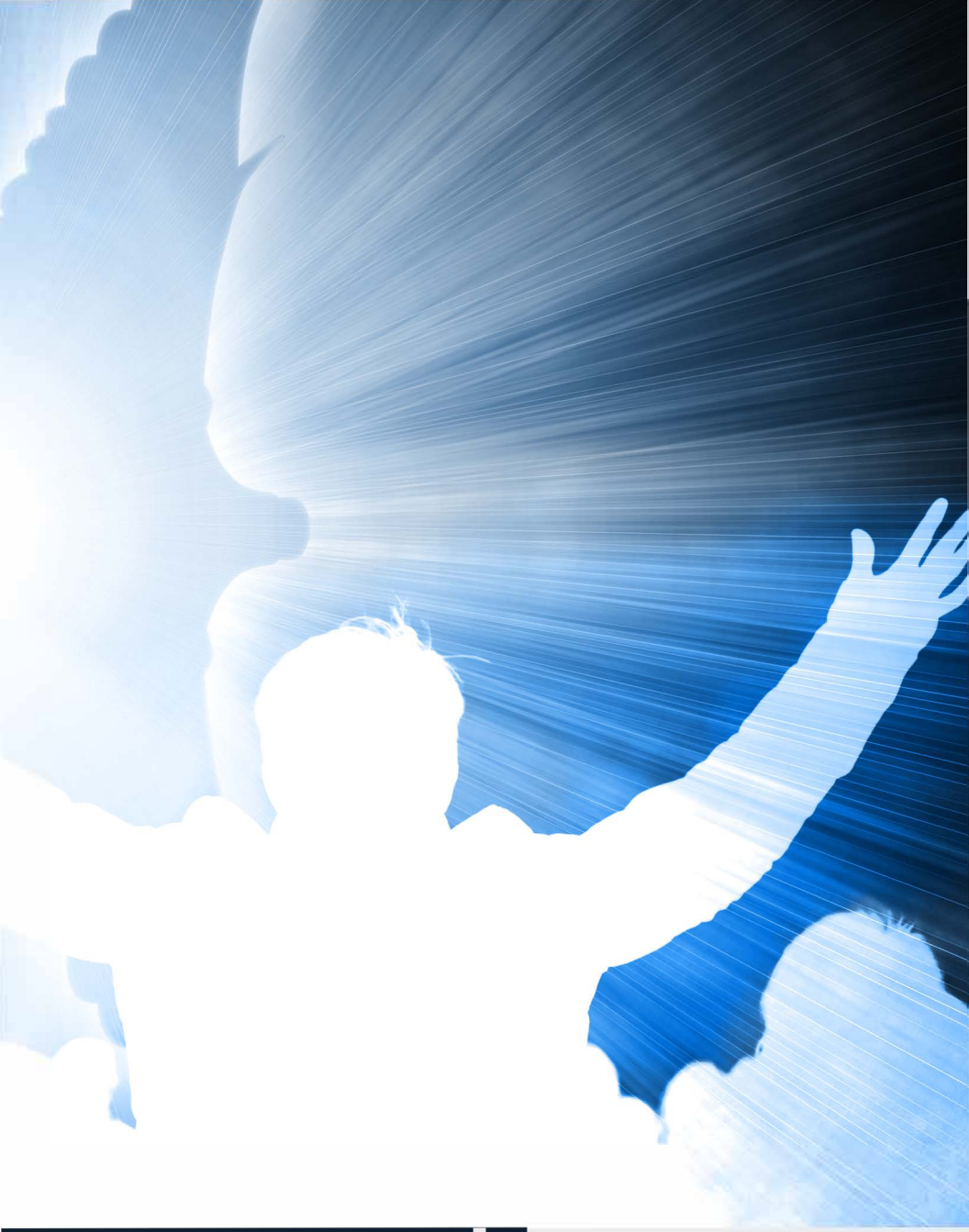

ontrack devotions

# OCTOBER

2026

LUKE

# MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

**"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16**

| Reach out... | How I will do it... | How it went... |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | | |

| Other requests... | Answered | How it was answered... |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | | |

# MONTHLY COMMITMENT SHEET

**Name:** _____

This sheet is designed to help you make personal commitments each month that will help you grow in your walk with God. Fill it out by determining

1. What will push you
2. What you think you can achieve

If you need help filling out your commitments, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share your commitments with those who will help keep you accountable to your personal commitment.

