

TREK 2: HIS LOVE PARENT GUIDE

LESSON 1.1: PATH TO GREATNESS

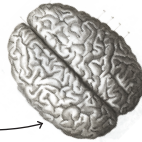
SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 20:20-28

SUMMARY

It is normal for humans to desire greatness. Jesus taught that the path to greatness in His kingdom is through the path of servanthood. Jesus modeled servanthood by dying on the cross to pay for the sins of all who choose to follow Him. In Matthew 20, the mother of two of Jesus' disciples – James and John – came to Jesus and requested high positions for her sons in the kingdom. Jesus pointed out that the requirement of greatness in the kingdom of heaven is not about connections or earthly attainments, but rather a determination to serve God and others.

STUDENTS WILL

MEMORIZE



THIS

Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:28

KEY WORD

Ambition: a strong desire to do or to achieve something, typically requiring determination and hard work

KEY THOUGHT

In order for believers to be great like Jesus, they must first become servants.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- Why do you think Jesus denied the request of James' and John's mother for them to be seated by His side?
- What does it mean to be a servant?
- People on earth generally look down on servants. Why do you think Jesus wants His followers to be servants?
- How was Jesus' coming to earth a mission of servanthood?
- What motivates someone to be a servant the way that Jesus was a servant?
- What is one specific way in your everyday life that you can be a servant to those around you?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

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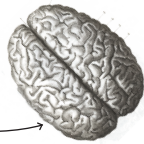
LESSON 1.2: THE STORYTELLING SERVANT

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 1:1-4

SUMMARY

Luke was a first-century physician who set out to record a thorough biography of the life of Jesus. Luke investigated Jesus' life by interviewing many eyewitnesses to understand the facts as they happened. The outcome of his efforts is a very descriptive presentation of Jesus' life from beginning to end. The many miracles of Jesus' life, including His birth, healings, and resurrection, are included with historical description. The purpose for his biography was so that his readers would gain confidence in the facts about Jesus' life. For people today, those who seek to understand the historical facts of Jesus' life add confidence to their faith.

STUDENTS WILL
MEMORIZE



THIS

It seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

Luke 1:3-4

KEY WORD

Historian: one who gathers or records factual events that have been validated by eyewitness testimony

KEY THOUGHT

Luke was a servant and wrote an orderly account of Jesus' life so that we may know who He is and why Jesus matters so much.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- What is powerful about stories – in general? Why do humans enjoy hearing good stories?
- Why did the physician named Luke write this book? What purpose did he have in writing it?
- It can sometimes be hard to see the stories of Jesus' life as true and historical facts. How can the book of Luke help us with this feeling?
- What are the benefits to a Christian if they thoroughly study the facts of Jesus' life the way that Luke did?
- If someone were to write a careful biography of your life, what are some of the most important facts you hope they would include?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

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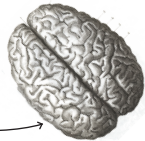
LESSON 1.3: SERVANTS WITH DREAMS

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 1:5-25

SUMMARY

Zechariah (who was a priest) and Elizabeth were faithful and obedient followers of God in their time. They were elderly, and thus not expecting to receive the child for which they had so long hoped. The angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah while he was on duty in the temple, describing the good news that they would have a child, and not only any child, but a very significant figure in God's unfolding plan — a man named John (often known as John the Baptist). God demonstrated both His power and that He was completely in control of the events, waiting for just the right time to give Zechariah and Elizabeth a child at this important time in history. In the same way, God uses His servants today to serve Him at just the right time, as long as they remain faithful to Him — just as Zechariah and Elizabeth had.

STUDENTS WILL
MEMORIZE



THIS

"Thus the Lord done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

Luke 1:25

KEY WORD

Dream: a desire I trust God with

KEY THOUGHT

God uses servants like Zechariah and Elizabeth to accomplish His plan for the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- What was the big dream that Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth had, and do you think they actually thought it might happen?
- What is the normal human reaction when we don't get what we pray for, especially when we've been praying for so long?
- Why do you think God waited in giving Zechariah and Elizabeth their child? In what ways was His timing perfect?
- What did the angel Gabriel tell Zechariah about the son they were about to have?
- How did Zechariah respond when the angel Gabriel appeared to him in the temple? Why do you think he responded this way?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

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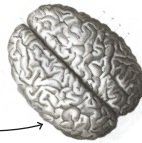
LESSON 1.4: WHAT SERVANTS EXPECT

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:1-21

SUMMARY

The birth of Jesus was remarkable in so many ways. But in addition to the miracle itself, the story gives us a glimpse into the amazing servanthood of Mary and Joseph. They submitted to God's plan despite not seeking out the appointment of being parents of Jesus. The complications of Jesus' birth add to their testimony. Those who serve God with their lives often experience many surprises and hardships along the way. But each event — as was the case for Mary and Joseph — is designed by God to show His glory to others on this earth. Every follower of Jesus is challenged to serve the Lord in a way that follows the example of Mary and Joseph.

