

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

FOLLOWING JESUS

IN CONFLICT

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." John 3:17 (ESV)

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." John 14:27 (ESV)

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Romans 6:4 (ESV)

"...scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." ⁵ For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. ⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed." 2 Peter 3:3-10 (ESV)

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Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Share a high and a low.
- Are you more motivated when someone yells at you, or compliments you?

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

- Read Luke 12:49-53. Is Jesus using the word "Baptism" literally or figuratively?
- Reader 2 Peter 3:3-10. Many of us were taught that earth would be destroyed and Heaven would be elsewhere. How might this passage be interpreted differently?

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

- Use question #11 from N.T. Wright's "Luke: For Everyone" (pg. 81).
- Luke 12:51 seems to contradict John 14:27. Discuss.
- In John 3:17 and 12:47 seem to contradict today's passage. Discuss.
- We prefer soft-spoken child-friendly Jesus. However, how does Luke 12:49-53 remind us of an equally true side of Jesus' message?

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

- Are you so used to worshipping the God of love that you have forgotten about the God of justice? Commit to experiencing both sides of God this week by reading His word daily.
- The truth of the Gospel and the coming judgment will create disagreement between loved ones. In the midst of that, we need strong community ties. Commit to getting to know someone in your LIFEgroup a little better this week. Find something to do together.

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- "Lord, you are a God of justice and mercy. Omnipotent and personal. Master and friend. Help me to see where I've made you in my own image, and be reminded of who you are in your totality. Give me the urgency to share your Gospel so that during this time of your patience more people may come to know you. Amen."

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

1. What has God been teaching you in His word this week? Is there anything you need to repent of?
2. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
3. How's your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection)
4. Pray for one another.