**Personal Devotions:**
How did I do with my commitment last month?_____
I will commit to read the OnTrack Bible passage and devotional thought _____day(s) each week this month.

**Church Attendance:**
How did I do last month with my attendance? _____
I will attend Youth/Growth Group_____ time(s) this month.
I will attend the Sunday AM service _____ time(s) this month.
I will attend the Sunday PM service _____ time(s) this month.
I will attend_____ time(s) this month.
I will attend_____ time(s) this month.

**Scripture Memory:**
How did I do with Scripture memory last month? _____
I will memorize _____ key verse(s) from the daily OnTrack Devotions this month.

**Outreach:**
How did I do last month with sharing Christ? _____
I will share Christ with _____ person/people this month.
I will serve my local church this month by _____

_____

**Other Activities:**
List any other opportunities such as events, prayer group, etc., that you will participate in this month. _____

_____

## PROVERBS 16

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

| VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE |
|---|---|---|

**LUKE 1:26-45** **LIFE**

## SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

## SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

## NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

## THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

As you read this passage, was there anything that caught your attention? There is so much in this passage that is significant, that you could easily miss a few words that hold great importance to us today. It is found in verse 41. Did you notice it and understand its significance? It is the line, "the baby leaped in her womb." From the womb of Elizabeth, a child, John the Baptist, responded to the presence of the baby in the womb of Mary—the Lord Jesus Christ. Why is this important? Because the child in her womb was not just a mass of flesh that had no feelings. He was a living human being that, even in the womb, could respond to God. In short, he was a baby. A life, though not fully developed, can respond to what is happening around him and even to who God is. How amazing! How should this change how you view life?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 1

## PREPARATION

## LUKE 1:57-80

Why would God want John the Baptist to live in the desert before he began his public ministry to Israel? Could it be that God knew he needed that time in the desert to be ready for the tough life of ministry John had ahead of him? Sometimes we dismiss the importance of preparation. We do not realize what it takes to be able to influence people. There are many temptations and pressures that come with living a life that can have an impact for God. Throughout Scripture, we see that God prepared people for the work He had for them. He knew what their future held, and He knew what was needed to get them ready for it. Even the Apostle Paul took over two years to prepare before he began his public ministry. What are you doing to prepare yourself for what God might call you to do in the future? Are you allowing God to mold you today for responsibilities He might have for your future?

### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 1

**LUKE 2:1-21**

# SHEPHERDS

## SAY WHAT?

In the past three months, what has God done on your behalf?

## SO WHAT?

How did you respond to it?

## NOW WHAT?

What does your response tell you about yourself?

## THEN WHAT?

How can you share what God has done for you lately? Who can you tell?

What do you suppose it was like being a shepherd 2,000 years ago? Think about it. Imagine you are one. You are out in the fields tending sheep just like every other night. You and your fellow shepherds are sitting around the fire talking and laughing like you have always done. You are not anticipating anything dramatic to happen in your world. Unexpected terror fills your heart when the sky lights up and you realize an angel is speaking to you. You barely comprehend the news. You hear him say that a Savior has been born in Bethlehem. The sky is instantly filled with a "great company" of angels glorifying God. What would you do? Hopefully, you would run to see the child and tell whoever you saw what happened, just as the shepherds did. People often see God perform the miraculous, yet they barely respond to it. We don't take the time to share with others what God has done or even praise Him with hearts full of joy. Is that true of you? In what ways are you responding to what God is doing in your life? How is that impacting your world?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 2

## PERCEPTION

**LUKE 3:1-23**

In today's reading, we find one of those phrases that can be overlooked, causing us to miss some very important insights. Look in verse 23 and see if you can find it. This verse confirms that the local people thought Jesus' father was Joseph. They knew that Mary had gotten pregnant before she had actually married Joseph. Jesus had been born, and they believed Joseph was the father. Not only did that make Mary look bad, but it also damaged Joseph's reputation. Can you imagine how Joseph felt knowing people believed something about him that was not true? Imagine what they might have said about Joseph to Jesus as He was growing up. We know that Mary and Joseph were examples of great faith. They were people who were willing to follow Jesus and do what was right, even if it meant being ridiculed and insulted. Could you demonstrate such faith in discouraging circumstances? Would you obey if it cost you the same price it cost Mary and Joseph? How can you become someone who is so committed to Jesus that what others think does not affect you?

### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 3

## LUKE 4:1-13

## TEMPTATION

### SAY WHAT?

When do you seem to be most open to Satan's temptations?

### SO WHAT?

Why is that an opportune time?

### NOW WHAT?

How can you prepare yourself to resist Satan's temptations?

### THEN WHAT?

What Scripture verses can you arm yourself with?

According to verse 13, when did Satan plan to next tempt Jesus? Does that information reveal anything to us about Satan that can help us resist temptation? As you read through this account, what made it an opportune time? Satan tempted Jesus when he thought He was the weakest. Jesus had not eaten for 40 days so he tempted Him with food. Although Satan had been tempting Him all along, when Jesus became hungry, Satan then had the opportunity to attack Him with intense physical temptation. Satan knows that an opportune time occurs when we are the most weary and weak. He then attacks us in an area of great weakness. If we feel no one loves or cares about us, he brings a relationship into our lives that seems to fulfill that need, but one that will ultimately harm us. If we are tired, he brings frustrations that end in anger and hurtful words. But Jesus, being tired and hungry, did not give in to temptation. He depended upon the Holy Spirit to sustain Him. Are you prepared for Satan's attacks? What Scripture can you use to defend yourself today?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 4

## PRAYER

**LUKE 5:1-16**

As you read through this chapter, what qualities of Jesus did you observe? Which ones impressed you the most? Jesus was a man who had many demands on His time and emotions. People constantly wanted to talk to Him. Every time He spoke, they hung onto each word. He was never alone regardless of the time or occasion. People always followed Him, wanting something. That kind of life must have brought Him immense pressure, and keeping up with the demands must have been difficult. In light of the demands, He was careful not to neglect His source of strength. Verse 16 tells us his strength came from withdrawing and spending time in prayer often. It was vital to His life and He made sure that His priority was to get away alone where He could pray uninterrupted. No matter His schedule or demands, He was never too busy to pray. How do your priorities compare? If Jesus Christ made sure He spent time in prayer, how critical is it then for you? Do not allow your schedule to keep you from finding time alone for prayer.

### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 5

## PROVERBS 17

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

| VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE |
|---|---|---|

## MERCIFUL

**LUKE 6:27-36**

What are the four ways we are to respond to the ungrateful and the wicked found verses 27-28? Did you notice that in each case Jesus asks us to respond with mercy? Wicked men are our enemies, yet we are to love them. Some hate us, yet we are to do good to them. Some curse us, yet we are to respond with kind words to them and about them. They mistreat us, yet we are to pray for them. Jesus gives us practical examples of just what He expects of us in verses 29-36. He tells us that it is no credit to us if we love those who treat us with consideration and kindness, but it speaks volumes about us to love those who treat us wickedly. Can you think of someone that you have considered an enemy? Use today's questions to help you demonstrate mercy. Ask God to give you the strength to be merciful, just as God is merciful. The world will notice.

### SAY WHAT?

How can you show love to someone you consider an enemy?

### SO WHAT?

How can you do good to someone who is mistreating you?

### NOW WHAT?

What positive things can you say to or about those who hurt you?

### THEN WHAT?

How can you pray for those who are mistreating you?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 6

**LUKE 7:1-10**

# AMAZED

## SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

## SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

## NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

## THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

What was it about the Centurion that impressed Jesus? What did he demonstrate to Jesus? A Centurion was a high ranking Roman army officer who was in charge of 100 men. According to this passage, he really cared about the people around him. His actions were motivated by love for his servant. He had treated the Jews with kindness and had even built their synagogue. In spite of his position and all he had done, what was truly amazing is that the Centurion did not feel worthy to have Jesus come to his house. He knew that in the same way his presence was not necessary for his soldiers to follow his orders, Jesus could order the servant to be healed without being there in person. He believed Jesus needed only to speak the word for healing to take place. So he humbly asked Jesus to do just that. Do you have that kind of confidence in God? If not, ask Him to give you this kind of faith.

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 7

## WHO IS HE?

**LUKE 8:26-39**

How many different miracles did Jesus perform in this chapter? It is beyond comprehension that so many people saw Jesus perform miracles on a daily basis, yet still did not follow Him. He demonstrated His power over nature. He demonstrated His power over the forces of hell. He demonstrated His power over the human body and even power over death. It would sure seem that after witnessing all His power, the only conclusion you could come to is that Jesus is God. However, many did not, and unfortunately, people today are just as blind. People see God do the miraculous all around them, yet still doubt He can meet their immediate needs. They see the transformed lives of people who follow Jesus, yet they refuse to humble themselves before Him. Have you witnessed what God has done for others and even in your own life without allowing it to impact your faith? Ask God to open your eyes in a fresh way to what He is doing and who He really is.

### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 8

**LUKE 9:18-27**

## WHAT GOOD IS IT?

### SAY WHAT?

What are most people striving to gain?

### SO WHAT?

How can you tell if you are striving to gain the world or righteousness?

### NOW WHAT?

How can you ensure that what you are striving for is really important?

### THEN WHAT?

What can you do to avoid gaining the world and therefore losing your soul?

Have you ever worked really hard to acquire something, then after you were successful, felt as if the effort you put into getting it was not worth it? For example, you saved enough money to buy something you really wanted, and after you bought it found that you didn't like it. Or, maybe you made sacrifices and worked hard to receive an award and, after winning it, realized the effort expended to achieve it was not worth it. If so, you can imagine what it would be like to work your whole life for something that, when you got it, seemed insignificant. That is the point Jesus made to the disciples in verses 23-27. You can be the richest man in the world and still die with nothing. You can be famous yet have nothing. To pursue what the world is offering will bring emptiness and sorrow to your life. What good is it to gain emptiness and lose your soul? Jesus wants us to make Him our priority. When we do, we may not gain the whole world, but we will surely gain our souls. What a great reminder to pursue righteousness and not the emptiness this world has to offer.

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 9

## THE GREATEST

**LUKE 9:44-50**

If you were to compile a list of qualities that make someone great, what would be on your list? How does your list compare to what Jesus said in verses 46-48 of this chapter? Jesus tells us that one quality that certainly needs to be on our list is concern for others. In fact, not only is it important that we care for others, but also who we are reaching out to. It is not only about what you do, but who you are doing it for. We often care for those who will care back. We do not usually have a problem reaching out to the popular people or to those who will give us recognition or repayment. In this account, Jesus said that if you want to be great in His kingdom, you must demonstrate concern to all people—concern for children, the poor, the drug addict, the bully, your teacher, your boss, and your enemy. Based on this measuring stick, how great are you? Will you be one of the greatest in the kingdom or one of the least? How can you show true greatness today? Begin to strive to be the least among us today. There are certainly enough who already think they are the greatest.

### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 9

**LUKE 10:38-42**

# MARTHA, MARTHA

## SAY WHAT?

What kinds of things can distract you from spending time with God?

## SO WHAT?

Why is it so easy to allow those things to distract you?

## NOW WHAT?

How can you prevent those distractions from drawing your attention away from what matters?

## THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment should you make in light of this passage?

As you read today's passage, what do you see as the differences between Mary and Martha? If you asked both of them to name the most important thing in life, would you receive the same answer? Martha, like so many people, was overly concerned about all the work she had to do. She opened her home to guests, and spent her time getting ready and making them feel welcome. She was so caught up in her work that, although Jesus Christ was in her house, she was too busy to spend time with Him. Mary, on the other hand, was with Jesus the whole time instead of getting caught up in the work that had to be done. She didn't allow her work to keep her from what she valued the most. Jesus' answer to Martha's concern ought to be a phrase we use when we find ourselves living so fast-paced that we neglect what should be our priority—our time with God. Don't allow your busy schedule to hinder you from what you ought to be doing.

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 10

## PROVERBS 18

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| VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE |
|---|---|---|

**LUKE 11:1-13** **TO PRAY**

## SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

## SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

## NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

## THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

What question did one of Jesus' disciples ask that resulted in His discussion of prayer? You will find it in verse 1. It is interesting to note that they did not ask Jesus to teach them how to pray, but they asked Him to teach them to pray. What follows in this passage then, was not given to be the prayer they were to use, but given as a motivation that caused them to pray. The story that followed was also intended to motivate us to pray. The point of Jesus' story was if a friend were to give bread because of incessant pounding on his door and not because of real concern, how much more can we expect from God who loves us enough to die for us? We ought to be motivated to pray because of the One to whom we pray. We are not going to a neighbor to wake him up. We are talking to our Father who loves us and wants to meet our needs. Keep that in mind when you pray today.