STUDENTS WILL
MEMORIZE



THIS

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Luke 2:4-5

KEY WORD

Surprise: an unexpected or astonishing event, fact, or thing

KEY THOUGHT

God expects His servants to keep serving no matter how their plans might change.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- Make a list of the remarkable aspects of Jesus' birth. Which do you find most amazing to think about?
- What do you think Mary and Joseph were thinking when problem after problem complicated the birth?
- What do you think enabled Mary and Joseph to keep moving forward with faithfulness to God?
- Why do you think God decided Jesus would be born in such lowly conditions?
- What was the significance of shepherds — who were smelly and poor — being the first ones to go and see Jesus after He was born?
- Describe some ways that Mary and Joseph were exemplary servants of God.
- Talk about a modern-day example of how followers of Jesus might need to demonstrate the same type of diligent service as Mary and Joseph.
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

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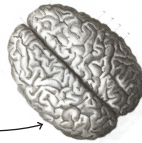
LESSON 1.5: SERVANTS IN THE WILD

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 3:1-20

SUMMARY

The son of Zechariah and Elizabeth was named John, and he preached in the wilderness a message of repentance to the Jewish people of the day. His boldness in calling out the religious and political leaders ended up getting him imprisoned. Many thought he might be the promised Messiah because his teaching was so powerful, but he steadfastly pointed out that someone greater would come after him (he was referring to Jesus). John's mission was simply to prepare the way for the bigger message that Jesus would later bring. In this way, John was another submissive servant of God, called to faithfulness in the midst of many challenges.

STUDENTS WILL
MEMORIZE



THIS

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.'"

Luke 3:4

KEY WORD

Repent: stop going the wrong way, turn around, and start going the right way

KEY THOUGHT

Being God's servant is rarely a safe or easy place to be even for His most committed followers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- What was John the Baptist's message to the people?
- What does it look like for someone to repent?
- John baptized all the people, who after listening to him, repented. What did these baptisms represent?
- John the Baptist called out many significant people, including Herod, who was the king of Israel under the Romans (and who eventually threw John in prison). Why do you think John was willing to be so bold?
- Why did people wonder if John the Baptist might be the promised Messiah?
- How was John the Baptist like Mary and Joseph in the way that they served God? What similar surprises and hardships did they all face?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

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LESSON 1.6: TEMPTED TO SERVE ANOTHER

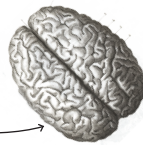
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 4:1-13

SUMMARY

The temptation of Jesus is yet another example of how servants of God – in this case Jesus – need to endure hardship. If Jesus had given in to the temptation of Satan, His entire purpose for coming to earth would have been thwarted; He would no longer be able to be a perfect sacrifice for sins. Jesus was tired, hungry, and lonely in the wilderness, and Satan used these realities as targets of his temptation, promising an earthly satisfaction to those needs. Jesus – and likewise His followers today – overcome the temptations of Satan by remembering the importance of their mission in life, and how superior their mission is to Satan’s empty promises of earthly satisfaction.

STUDENTS WILL

MEMORIZE



THIS

↪ *And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.’”*

Luke 4:8

KEY WORD

Exposed: sought as able to be wounded or attacked

KEY THOUGHT

God's servants can be victorious in the battle over temptation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- What would the effects on Jesus’ life have been if He had given in to the temptations of Satan?
- What were the various types of weaknesses Jesus was feeling while Satan was tempting Him?
- What strategy do you think Satan has found most effective in tempting you in your life?
- What strategies did Jesus use to combat Satan’s temptations so that He could be victorious over temptation?
- One of Satan’s temptations to Jesus was to give Him all the kingdoms of the world right then and there. What does this tell us about Satan’s power in this world?
- How does knowing our mission in life help us overcome temptation?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

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LESSON 1.7: RISKY SERVANTHOOD

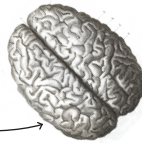
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 4:14-30

SUMMARY

After emerging from this temptation in the wilderness, Jesus began His powerful ministry in His home town of Nazareth. While proclaiming the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy and condemning hypocritical religious leaders, the people of Nazareth began to reject Jesus. His teaching clearly provoked their anger and changed His reputation as a beloved son to that of a rejected outcast. Despite the understandable emotions that were no doubt involved in this rejection, Jesus continued to speak truthfully to the people, risking both His good name and His own life for the greater cause for which He lived.

STUDENTS WILL

MEMORIZE



THIS

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:18-19

KEY WORD

Rejection: dismissing or refusing a proposal, idea or person; originally meaning "to throw back"

KEY THOUGHT

Serving others, especially those close to us, can be costly.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- If you knew a famous person since the time they were born and watched them grow up in your own hometown, would that make it easier or harder to find fault in them?
- Why do you think Jesus' own townspeople had a hard time accepting His powerful teaching?
- Do you think it was easy for Jesus to speak such harsh words against His own townspeople? How so?
- What caused the people to get so upset at Jesus and attempt to throw Him over a cliff?
- Why do you think Jesus was willing to put His reputation on the line?
- What are some criticisms that a modern-day follower of Jesus might face that could cause them to stop taking risks for God?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

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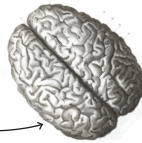
LESSON 2.1: RECOGNIZING NEEDS

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 4:38-44

SUMMARY

It can be difficult to approach those who are in great need, especially when the symptoms of their need are uncomfortable to see. Jesus, however, routinely paid attention to the sick, diseased, and demon possessed. In Luke 4, Jesus healed a sick woman and drove out a demon. He not only demonstrated power over the fallen, physical world (disease), but He also demonstrated power over the dark, spiritual world (demons). In both instances, Jesus demonstrated the powerful example of serving those with great needs, and He calls His followers to follow that same example.

