

CONNECT GROUP GUIDE

HEARING the Call



Luke chapters 14 - 19

Connect Groups at ACN...

The goals set out in **Vision 26** cast it like this ...

Living to love and proclaim Jesus we will...

- meet in Connect Groups to study the Bible together and equip one another to be faithful disciples
- pray together in our groups. We will make a space for those not used to praying in a group and provide opportunities for people to become more comfortable with group prayer
- have a missional focus, both local and global
- pastorally care for one another especially when people are facing difficult times in their lives
- invite new members to our groups. As groups grow we will encourage multiplication by identifying potential leaders who can be trained to lead new groups
- gather Connect Group leaders together regularly for prayer, training and encouragement

INTRODUCTION

Luke proclaims Jesus as the Saviour of the world.

He wrote both this Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. Luke was a physician, who was a frequent companion of Paul during his missionary journeys. Early church history tells us that Luke was a Gentile and came from Antioch—where Paul spent a great deal of time.

Luke is writing to Theophilus, to give him confidence regarding Jesus' life. Theophilus means 'lover of God', and it's possible that Luke uses it generically to address any believer.

Chapters 14-19 are likely in the final third of Jesus' ministry as he makes his way to Jerusalem. These passages are all part of this travel narrative.

HEARING THE CALL		
Date	Passage	Title
Sept 25	Luke 14:1-14	... to humility
Oct 2	Luke 14:15-24	... to the Great Banquet
Oct 9	Luke 14:25-35	... the cost of the call
Oct 16	Luke 16:19-31	... to the rich man and Lazarus
Oct 23	Luke 17:1-10	... to forgive
Oct 30	Luke 17:11-19	... to thankfulness
Nov 6	Luke 18:1-14	... to persistent faith
Nov 13	Luke 19:1-10	... of Zacchaeus

September 25

Luke 14:1-14

Opening

Share about a time you witnessed humility that impressed you.

Read Luke 14:1-14

1. When might Jesus' call to compassion overrule our adherence to God's law?

2. Why was Jesus so relaxed about keeping the Sabbath?

3. When have you noticed people vying for the place of honour?
What about you?

***check out the bottom of p.26*



4. Why should Christians be the most humble people on earth?

5. Have you ever literally followed Jesus' advice in vv.12-14?

6. Apart from a meal, in what other ways might we live out this teaching?

PRAYER

Bring your particular area of need for humility before the Lord and ask for his forgiveness and grace.

Thank God that the Gospel challenges and changes us; and takes us from our sin, pride and arrogance.



... notes

October 2**Luke 14:15-24**

Opening

Share a time when you have received an invitation but refused with a poor excuse.

Read Luke 14:15-24

1. Why do you think this guest made the comment in v.15?
What underlying assumptions might it show?

2. As Jesus often does, He responds with a parable.
How does the parable link with what He said in the passage from last week? (vv.12-14)

3. What do you think of the excuses made by those invited?



4. How does the master respond to these excuses?
Who do you think the master represents?
5. There is a great banquet to look forward to.
Who will be the ones on the surprising guest list, and why is it surprising?
6. How is the nation of Israel represented in this parable?
7. How do you respond to the finality of v.24, that none of the original invitees will be included even though there is room?

PRAYER

Thank God that He will bring people in until His house is full.

Ask God to help you bring people in as well.



October 9**Luke 14:25-35**

Opening

Discuss the difficulty of counting the cost when we don't know the future. Why is it still important?

Read Luke 14:25-35

1. Brainstorm what it cost the first disciples to follow Jesus. Think about the fishermen, the women, the tax collectors and the zealot.
2. According to vv.26-27 what does discipleship involve?
3. What do you think Jesus means by 'hate' in this context?
4. How do you measure the value of a relationship?



... notes

5. What does it mean for you to be in a God-honouring relationship with your friends, family, parents, spouse or children?

6. The wise king will count the cost before facing a formidable foe. When have you counted the cost of following Jesus? What was the context? What part of your life did it influence?

7. Jesus said, 'In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything have cannot be my disciples'. What would Jesus ask you to give up in order to more closely follow him?

PRAYER

Pray for each other as we wrestle with the daily costs of following Jesus.

Pray to clearly see Jesus' great generosity to us in his life and death. Ask the Spirit to come and rearrange our values in line with what God values.



October 16**Luke 16:19-31**

Opening

What are the luxuries of this world that you know you would find hard to let go of?

Read Luke 16:19-31

1. What do you find hopeful in this parable?
What do you find disturbing?

2. What is the message in this parable about our attitude to wealth? Consider 16:13-15

3. The word 'faith' is not mentioned in the parable, but what can the parable teach us about having faith in Jesus?



4. Does this parable teach salvation by works? i.e. What we do with our money will determine whether we are saved?

5. Is it unfair that the rich man is not given a second chance to crossover from hell into heaven after death?

6. What is there in Moses and the prophets that would help people avoid the rich man's predicament? Can you find some particular verses?

