



Good Shepherd
Sermon-Based Study Guide

Luke 5: 37-39 | July 19, 2026

Prepared by Janae Barker

janae@gspc.org (562) 493-2553 x109

I. Introduction to this Study

This week, Jesus tells a short parable about wine, wineskins, and people's preference for old wine. At first glance, it seems like a lesson about farming or storage. But as we look at the context Jesus is responding to those who questioned why His disciples did not fast like others. His point is that the kingdom of God is not simply an improvement on the old way of life—it is something entirely new. The problem isn't the new wine; it's whether people are willing to receive it.

Jesus invites us to consider whether our hearts are flexible enough to receive what He is doing, or whether we cling to old patterns, traditions, and expectations that keep us from experiencing His transforming work. Let's dive into God's Word together and ask the Spirit to at work within us.

II. Connecting with One Another

Tell about a time you resisted a change that later turned out to be a blessing.

Why do you think people naturally prefer what is familiar, even when something new may be better?

III. Study the Text

Let's begin by getting some context. *Read Luke 5: 33-35*

- Why are the Pharisees and teachers of the law questioning Jesus? Why do you think they compare Jesus' disciples with those of John and the Pharisees?
- What does Jesus mean when He refers to Himself as the bridegroom? How does Jesus' answer begin to challenge their expectations about God's kingdom?

Read Luke 5: 36

- Why would sewing a new patch onto an old garment create a problem? What point is Jesus making beyond clothing?
- What are some ways people try to add Jesus to their lives instead of allowing Him to transform their lives?



Read **Luke 5: 37-39**

- Why can't new wine be poured into old wineskins?
- What does the new wine represent? What might the old wineskins symbolize? Why is change in the container necessary if the wine is good?
- Where do you see Jesus inviting people into transformation rather than simply behavior modification?

IV. Application

- Why do people naturally say, "The old is better"?
- What kinds of "old wineskins" or familiar ways can keep people from embracing what Jesus wants to do?
- How can comfort, tradition, or routine become barriers to spiritual growth?
- What does this verse teach us about the condition of our heart?

V. Digging Deeper

- **Ezekiel 36:26–27** — What promise does God make about giving His people a new heart and a new spirit?
- **Jeremiah 31:31–34** — How does God describe the New Covenant, and how is it different from the old?
- **John 2:1–11** — Why might Jesus' first miracle involving new wine point toward the arrival of God's kingdom?
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** — What does it mean to become a "new creation" in Christ?
- **Romans 12:1–2** — How does transformation happen according to Paul?
- **Galatians 2:20** — How does Paul's description of the Christian life reflect becoming a "new wineskin"?

VI. Prayer

Spend time in prayer together:

- Thank God that Jesus came not simply to improve our lives, but to make us new.
- Confess places where you've resisted change because the familiar felt safer.
- Ask God to give you a heart that is flexible, humble, and open to His transforming work.
- Pray for courage to embrace wherever Jesus is leading, even when it stretches your expectations.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to continually make you into a person who can receive the "new wine" of God's kingdom.