STUDENTS WILL
MEMORIZE



THIS

Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him, and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.

Luke 4:40

KEY WORD

Healing: the ability to make someone sound or healthy again

KEY THOUGHT

Jesus healed those who were brought to Him. He saw the needs and met them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- Brainstorm some of the many different ways that Jesus could have used His power while He was on earth, but didn't.
- In that day, what were some of the common explanations given for why people ended up demon possessed or with diseases?
- What do you think the religious leaders thought of Jesus going to demon possessed and diseased people? Did they look up to Him or down on Him? Why?
- What is the hardest thing about approaching and giving care to people who are diseased, disfigured, or possess great physical needs?
- What do you think the crowds were thinking when Jesus healed the demon-possessed man?
- In the passage that you studied this week in Luke 4, the demons talked and had to be silenced by Jesus after they were cast out of the man. What does this tell us about demons?
- What is more awesome to you – Jesus' willingness to care for the diseased or His ability to cast out demons? Why?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

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LESSON 2.2: CALLED TO SERVE

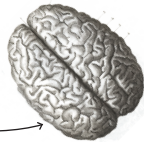
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 5:1-11

SUMMARY

Jesus' interaction with Peter in Luke 5 demonstrates both His power and His call to anyone who would follow Him. In providing a miracle fishing catch for Peter, He displayed His immense power over the forces of nature. Then, in asking Peter to follow Him, Jesus was inviting Peter to trust that same source of power. Jesus then described Peter's new objective as catching men instead of just fish. Jesus' power is a comforting reality for all who choose to live out their calling by serving Jesus in His mission for the world.

STUDENTS WILL

MEMORIZE



THIS

And so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

Luke 5:10-11

KEY WORD

Follower: someone who is committed and consistently walks in and after the direction of another

KEY THOUGHT

Jesus called the disciples to follow Him and fish for men.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- Peter was a professional fisherman, yet he gave credit to Jesus for the great catch. What impact do you think this event had on Peter in his decision to follow Jesus?
- Why do you think Peter's first response to Jesus was, "Depart from me ... Lord"?
- What did Jesus mean when He told Peter, "From now on you will be catching men"?
- Why do you think Peter made the decision to follow Jesus with the rest of his life?
- How does God's power make Him trustworthy in our everyday, routine lives?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

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LESSON 2.3: BRINGING YOUR FRIENDS TO JESUS

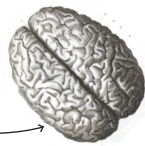
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 5:17-26

SUMMARY

From the account of the men who lowered their paralyzed friend to Jesus through the roof, we see a vivid example of both faith in Jesus' power and love for their friend. These friends' faith was demonstrated by their eagerness in believing Jesus could heal their friend, while their love for their friend was demonstrated in the great lengths they took to bring him to Jesus. The faith and friendship of these men is an example of an evangelistic heart. Christians should want to bring their friends to Jesus because they are convinced that He alone has the power to save them. This – even more than physical healing – is the greatest gift of grace that Jesus can show to those we know who have not yet received forgiveness.

STUDENTS WILL

MEMORIZE



THIS

And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. And when He saw their faith, He said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

Luke 5:18-20

KEY WORD

Friend: a person attached to another by feelings of affection or personal regard; a person who gives assistance

KEY THOUGHT

Jesus healed the paralyzed man when He saw the extraordinary faith of his friends.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- In what ways is the stunt that these friends pulled in order to get their paralyzed friend to Jesus inappropriate or socially unacceptable?
- Jesus marveled at their faith for bringing their friend so boldly to Him. What did this faith indicate about their character?
- Do you think the men brought the man to get his sins forgiven or to be healed? Which was the greater gift from Jesus and why?
- Why do you think the religious leaders got so upset at Jesus when He told the man his sins were forgiven?
- What are some ways that you can mirror the example of these men to your friends?
- What are some things that prevent you from bringing your friends to Jesus with the same courage that was exemplified in this story?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

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LESSON 2.4: SERVING PEOPLE, NOT RULES

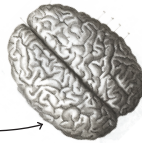
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 6:1-11

SUMMARY

Jesus continues to set the example – here showing that His love for people is greater than His love for rules and regulations. The Old Testament laws regarding Sabbath breaking were held even more strictly by the Pharisees than even God intended. Jesus knew that if He broke the Pharisees' unwritten regulation by healing on the Sabbath, He would risk His reputation before them. Nevertheless, Jesus continued to pursue His mission by healing the man. After the Pharisees charged Him as a lawbreaker, Jesus came back at them by trapping them with the heart of the issue – that doing what is right is the highest priority. Christians should be spurred on to goodness by seeing Jesus' overwhelming heart for people.

STUDENTS WILL

MEMORIZE



THIS

And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?"