7. v.30 Does Jesus' rising from the dead help people to repent?

PRAYER

*Thank God that, whatever you may face in this life,
knowing Him means your heavenly eternity is secure.*

Speak to Him about any ways you've been challenged.



October 23**Luke 17:1-10**

Opening

When have you been blessed by the forgiveness of another person for a significant offense?

Has there been a time when you have been blessed by forgiving another person instead of holding a grudge?

Read Luke 17:1-10

1. Why does Jesus say that causing others to stumble is such a serious offence?
2. When have you been corrected or rebuked in a helpful way?
What made it helpful?
3. How do you think our community would change if we were more mutually accountable in Christian community?
4. How many times should we forgive people who sin against us?



Forgiveness is costly. It always costs the one who forgives.

5. What is the cost of not forgiving someone who hurt you?
What are the costs and benefits of forgiving someone?

6. Forgiving others is difficult, so the disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith. Jesus' answer indicates that just a little faith and trust can do surprising things. What surprising or marvellous things have you seen faith in God accomplish?

7. In what ways are you -
 - like the servant in vv7-9?
 - unlike the servant?

8. What is our duty to God - what were we created to do?
How is Jesus' life an example of the truth of this parable?

PRAYER

Give thanks for God's teaching which benefits the church and community.

Pray for deepening relationships of mutual accountability.



October 29/30**Luke 17:11-19**

Opening

Begin today by discussing gratitude and what each of you aspire to?

How do you express gratitude?

Often? | in small ways? | not enough? | in big extravagant ways?

Read Luke 17:11-19

1. What did the lepers need to do to be healed?

2. Who do the 10 lepers look to for healing? Who gets the praise for the miracle? Who is thanked for the miracle?

3. Jesus included the outsider Samaritan, just like the other lepers (who were presumably Jewish). Who are the outsiders in our community that Jesus would like us to include?



All of the lepers called Jesus 'Master' when they wanted healing, but only the Samaritan lived like Jesus was his actual master.

4. We all know the tension of living with multiple 'masters'. What 'masters' compete to dominate your time/energy/brain-space?

5. Giving thanks to your true Master Jesus every day, helps to train your heart and mind to put your loves in order. What could you do to add to, or implement a daily practice of gratitude to Jesus?

6. The Samaritan was restored to good relationships and good standing in his community. More importantly, the word for 'healed' (v.19) can also mean 'saved'. Jesus healed and restored the Samaritan to good relationship with God. Who can you pray for this miracle for today? (Why not invite them to come to Alpha sometime?)

PRAYER

Pray for the friends, neighbours and family members in whom you would like Jesus to work a miracle of salvation. Pray for each other, that we can all include outsiders in our community. Pray for your journey of discipleship, learning more of Jesus and leaning ever more closely into Him.



November 6**Luke 18:1-14**

Opening

Share around the group the issues of justice in this world that occupy your mind?

Read Luke 18:1-8

1. Describe in your own words, what the point of this parable is.
2. Are you sometimes tempted to give up praying?
What do you think are your reasons?

In that society a widow faced a very uncertain and vulnerable future. She had no one to provide for or protect her.

3. How do her actions show both her dependence and her confidence?



4. How does Jesus link her experience to that of God's chosen (v.7)?

Read Luke 18:9-14

All of us sometimes look down on others as we compare ourselves to them.

5. What yardsticks to you use to compare?
Social? Spiritual?

6. To whom is Jesus aiming this parable?

7. What is the difference in attitude of the two men?
Where do we honestly see our own attitude to be?

PRAYER

Bring to God now the justice matters that are on your heart.

Thank Him for the blessings of His work in the world.

Thank Him that He even justifies people like us!



November 13**Luke 19:1-10**

Opening

Zacchaeus was an unlikely candidate for conversion. Is there a prominent figure or someone you know personally who you think would be just as unlikely?

Read Luke 19:1-10

1. What might we be able to glean about Zacchaeus' personality from this passage?
2. v.7 Why did the crowd especially think of Zacchaeus as a sinner?
3. Note the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (16:19-31) and the story of the rich ruler (18:18-30). In the light of these challenging passages, how is the story of Zacchaeus an encouragement?



4. What is the significance of Jesus visiting Zacchaeus' house?

5. What is a 'tree you have climbed' to get a better view of Jesus?

6. What does this passage teach us about the nature of saving faith?

PRAYER

Thank God for all the ways this passage reveals to us how wonderful Jesus is.

Praise God that we have been 'Hearing the Call', and ask Him to help us live out that call in our lives.



