



First Baptist Church Selmer

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE • THE GREAT COMMISSION • LUKE 24:44-48 • 4/23/2023

MAIN POINT

Our experience with a risen Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit propels us on mission with God.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What fears do you have when you think about sharing the gospel? Are these fears rooted in the unknown or in past experiences?

Have you ever been a part in leading someone to faith in Christ?

How has that experience encouraged you to do it again?

Jesus commissioned His church to go into the world with the gospel. As His followers, we are called to tell others what Jesus has done for us. Because we have experienced the resurrected Christ and are empowered through the Holy Spirit, we can boldly take hold of a life lived on mission with God.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 24:44-46.

44 "Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.' 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, 'Thus

it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things." (ESV)

Once Jesus established that He had risen from the dead, He instructed His followers as the angels had taught the women and as He had taught the two on the road to Emmaus. Understanding the work of God through Jesus Christ and how the Scriptures witnessed His coming and ministry was crucial for the disciples.

Think about the disciples' perspective in verse 46. Have you ever found a Bible truth to be beyond your comprehension? If so, what was the truth?

What factors allowed you to gain a clearer understanding of that truth?

What words in this passage speak to the weightiness of the task? Which of Jesus' words might have scared the disciples?

Jesus' disciples would become faithful interpreters of Scripture who would communicate it to the world. For this reason, it was of utmost importance that they understood what Scripture said about Jesus. Understanding the Scriptures remains crucial for the future of Christianity today. Bible study is a discipline we must take seriously if we are to carry on Jesus' mission.

Why is "sound doctrine" vitally important in communicating the Gospel message?

What makes doctrine sound?

Many differences and even whole denominations have arisen over controversies that have started over doctrine. But what even is sound doctrine? Sound doctrine is a summary of the Bible's teaching that is both faithful to the Bible and useful for life.

"Scripture is not exhaustive - there are plenty of true things Scripture doesn't say. But it is sufficient. In his Word, God tells us everything we need to know to be saved and to live a life that is pleasing to him (2 Peter 1:3). Scripture doesn't tell us how to perform heart surgery, but it does lay bare the desires and deceits of all human hearts (Heb. 4:12-13). Scripture doesn't tell us how to get from London to Tokyo, but it does tell us how to walk wisely in the way of the Lord and avoid the snares of the devil (Col. 4:5; 2 Tim. 2:26)." **quotation from Bobby Jamieson in Sound Doctrine*

In summary, doctrine matters. It is why Jesus opened the minds of the disciples to it.

| HAVE ANOTHER VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 24:47-48.

47 "and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things." (ESV)

In verses 46-47, how does Jesus sum up the gospel message?

Have you ever felt the need to complicate the simplicity of that message? In what way? Why?

In verses 46-47, Jesus stated the gospel message with striking clarity. Jesus is God sent from God. He suffered on our behalf and rose from the dead. We respond to that truth by repentance, this is our role in salvation. The result of repentance is the forgiveness of sins. That's it! Jesus did all the work for us. Any efforts on our part to earn salvation through guilt or works just complicate the free gift of grace that God extends to us.

How would you describe repentance to a non-Christian?

Why is it important to understand what repentance means?

Repentance is changing your thinking, moving from believing the wrong thing to believing the right thing about something else. Repentance is not trying to conjure up the appropriate amount of remorse or trying to will ourselves to be as good as possible to earn our salvation. The "right view" that we are to have in genuine repentance centers on four key biblical truths: God is both holy and loving. Sin is evil and destructive. Jesus is the Messiah who paid sin's penalty. And we are guilty and need a Savior.

Once we repent of our sins, of our wrong way of thinking, we are forgiven by God and enter into a relationship with Him. As His disciples, we are given a task, which Jesus described in Luke 24:47.

What responsibility did Jesus give to His followers? Was it optional?

Why do we often have difficulty carrying out this assignment?

Much of Old Testament prophecy had been fulfilled in Jesus, but one great task still remained. Repentance and forgiveness of sins would be preached to the entire world. True repentance speaks not only of turning from sin but also turning to Christ in faith. The preaching of the gospel would proceed in Jesus' name, under and by His authority. His followers would be His representatives, living according to His teachings and bringing others to faith in Him.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Who are some people you know who practice Jesus' command today? In what ways are they fulfilling Jesus' commission?

What would change if we saw ourselves (first and foremost) as those sent by God on His mission?

How might we work together to move from an emphasis on once-a-week worship to focusing on a daily walk with Christ? How might this affect our ability to advance the kingdom?

PRAYER

Thank God for the simple truths of His gospel message and the confidence we can have in our salvation. Pray that in the midst of your roles that encompass family, work, and social contacts, you will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread the good news of the gospel message.

COMMENTARY

| LUKE 24:44-48

24:44. Jesus referred back to the words He spoke, "while I was still with you." In those pre-crucifixion times, Jesus told them what lay ahead for Him. Betrayal, death, burial, and resurrection happened just as He predicted.

Jesus explained these events as a fulfillment of the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms. All three divisions of the Old Testament (Law, Prophets, and Writings) witnessed to the place of a suffering yet victorious Messiah. Jesus claimed His place as the Messiah by virtue of having fulfilled what the Scriptures promised.

24:45. After stating the fact of this fulfillment of God's plan as announced in the Old Testament, Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. His earlier teachings about His work fell

on confounded ears (see Luke 18:34). Possibly they did not want to believe the harsh truth that Jesus taught. Now, however, they grasped it.

24:46. Jesus reminded the disciples that the Old Testament proclaimed the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead the third day. This statement summarized the essence of Old Testament teaching in light of Jesus' mission as Savior. He knew that service to God required suffering and sacrifice. God, however, rewarded that service with spiritual victory. Jesus helped the disciples buy into God's perfect will.

24:47. Jesus specified the disciples' part in carrying out the purpose of God. On the basis of their experience with Him, repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed. Repentance involves a change of mind and attitude toward God. It leads to forgiveness of sins and a new life. Telling this truth became the mission of Jesus' disciples.

A proclamation indicated a special message to be trumpeted in His name. Jesus' name represented all that He accomplished, especially the cross and resurrection. The preaching of this life-changing work to all the nations stated a radical truth: Jesus came to save even Gentiles. Many Jews considered Gentiles unable to receive God's forgiveness. This mission was to spread from Jerusalem, where the disciples were at the time.

24:48. As a result of what they learned from personal experience, the disciples became witnesses of the things they were to proclaim. Life with Jesus qualified the disciples to tell what they experienced in relating to Him.