Luke 6:9

KEY WORD

Law: a system of rules that a community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members and may enforce by the imposition of penalties

KEY THOUGHT

Jesus placed a higher priority on serving people.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- The Pharisees cared deeply about seeing that the Law and their own rigid interpretations of it were kept. What do you think were their motivations for this – both good and bad?
- Why do you think the Pharisees were so upset that Jesus healed the man with the shriveled hand on the Sabbath?
- Why do you think the Pharisees didn't celebrate that the man was healed?
- Do you think that Jesus disregarded the Law here? What was His motivation for healing rather than keeping a rule?
- Jesus demonstrated that He cared for people more than He cared for rules. What does this tell us about the motivations of our hearts?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

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LESSON 2.5: ATTITUDES OF A SERVANT

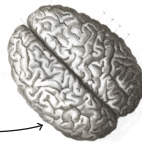
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 6:17-26

SUMMARY

The Beatitudes of Jesus describe how His followers can live a life that is truly blessed. Jesus describes a list of kingdom values (called Beatitudes) that are truly counter-cultural. These values show that if someone is going to serve Christ with their life, they need to take on an entirely different mentality. This mentality is based on a humility that will trade in pride for a potentially troubled life that is filled with rejection from the world. But those who follow in this path of blessing will be rewarded greatly in heaven.

STUDENTS WILL

MEMORIZE



THIS

"... Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man!"

Luke 6:20-22

KEY WORD

Blessed: having received favor or another good thing

KEY THOUGHT

The best life is only found in Christ and behaving as a servant of Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- What types of things do you think most people in this world consider blessings?
- Out of the list of blessings Jesus gave to His disciples, which one(s) stick out most to you and why?
- How did Jesus talk about riches? Were earthly riches positive or negative according to Jesus' words here?
- We know that Jesus is establishing the kingdom of God, not a kingdom on earth. If you had to describe God's kingdom values in one sentence or less, what would you say about them?
- In our day and time, what do you think is the greatest cost to following Jesus?
- What would it take to trade a life of riches, success, and laughter on earth for a life of (comparative) poverty, lowliness, and mourning on earth with great reward in heaven?
- Do you think some people follow Jesus because they think it's popular? How is their understanding flawed?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

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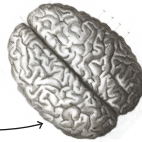
LESSON 2.6: SERVING OUR ENEMIES

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 6:27-36

SUMMARY

Arguably the most counter-cultural of the kingdom values Jesus listed in Luke 6 is His command to love one's enemies. It is impossible to do this unless the basis for that love is deeper than normal human emotions. After all, it is normal to want to repay evil for evil. The example of Jesus once again shows us the way as we follow His commands. Jesus chose to love sinners while we were still His enemies. This is why He came to earth and sacrificed His life. Grasping this truth turns Christians' mindsets upside down when they consider how to treat the unlovable people (enemies) in their lives.

STUDENTS WILL
MEMORIZE



THIS

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6:35-36

KEY WORD

Compassion: looking upon others regardless of who they are and showing them unconditional love

KEY THOUGHT

Jesus desires for us to serve everyone and that includes our enemies as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- Agree or disagree: It is a natural human emotion to want to get revenge on those who mistreat us. Explain your answer.
- What do you think is the ultimate reason why Jesus wants us to love our enemies and pray for those who mistreat us?
- From what you know about the life of Jesus, in what ways did He set the example for us in loving enemies?
- Describe a time in the past when you have wanted to get revenge or pay someone back for a wrong they did to you. Why do you think you so eagerly wanted revenge?
- What is the Christian giving up by not seeking revenge?
- How is the mercy that God wants us to show those who mistreat us similar to the mercy He demonstrated toward sinners on the cross?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

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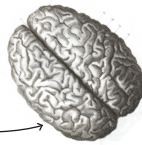
LESSON 2.7: SERVANTS RESPOND TO REQUESTS

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 7:1-10

SUMMARY

Not only did Jesus' love ignore His own inconvenience and the normal thirst for revenge on enemies, but His love also crossed political and ethnic boundaries. In this story from Luke 7, Jesus ministers to a powerful Roman centurion by healing his faithful servant who was deathly ill. The centurion demonstrated tremendous humility in admitting his need for Jesus' help. Jesus in turn responded to this faith by healing the servant. Likewise, Christians today need to have the same type of humility as the centurion, and just like Jesus crossed political and ethnic boundaries in order to meet the needs of others, His followers today — once again — follow His examples in doing the same.

STUDENTS WILL
MEMORIZE



THIS

When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed Him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.

Luke 7:9-10

KEY WORD

Faith: confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see (See Hebrews 11:1.)

KEY THOUGHT

Jesus responded to the requests that were made of Him and those who asked did so based on their faith in Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- At this time in history, what do you think the Jewish people's general opinion of the Romans was?
- What then does Jesus' willingness to heal a Roman centurion's servant tell us about His heart?
- Why did the Roman centurion that you learned about have so much love for this particular servant?
- In what ways did it take a great deal of humility for the powerful Roman centurion to seek Jesus' help?
- Is it hard to love and serve people who come from a different background? Explain.
- What impresses you most about Jesus from this story?
- What is an everyday way that you can respond to people's needs around you?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

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LESSON 3.1: FEARLESS SERVANTS

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 8:22-25

SUMMARY

Human beings get scared. We just do. It's not wrong, but it can become a problem if we don't learn what to do with our fear. Jesus and His disciples set out on a boat. A fierce storm quickly overtakes the disciples and Jesus. These fishermen (many of whom were familiar with storms at sea) are deeply afraid. Jesus stops the storm. He rebukes the winds and the waves and they cease. The disciples marvel at Jesus' power. As servants of the living God, we have reason to be fearless. He is more powerful than anything that might terrify us. But will we trust Him in those moments? Will we ask Him to use His power to help us? Will we be fearless servants?