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 11

## WORRY

**LUKE 12:22-34**

What is the definition of worry? According to Webster's dictionary, it means "mental distress or agitation resulting from concern for something impending or anticipated." Jesus tells His disciples that they are not to worry. They are not to become upset about what appears to be inevitable or what may possibly happen. Philippians 4:6 says, "Do not be anxious about anything." Why? Because worry demonstrates concern for a future event or circumstance that may not even happen. In reality, when we worry, we are doubting God. We demonstrate our lack of confidence in His complete control. We cannot rest in his care. What we know in our heads does not affect our hearts. How much we worry is in direct proportion to how much we trust God. If God is able to take care of ravens and lilies, He is certainly able to take care of you. To worry is to tell God you don't trust Him.

### SAY WHAT?

What things are you worried about today?

### SO WHAT?

What are you concerned the outcome could be?

### NOW WHAT?

Write a prayer below expressing to God your desire to trust Him and your apology for doubting Him.

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 12

**LUKE 13:22-30**

# NARROW DOOR

## SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

## SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

## NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

## THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

How does Jesus describe the way of salvation in verse 24? Why do you think He called it a narrow door? Does He do so because few people will use it, or because it is harder to get through a narrow door than a wide door? Jesus clearly teaches in this chapter and in other places throughout the Gospels that it is not easy to get into heaven. In this passage, Jesus explains that not only is it difficult, but that the day is coming when you will no longer be able to go through the door because it will be shut. What makes salvation hard for most people to accept is that it can't be their way, only God's way. The door is too narrow for their pride to fit through. Too narrow for their worldly possessions. Even sincerity and effort are not enough. Relying on our human effort is one of Satan's tactics that fool many people into eternal separation from the One who loves us the most. Are you certain you've chosen the narrow gate?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 13

## HUMILITY

## LUKE 14: 1-24

In the parable found in verses 7-14, Jesus discussed two groups of people. They are those who exalt themselves and those who humble themselves. The behavior we read about is not uncommon and is likely found anywhere. The prideful work hard to manipulate themselves into positions of honor. Their motivation is not love for others, but promotion of themselves. They will serve others, but only if it offers recognition. Jesus rebukes both the attitudes and actions of these people. The humble ones, on the other hand, do not assume anything about themselves. They care about others and put them first. They leave the responsibility of recognition to God. Their attention is on the needs of people and their reward is in heaven. How can you serve God this week in a way that will go unnoticed or unrecognized?

### SAY WHAT?

In what ways have you demonstrated the kind of motivations Jesus condemns in this passage?

### SO WHAT?

In what ways do you struggle to demonstrate humility?

### NOW WHAT?

In what way can you specifically apply what Jesus says in verses 12-14 this week?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 14

**LUKE 15:1-10**

**LOST PEOPLE**

## SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

## SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

## NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

## THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

What did the Pharisees say about Jesus that resulted in Him giving the three parables we find in this chapter? What do you think He was trying to illustrate? Could it be that the Pharisee's accusation of Jesus welcoming and eating with sinners was true, and that it should have also been true of the religious leaders? In each story, God was portrayed as caring deeply for something that the Pharisees would never concern themselves with. They looked down upon repentant sinners, a lowly sheep, an insignificant coin, or a soft father. All of these parables illustrate that God cares about individuals. The shepherd had 99 other sheep, but one of his sheep was lost. The woman had nine other silver coins, but she was concerned about the lost one. The rebellious son got what he deserved, but his father was concerned for him and waited patiently and with open arms for his return. Like the people in each of these stories, Jesus cares very much for each individual. If Jesus cares this much for people, how then should you respond? Do you put forth the same kind of effort to love others?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 15

## TRUE RICHES

**LUKE 16:1-15**

Have you ever wondered why some people seem to read their Bibles and learn something amazing while others seem to struggle and find nothing? In today's reading, Jesus gives an important principle that may explain why this happens. It is found in verse 11. Jesus told the disciples that they needed to be faithful in the little things before they could expect to receive the bigger things. He then spoke more specifically by saying that if someone is not faithful in handling his worldly wealth, he cannot be trusted with true riches, which are spiritual. How many people do you imagine never really gain spiritual insights because they do not handle their money properly? They use it selfishly to buy what they want. They do not tithe or give to God's work. We must realize that how we handle our money is vitally important to our spiritual growth. Are you demonstrating, by the use of your money, that you can be trusted with spiritual wealth? In what ways can you demonstrate that you are trustworthy of the true riches of God?

### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 16

## PROVERBS 19

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| VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE |
|---|---|---|

## THANK YOU

**LUKE 17:11-19**

Think for a moment what it would be like to learn that you had a terminal disease and until you died, you would have to leave your family and loved ones to live alone. In today's reading, we see how ten men reacted when rescued from that very situation. Because of their leprosy, these men were required to stay away from all other people and to announce their presence when anyone came near them. They had to leave their homes and families and would never live a normal life, all the time watching a terrible disease eat away their flesh. You can imagine how they must have felt when Jesus came by. He was their only chance to be healed and give them back their lives. It is unbelievable to think that, after what Jesus had done for them, only one returned to say thank you. It sounds incredible, but it happens all the time, even today. You may have even done this. When was the last time you sat down to think about all that God has done for you? When was the last time you stopped to say thank you? Take some time today to thank Him for all He has done and for everything He has given to you by His grace.

### SAY WHAT?

List some of the things that God has done for you in your life.

### SO WHAT?

What impact have those things had on your life?

### NOW WHAT?

In what ways can you demonstrate to God how thankful you are for what He has done for you?

### THEN WHAT?

How can you communicate to others what God has done for you?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 17

**LUKE 18:1-8**

**PERSISTENCE**

## SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

## SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

## NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

## THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

According to verse 1 in today's reading, why did Jesus tell this parable? Who did He tell it to? How does this story accomplish His purpose? In this parable, we find a widow who kept coming to a wicked judge asking for justice. The judge, however, refused to give it to her. He ultimately did grant her request, but only to get rid of her and keep her from continually bugging him. His motives did not flow out of a heart of love and a commitment to justice, but from a selfish heart. Jesus did not intend to say that God is like this wicked judge, and that He will grant our requests if we just keep bugging Him. His point was that if an inconsiderate judge who does not fear God would grant a request to a persistent widow, how much more will a loving God respond to the continuing prayers of those He loves? Knowing that God loves us and wants to respond to our needs should be motivation to pray persistently. Is there something that you have prayed for continually and lost hope because an answer hasn't come. Pray today with faith knowing that God loves you.

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 18

## TAX COLLECTORS

**LUKE 19:1-10**

Why did people respond with such amazement when Jesus invited Himself to Zacchaeus' house? Apparently, it was Zacchaeus' career choice. Tax-collectors were the most hated of people in the Jewish society. They were often more hated than the Romans who occupied Israel. Their method of collecting taxes involved skimming off a generous helping for themselves as they collected the required funds for the government. Tax collectors were considered so untrustworthy that they were not even allowed to testify in Jewish court because of their reputation as liars. They could not worship in the synagogue as such blatant sinners. Imagine Zacchaeus' surprise when Jesus stopped and invited Himself to his house for dinner. Although people reacted negatively to the fact that Jesus went to have dinner with him, Jesus reminded them (vs10) that it was for people like Zacchaeus that He had come. Who in your world have you been resistant to reach out to? What step will you take today to have an impact on someone?

### SAY WHAT?

What people in your world are viewed like the tax collectors were?

### SO WHAT?

In what ways are you attempting to reach out to them?

### NOW WHAT?

How can you befriend and encourage them?

### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 19

**LUKE 20:9-26**

## CONVICTION

### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Have you ever experienced a time when someone was speaking hypothetically, but you knew that he was really talking directly to you? In today's passage, we see how the teachers of the law and the chief priests responded in that same situation. Jesus gave a parable, and they knew that although He was speaking hypothetically, He was talking about them. They also knew that what He said was true, yet they did nothing about it. Instead of listening and correcting their wrong behavior, they deliberately chose to ignore and justify those issues. It was easier to get rid of Jesus, which was what they ultimately tried to do. We often do the exact same thing. We hear something, read something, or listen to a song, and know the Spirit of God is speaking directly to us about an issue in our lives. Instead of seeing it as coming from God and finding a way to deal with it, we ignore it. Could that be happening to you today? Could you be suppressing the conviction of God concerning a specific issue in your life? Stop resisting or ignoring what God is talking to you about and respond today to what the Spirit is saying. Do not allow your pride to justify your sin.

