PRIEST LAKE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

EMBRACE THE NEW

A Transforming Relationship with Jesus

LUKE 5:33–39

WEEK 1 STUDY GUIDE

The Joy of the Bridegroom

Luke 5:33–35



Pastor Charlie Davidson

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Read and Prepare

Jesus calls His followers to a relationship before He calls them to a ritual.

Read Luke 5:27-39 for context. Focus on Luke 5:33-35. In the preceding scene, Jesus calls Levi and shares a meal with tax collectors and others.

LUKE 5:33-35 | KJV

33 And they said unto him, Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?

34 And he said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them?

35 But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Read, listen, and reflect. Type in the response boxes or print and write. Download before completing; save your copy and reopen it to check your answers.

Name

Date

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Observe the Passage

I. Religion Asked the Wrong Question

Pastor Davidson highlights the danger of measuring spirituality only by outward practices. Notice what the questioners observe and how Jesus answers.

1. In verse 33, whose disciples are compared? What practices are mentioned, and what are Jesus' disciples doing?

2. In verse 34, what picture does Jesus use? How does the bridegroom's presence help explain His disciples' behavior?

KEY THOUGHT | Christianity is first about a Person, not a performance.

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Understand the Message

II. Jesus Identified Himself as the Bridegroom

A wedding is an occasion for celebration. Jesus places Himself at the center of the illustration: the appropriate response depends on His presence.

3. What does Jesus' illustration reveal about His importance to His disciples? Why is knowing who He is essential to understanding their actions?

4. What change does Jesus anticipate in verse 35? How does this verse keep us from concluding that Jesus rejects fasting altogether?

STUDY NOTE | "Children of the bridechamber" refers to wedding guests or attendants. "Taken away" points ahead to Jesus' suffering and death.

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Connect Presence and Practice

III. Presence Changes Practice

There is a time for fasting and a time for celebration. Spiritual disciplines should deepen our relationship with Christ, not replace it.

5. Compare verses 34 and 35. What makes fasting fitting at one time and unfitting at another? What does this teach about the purpose of a spiritual practice?

6. Pastor Davidson asks, "Am I pursuing Jesus or merely religious habits?" Consider prayer, worship, or Scripture reading. How can that practice express dependence on Jesus?

REFLECT | The issue is the relationship between a practice and Christ, rather than the practice alone.

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Respond and Apply

When Jesus is at the center, religion becomes relationship and duty becomes delight.

Use the passage to examine your own heart. Honest reflection can lead to a faithful, practical response this week.

7. Has any part of my faith become routine rather than relational? What would it look like to turn my attention toward Jesus in that area?

8. Because of Luke 5:33-35, this week I will... Name one action, when you will begin, and someone who can encourage you.

Choose a realistic step you can keep. Joy in Christ does not require pretending that life is free from grief or difficulty.

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Reflect and Look Ahead

What truth about Jesus do I want to remember from this lesson?

My prayer response, question for follow-up, or personal notes:

NEXT WEEK | WEEK 2

Don't Patch What God Wants to Replace

Luke 5:36. Read Jesus' illustration about the new garment and the old garment. What happens when a piece of the new is used to patch the old?

Prepared from Pastor Charlie Davidson's supplied sermon-series outline. Scripture: KJV. This review draft awaits his review and approval.