STUDENTS WILL

MEMORIZE



THIS

And they went and woke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And He awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that He commands even winds and water, and they obey Him?"

Luke 8:24-25

KEY WORD

Fear: an unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous, likely to cause pain, or a threat.

KEY THOUGHT

As servants of the living God we have reason to be fearless.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- What are you afraid of most? What things make you least afraid?
- How do you think being afraid can keep us from serving God?
- Is there anything in our home that you're afraid of right now?
- Do you know the current fear of someone else? What can we do as a family to help bring safety and comfort to those who are afraid?
- Why should we go to Jesus when we are afraid? What can He do that nobody else can?
- "Where is your faith?" Jesus asks this question of the disciples. What is the status of your faith? Would you say you have a lot of faith or little faith? Explain.
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

TREK 2: HIS LOVE PARENT GUIDE

LESSON 3.2: IMPOSSIBLE SERVICE

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 9:10-17

SUMMARY

Jesus fed five thousand people from only five loaves of bread and two fish. Beyond His incredible power to perform this miracle, Jesus demonstrated to His disciples that He wanted to use them — as His willing servants — to do great things. It was critical for the disciples to understand that Jesus alone was the source of dramatic and life-changing power. In the same way, God wants to use all who bring their heart of service to the Lord and yield to that power. He works through His followers to accomplish His work — both in the seemingly small or mundane work of life and the big things as well.

STUDENTS WILL

MEMORIZE



THIS

And taking the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

Luke 9:16-17

KEY WORD

Impossible: not able to occur, exist, or be done

KEY THOUGHT

God does impossible things through His servants.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- In this account, why do you think the crowds followed Jesus?
- Do you think that Jesus and His disciples were annoyed that the crowds followed them (when they were trying to go on a restful retreat)? Why or why not?
- What does it tell us about Jesus' character that He served the crowds even when it wasn't part of His preplanned schedule?
- Why is it significant that Jesus used the disciples to distribute the miraculously provided food to the people instead of doing it all by Himself?
- What can we learn about Jesus from this story, beyond just His power to perform this miracle? How can that lesson help us as we serve Jesus as His followers today?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

TREK 2: HIS LOVE PARENT GUIDE

LESSON 3.3: FULLY COMMITTED SERVICE

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 9:57-62

SUMMARY

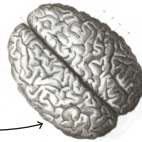
In this lesson from Luke 9:57-62, we hear three different responses that Jesus gave to people who came up to Him stating their commitment to following Him:

- 1) You are not guaranteed a comfortable lifestyle (verse 58).
- 2) Commitment to Jesus starts now, not sometime down the road (verse 60).
- 3) You need to forsake the emotional attachments of this world (verse 62).

While sounding hyperbolic and radical, Jesus was trying to communicate the seriousness and intensity of commitment to Him. From this passage, Christians are called to take a hard look at their lives and prioritize their commitments. The call to follow Christ is serious and intense, but His example and the great debt of gratitude we owe Him make that commitment worth it.

STUDENTS WILL

MEMORIZE



THIS

Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:62

KEY WORD

Commitment: an engagement or obligation that restricts freedom of action

KEY THOUGHT

Jesus is asking for a commitment from His servants.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- Can you remember the three different responses Jesus gave in this passage to people who wanted to follow Him?
- Be honest. Do Jesus' descriptions of what it is like to follow Him sound difficult to you? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Jesus made following Him sound so difficult?
- In what ways did these people have to reevaluate their desire to follow Jesus after Jesus told them these things about commitment?
- What are some examples of desires for this world that we may need to sacrifice in order to fully commit to the Lord?
- What are some emotional attachments that it is normal to have to this world, but that need to be sacrificed in order to follow Jesus?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

TREK 2: HIS LOVE PARENT GUIDE

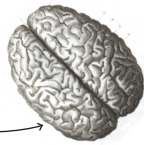
LESSON 3.4: SENT TO SERVE

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 10:1-24

SUMMARY

In Luke 10, Jesus sent out His disciples in teams of two to carry out His mission. Many principles for serving Christ are observed in this passage, including how to handle rejection. But most important is the fact that Jesus chose to send people out to do His work. Noting that the harvest was plentiful — meaning that there were many people who needed help and the gospel — Jesus empowered people to accomplish His work through His power. In other words, Jesus looked to delegate His power through willing servants. He still does the same today through those who seek to serve Him and participate in His mission.

STUDENTS WILL
MEMORIZE



THIS

And He said to them, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”*

Luke 10:2

KEY WORD

Mission: an important assignment given by someone in authority to help accomplish a larger purpose

KEY THOUGHT

Jesus has sent His followers out to help accomplish His mission on earth.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- Why do you think Jesus sent out all these people rather than just continuing to do the work by Himself?
- What did Jesus mean that *the harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few*? In what ways do you think that is true today?
- What did Jesus mean that the disciples He was sending out were *as lambs in the midst of wolves*? What do you think of when you hear that, and is that scary?
- How were the disciples able to do all these amazing things when they were sent out?
- What did Jesus tell the disciples to do when people rejected them? Is that hard or easy to do, and why?
- Why do you think the disciples were so excited at the end of their journeys? Imagine being in their shoes.
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

TREK 2: HIS LOVE PARENT GUIDE

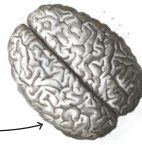
LESSON 3.5: THE WORRY-FREE SERVANT

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 10:38-42

SUMMARY

In this vivid account, Martha is rebuked for her anxiousness in performing work for Jesus, while Mary is commended for her worship. No doubt Jesus was grateful that Martha had opened her home to Him, but her busyness made her lose sight of what was most important — that when Jesus arrived, it was time to worship (pay attention carefully) to Him, not continue to busily work. Mary's worship shows a proper prioritization of what is most important. Similarly, followers of Jesus must prioritize Jesus and make Him central in all their activity, even above their work. Once doing so, good work can be informed by heartfelt worship of God, rather than the other way around.

