

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE FOLLOWING JESUS IN RELATIONSHIPS

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

“6 The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV)

17 “You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. 18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.” Leviticus 19:17-18 (ESV)

“Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.” Luke 11:4 (ESV)

“17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 20 To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:17-21 (ESV)

Search for the “Renewal Church Denver” app or “St. John’s Denver” app in your app store.

More of God’s truth all week long at renewaldenver.tv and sjdenver.tv

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Share a high and a low.
- Is there a time when you had to get revenge on someone?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Luke 6:27-36. Which verse is the hardest for you to swallow?
- Read Romans 12:17-21. We want immediate gratification. How hard is it for you to give up on ensuring that revenge happens soon?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Use a question from N.T. Wright’s “Luke: For Everyone” (pg. 45-46).
- Read Leviticus 9:18. Did you know that the “Golden Rule” actually has its roots in the Old Testament. How does that undermine the idea that the Old Testament is law and the New Testament is grace?
- Looking at other passages in Luke (for example, when Jesus forgives the sinful woman in Luke 7:36-50, the parable of the Prodigal son, and the Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector) what are Jesus’ conditions for dispensing mercy?
- How did Jesus model re-paying evil with mercy?
- If we are unable to love or forgive, what does that say about our understanding of how God loves us?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Who in your life is really challenging to love? Write down their name and commit to trying extra hard to love sacrificially this week.
- Is there someone you got revenge on that you need to apologize to?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- “God, help me to give sacrificially just as you gave your son for me. Lead me to show mercy as you have shown mercy. Let me not focus on how others have wronged me, but how I may point them to you, with my words and actions.” Amen.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three for 15 minutes:

1. What was a memorable passage from your Life Journal (or other Bible reading plan) reading this past week?
2. What’s something you’d like someone else to check in with you about this week?
3. What good can we do around here (are there any community needs God is calling us to meet)?
4. Pray for one another.