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 20

## OPPORTUNITIES

**LUKE 21:1-28**

Of all the things concerning the end of the age that are listed in this chapter, which ones would be the most difficult for you to endure? It is incredible to realize that in the midst of very difficult circumstances, Jesus promises victory (vs13-15, 19). Those who follow Jesus will have opportunities to share about Him with their enemies and they will not be able to resist or contradict what they say. Even more exciting is that they will also gain life. We often see only the negative in difficult circumstances. We do not see the opportunities these circumstances bring. Although our circumstances are difficult, they always produce positive results. How are you viewing the circumstances God has allowed to enter your life? Do you see opportunities or only situations to be changed and eliminated? Remember that in the midst of the most difficult circumstances come the greatest opportunities for personal growth. If you follow Jesus, they also offer the ability to demonstrate the difference Jesus Christ has made in your life.

### SAY WHAT?

What difficult circumstance are you now facing?

### SO WHAT?

How are you responding to it?

### NOW WHAT?

List some positive results that could grow out of your circumstances.

### THEN WHAT?

How do you need to respond in order for those things to happen?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 21

**LUKE 22:7-38**

**A DISPUTE**

## SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

## SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

## NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

## THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

What kinds of emotions or thoughts do you think went through the hearts and minds of both Jesus and the disciples during this final meal together? What do you think went through their minds after Jesus informed them that one of the disciples sitting at the table would betray Him? If you had been there, what do you think you would be whispering to the guy sitting next to you? It is amazing to realize that what Luke recorded for us in this chapter took place right in the middle of their time together. According to verse 24, it was a dispute about who would be the greatest. Jesus must have felt tremendously disappointed. This was their last time together before His crucifixion. He had spent three years trying to teach them to be servants. Yet it seemed as though they didn't get it. What an illustration this is to us of Jesus' humility and the pride of the disciples! How much similarity is there between the disciples and you? Are there people around you who are hurting? How can you become more aware of what is going on around you?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 22

## CONCERN

**LUKE 23:26-43**

As you read Luke's account of the crucifixion, what did you notice about how Jesus responded? In the midst of all the pain He was experiencing, His concern was still with His weeping loved ones. In spite of what He was going through, He comforted them. As He hung between two criminals on the cross, He shared with them the reason He had come. One mocked him, but the other accepted His words. Jesus was always caring and always reaching out to people. Even in the midst of agony, Jesus still cared and everyone knew it. He always thought of someone else, even when His concern for Himself would have appeared to be justified. As the Centurion looked on and watched these events unfold, he could not help but conclude that Jesus was a righteous man. This chapter ought to motivate us to follow Jesus Christ's example of putting others before Himself.

### SAY WHAT?

What difficult circumstances are you facing today?

### SO WHAT?

How has your response to them impacted those around you?

### NOW WHAT?

In what way can you become more like Jesus in the midst of difficult circumstances?

### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 23

**LUKE 24:1-35**

# MISSING IT

## SAY WHAT?

What kind of events in our lives keep us from seeing Jesus?

## SO WHAT?

Why is it so easy for us to miss Jesus in difficult circumstances?

## NOW WHAT?

How can you train yourself to look for Jesus in the midst of difficult times?

## THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment should you make in light of today's reading?

Why didn't the disciples on the road to Emmaus know that Jesus was right there with them? Could it be that they missed Jesus because they were too caught up in the events of their own lives to even notice that He was with them. They had followed Him and had seen the painful events of His crucifixion. It was on their minds and they were so consumed by those thoughts that they spoke of them to their companion. They shared their grief of watching the Messiah die. They also shared that the women had seen Him alive. Although they knew He was no longer in the tomb, they had not yet seen Jesus themselves. So consumed with the events in their own lives, they missed Jesus in their midst. This is often even true of us today. We get so caught up in the events of our lives that we do not see Jesus. How easily discouraged we can be! Examine your life. Could this be true of you now? Can you see Jesus in the midst of all that is going on in your world?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 24

## DOUBT

**LUKE 24:36-53**

What different responses to Jesus Christ's resurrection do you see in this chapter? One response was surprise. When He appeared to the disciples, at times they acted as if they were shocked to see Him. One could assume from their response that they couldn't believe Jesus would rise from the dead. He had told them, on many occasions, that He would rise on the third day. On the road to Emmaus, He walked them through the Scriptures again to illustrate this point. Jesus' rebuke was appropriate. All they needed to do was listen and believe. Do you listen and believe? Or, do you find yourself often wishing you had? It may be time to start believing what Jesus said and stop doubting. If that is you, seek out someone today who can help you grow in your faith.

### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

LUKE 24

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LUKE 4:18 (NIV)

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