STUDENTS WILL
MEMORIZE



THIS

But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:41-42

KEY WORD

Listening: to give attention with the ear; attend closely for the purpose of hearing

KEY THOUGHT

Jesus wants us to make our lives about Him, not our performance.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- In this story, Martha was very eager to serve Jesus, but what did Jesus say was her problem?
- Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet listening to Him. What does her posture tell us about Mary's heart?
- Is Jesus trying to tell us that work is unimportant? Why is Jesus not saying this?
- What should be our main motivation for serving the Lord?
- Notice how Mary listened to Jesus. How can we be free from worry and anxiety as we serve?
- What is one thing that you tend to get worried or anxious about? What is one way you can apply this lesson to that situation?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

TREK 2: HIS LOVE PARENT GUIDE

LESSON 3.6: SERVANTS GO PUBLIC

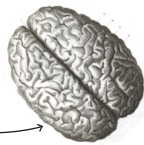
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 19:11-27

SUMMARY

Jesus' parable in Luke 19 builds upon a very interesting historical story of Archelaus, the Jewish king of Israel. Jesus' point was that He would be leaving earth and returning someday as the reigning King. In the meantime, Jesus' servants have been given His treasure to invest while He is gone, and upon His return, they will be rewarded for how they worked for Him in His absence. Recalling what Jesus had earlier said in Luke 10:2, *"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few"*, Jesus is here encouraging His followers to serve Him with their lives and make the most of every opportunity to make an impact in this world.

STUDENTS WILL

MEMORIZE



THIS

*And he said to him, Well done, good servant!
Because you have been faithful in a very little,
you shall have authority over ten cities."*

Luke 19:17

KEY WORD

Mina: an ancient, Near Eastern unit of weight and money equal to about 50-60 shekels or about three months' wages for a worker

KEY THOUGHT

Jesus' servants are known for following Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- What was the story from history that Jesus' parable was based on?
- Describe why some people would want to reject Jesus as King just like some of the people wanted to reject the king in the story.
- What have Jesus' followers – like you and me if we have received His forgiveness – been entrusted with just like the servants were entrusted with minas?
- How is our goal similar to the goal of the servants with the minas?
- Describe the heart of the servant who did not do anything with his money. Why did Jesus describe Him as wicked?
- Identify some opportunities in your life right now where someday Jesus could say about you, *"Well done, good servant."*
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

TREK 2: HIS LOVE PARENT GUIDE

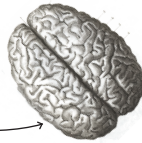
LESSON 3.7: HIS SERVANTS PRAISE HIM

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 19:28-44

SUMMARY

It is a well-known story that when Jesus entered the town of Bethany riding on a borrowed colt the crowds praised Him, waving palm branches. Their enthusiasm was evidently because of all the miracles and works they had seen Jesus do in their midst. This is the cause for all praise – being led to enthusiasm and honoring the cause for that enthusiasm. Jesus tells the Pharisees that if the crowds did not praise Jesus, the rocks would. This reminds us that all of creation – even rocks – yearn to declare the praise of the one who is worthy to command such praise. Humans have the natural desire to praise many things, often fleeting, earthly things. Followers of Jesus know that their highest praise and focus should be to Christ for all that He has done.

STUDENTS WILL
MEMORIZE



THIS

... *“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”*

Luke 19:38-40

KEY WORD

Praise: the expression of approval or admiration for someone or something

KEY THOUGHT

Jesus' servants are willing to give Him praise.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- What do you think were the reasons why the crowd was praising Jesus as He rode into the city on a colt?
- Why do you think the Pharisees were upset that the crowds were praising Jesus?
- As you know, within a few days, many of the same people who were praising Jesus were rejecting Him as He would be crucified. What do you think this indicates about their hearts?
- What types of activities (more than just singing praise songs) can we do to praise God in our lives today?
- Is doing these activities of praise at times boring? If so, what makes it boring, and how do you think we can overcome that feeling?
- Jesus cried over the city of Jerusalem because He knew the people were about to reject Him. Why do you think He experienced such strong emotions?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

TREK 2: HIS LOVE PARENT GUIDE

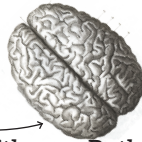
LESSON 4.1: SERVANTS ARE HUMBLE

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 22:7-38, JOHN 13:1-30

SUMMARY

Jesus demonstrated truly remarkable servanthood when He washed His disciples' feet. He was showing them how much He loved them, and giving them an example of how they should serve God with their lives, and also serve others during their lifetimes. All these examples that Jesus showed were to demonstrate to the disciples how to live their lives after Jesus would leave earth. That same example exists for His followers today. On another occasion, Jesus served the Passover meal to His disciples for the final time, noting that He was about to die and explaining the meaning of the bread and cup. Despite the disciples not even comprehending His chilling statements, Jesus is foreshadowing His humility in going to the cross, even though He did not deserve it.

