4. In **Luke 18:24**, Jesus says "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" Why do you think he said this?
5. In **Luke 18:31-34**, Jesus predicts His imminent death a third time. As a group, read the previous two occasions on which Jesus predicts His death (**Luke 9:21-22** and **Luke 9:43b-45**) and discuss the similarities and differences between the three occasions.
6. In his description of Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus, Luke tells us that Zacchaeus declared his intention to give half his money to the poor and make restitution with those he had cheated. What is one bold sacrifice or change you have made in your life as a result of your decision to follow Jesus?
7. In **Luke 19:11-27**, Jesus tells a somewhat confusing parable about a king who reconciles his account with three of his servants, each of whom had received a mina (the equivalent of three months' wages). He commends the first two servants for their faithfulness. How does verse 11 help us understand what Jesus is talking about in this parable?
8. As a group, read **Galatians 2:20**. What do you think Paul means when he says "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me?" What are some practical ways you can do that this week?