STUDENTS WILL
MEMORIZE



THIS

But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

Luke 22:26-27

KEY WORD

Humility: a sober opinion of how you really see yourself and your position in this world

KEY THOUGHT

Jesus shows the disciples exactly what it means to be the greatest servant of all.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- Do you consider it shocking that Jesus washed His disciples' feet? Explain.
- Why did Peter and others resist when Jesus tried to wash their feet?
- When Jesus served the Passover meal to His disciples, what did the bread and cup represent?
- Jesus knew what was about to happen to Him. Why didn't He run away or use His power to change the future?
- What do you think Jesus was feeling (emotionally) while He was eating this dinner with His disciples?
- What makes Communion meaningful to you?
- What did Jesus predict Peter was about to do, and what was Peter's response?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

TREK 2: HIS LOVE PARENT GUIDE

LESSON 4.2: SERVANTS BEAR INJUSTICE WITH HONOR

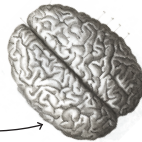
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 22:66-23:25

SUMMARY

The injustice Jesus was shown was unrivaled in all of human history. Yet at every turn of the journey, Jesus endured the false charges, questioning, and mockery, keeping His end goal in sight. After being detained by the chief priests, Jesus was falsely accused and tried before the authorities of that day. Throughout this, He fully realized that at any point He had the power to call down angels to deliver Him from this injustice. But He kept the end goal — His mission — in mind, and this enabled Him to endure the injustice.

STUDENTS WILL

MEMORIZE



THIS

"If you are the Christ, tell us." But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

Luke 22:67-69

KEY WORD

Justice: the process or result of using laws to fairly judge and punish crimes and criminals; righteousness, equitableness, or moral rightness

KEY THOUGHT

Jesus knows what it feels like to be betrayed, falsely accused, and to be condemned to suffer for a wrong He never committed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- Why was Jesus' arrest unjust? List as many reasons as you can.
- What do you think Jesus was feeling when the people were mocking Him?
- Why do you think Jesus was willing to endure all of this injustice, even though He was fully innocent?
- What do you think was the motivation of the crowds when they demanded that Jesus be crucified?
- Remember how much praise Jesus had received only one week earlier in Bethany. How can you explain how dramatically popularity would shift away from Him in only one week?
- If you were in the crowd when Jesus was before Pilate, what would it take for you to overcome the peer pressure of the crowd? Try to place yourself in their shoes.
- What makes you sad as you read these things about Jesus?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

TREK 2: HIS LOVE PARENT GUIDE

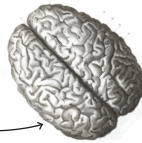
LESSON 4.3: SERVANTS ARE FULLY COMMITTED

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 23:26-43

SUMMARY

After being arrested, falsely accused and tried, and finally given over by the Jewish crowds to be executed on a Roman cross, Jesus finished His mission by being crucified. Crucifixion was both a physically excruciating and embarrassing way to die. Yet Jesus continued to deny Himself and His own desires to fulfill His mission. Once again, Jesus sets the example for what He expects from His followers. The type of commitment His followers can demonstrate as they follow Jesus cannot even come close to the commitment Jesus showed on the cross – being physically tortured, mentally humiliated, and emotionally bearing the guilt of the sins of the world.

STUDENTS WILL
MEMORIZE



THIS

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide His garments.

Luke 23:34

KEY WORD

Crucifixion: a form of slow and painful execution in which the victim is tied or nailed to a large wooden cross and left to hang until dead

KEY THOUGHT

Jesus humbled Himself, suffered, and died on a cross to serve us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- What does it say about Jesus' character that He asked the Father to forgive those who had put Him on the cross?
- What do you think was the worst part of crucifixion? Think through all the ways in which crucifixion could be horrible.
- The people who were sneering at Jesus while He was on the cross knew the miracles Jesus had previously done. What do you think they thought of the fact that Jesus did not rescue Himself?
- One of the criminals who was crucified at His side believed in Him, and Jesus forgave Him on the spot. What can we learn about Jesus from this event?
- What does self-denial mean, and how did Jesus deny Himself?
- What is one way that you can deny yourself in your everyday life?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

TREK 2: HIS LOVE PARENT GUIDE

LESSON 4.4: OUR SERVICE MATTERS

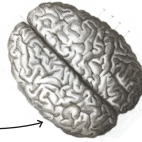
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 23:44-56

SUMMARY

After six long hours on the cross, Jesus breathed His last, committing Himself to the Father in that moment. But before this happened, God caused three hours of unexplained darkness. During this time, the curtain in the temple – which separated even the priests from the very presence of God – was torn in two. This demonstrated that the sacrifice of Jesus opened a way for man to have relationship with God, whereas previously that was not possible because of man’s sinfulness. The mission of Christ was completed when He rose from the dead. A good man named Joseph buried Jesus’ body in a grave, and the women who were following Him prepared spices to anoint His body.

STUDENTS WILL

MEMORIZE



THIS

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun’s light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!” And having said this He breathed His last.

Luke 23:44-46

KEY WORD

Atonement: the reconciliation of God and humankind through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ

KEY THOUGHT

Jesus made atonement for humanity's sin by suffering and dying on the cross.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- While Jesus was on the cross, there were three hours of supernaturally-caused darkness. Why do you think God might have chosen to do this?
- The only reason why Jesus received a proper burial was out of the generosity of a man named Joseph. Why do you think Joseph would choose to take on the burden of burying Jesus? What is admirable about this?
- Why do you think the women who were following Jesus around went to prepare spices and perfume for His grave?
- At this point, do you think most people had any anticipation that Jesus might be resurrected?
- What do you think the disciples and others who followed Jesus closely (like the women mentioned in this account) were feeling after these events?
- Why do you think the disciples fled the scene? Can you relate to them, especially when things get hard?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

TREK 2: HIS LOVE PARENT GUIDE

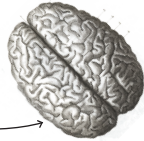
LESSON 4.5: GOD RESURRECTS HIS SERVANTS

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 24:1-12

SUMMARY

The resurrection of Jesus is the miracle that most separates Him from all other leaders of all other religions. Jesus rose from the grave to demonstrate His power over death, and how worthy He is to follow. Once again, God's power is on display at the resurrection. And this same power is what enables His followers today to trust Him. Even through — and after — the darkest storms of life, God's power is able to bring all situations under His control. Here, God's power took control of apparent defeat, sending angels to deliver good news to women at the tomb and providing another miracle for Jesus' followers.

STUDENTS WILL
MEMORIZE



THIS

That the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.

Luke 24:7

KEY WORD

Resurrection: the act of rising back to life by one who was fully and truly dead

KEY THOUGHT

Jesus is alive and because that's true, the only thing that makes sense is to believe and trust in Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- Did Jesus have to rise from the dead in order to finish His mission? What do you think?
- The angels at the tomb appeared to a group of women, who at the time were not very respected in the culture. What does this tell us about how God views women?
- Why do you think the disciples had such a hard time believing what the women said they had seen?
- How does Jesus' life and story compare to the lives of the heroes in other religions?
- How can the resurrection of Jesus make you a more confident Christian?
- If someone told you that they didn't believe Jesus really rose from the grave, how would you answer them?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

TREK 2: HIS LOVE PARENT GUIDE

LESSON 4.6: SERVANTS TALK ABOUT IT

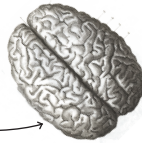
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 24:13-35

SUMMARY

After Jesus' burial, it appeared that many of the disciples and other followers of Jesus were spending a lot of time together in a sort of group therapy. They had been through so much, and evidently were sharing together the depressions of their experience. Two of them went on a long journey together, and Jesus – disguised from their recognition – walked alongside them teaching many spiritual things. Only later, when He served them bread at a table, did they recognize Him. Upon recognizing that He was indeed raised from the grave, they couldn't stop themselves from talking about this to others. Similarly, His followers today should be equally enthusiastic about conversing with others about Jesus.

STUDENTS WILL

MEMORIZE



THIS

And He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?"

Luke 24:25-26

KEY WORD

Conversation: the informal exchange of ideas by spoken words

KEY THOUGHT

Jesus' servants talk about Jesus in everyday conversations.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- Why do you think the disciples and other followers of Jesus seemed to be spending so much time together?
- Jesus disguised Himself as He joined the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. When He finally revealed Himself to them, what do you think they were thinking?
- What prompted the disciples who walked with Jesus on the road to be so enthusiastic in telling so many people that He was alive?
- Why is it often hard for us to bring up Jesus, even in everyday conversations among fellow Christians?
- Brainstorm some ways to bring up Jesus in everyday conversation.
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?

TREK 2: HIS LOVE PARENT GUIDE

LESSON 4.7: SERVANTS WAIT—AND DON'T WAIT

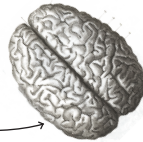
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 24:36-53

SUMMARY

Even after hearing multiple eyewitness accounts of Jesus being resurrected — and even with Him in their presence — some of the disciples and other followers still had doubts about Him. Jesus showed them His scars and ate something in their presence to prove that He was alive and well, in a fully physical form; they weren't just seeing things. He further explained more of the Scriptures, shedding light on the dramatic events of the previous week. Later, He ascended into heaven in their presence, promising the Holy Spirit, stating that the mission is only now beginning for a Christ-follower — there is much work to do in service to Jesus until He returns again, next time ruling as King!

STUDENTS WILL

MEMORIZE



THIS

And said to them, *“Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”*

Luke 24:46-49

KEY WORD

Waiting: The action of staying where one is or delaying action until a particular time or until something else happens.

KEY THOUGHT

Salvation is not the end of the story but merely the beginning. The disciples were waiting because the best is yet to come.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the one key thought that you learned tonight?
- Why do you think that, even as He was standing in their presence, some of the disciples still had doubts about Jesus? What were those doubts?
- Why do you think Jesus showed His followers the scars in His hands and feet, and ate something in their presence?
- How would you describe the emotions of the disciples after Jesus had ascended into heaven in their very presence?
- Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to them. What does this tell us about our mission as Christians?
- After Jesus ascended into heaven, all the followers were overcome with praise. Try to describe their emotions, and why is it hard for us to have those same emotions?
- The fact that Jesus ascended into heaven is amazing to consider. How can this help us live our daily lives, even amidst our normal, everyday temptations and struggles?
- What should you do with the lesson you learned tonight? What should we do?