



THE GOSPEL OF
Luke

About Luke

Every movement in history starts somewhere. Whether it's a political movement, a non-profit, or a charity, many start with a small group of people committed to a certain cause or set of principles they hope will shape the lives of the community around them.

Much of the same is true for the history of the church! Today, church is often thought of as a building or a place, but the church started as a small group of people. People not just committed to a set of principles but to a person -- Jesus.

This community felt so strongly about Jesus that they committed to living and inviting others to follow him alongside them. As this invitation rapidly expanded to new cities, more and more joined over the generations. Today, this invitation is now available for us too. Now you have the opportunity to participate in this rich history as others to join you in following Jesus.

We'll be experiencing the origin story of the church in these Discovery Guides as we study Luke and Acts. We hope you and your small group will join the generations that have come before us and continue to make history as we learn to follow Jesus on campus.

How to Use This Guide

As you know, Bible Study is a vital part of leading a small group, but it's not the *only* part. Building friendships and following up outside of the study is crucial to leading a transformative group. This Leader's Guide is designed to help you lead both inside and outside of your group.

STUDY BREAKDOWN



THE PASSAGE

Each study begins with the portion of Scripture that you'll be exploring that week.



BEFORE THE STUDY

This section is designed to enrich your own personal understanding of each passage as you prepare to lead your friends.



DURING THE STUDY

This section provides you with everything needed to lead an engaging study. Pay attention to section headers and pacing icons.



AFTER THE STUDY

This section is designed to help you capture what God is doing in the lives of your friends and identify ways to help them grow closer to Jesus outside of the study.

ADDITIONAL TOOLS



PACING ICONS

Keep track of how much time the section should take



GO DEEPER

Go deeper into the passage with Bible Project's explainer videos



LEARN & LEAD

Lead well by learning more with InterVarsity's online training and resources

Weekly Preparation

Preparation is crucial to leading a great study! Set aside one hour each week to prepare. If other leaders are using the same study, prepare together! For more on preparing, visit howto.bible/how-prepare.



STUDY PASSAGE 45 MIN

Before you consider what God has for your friends, consider what he has for you. Study the passage and apply it to your own life first. The best leaders lead from personal experience.



REVIEW LEADER GUIDE 10 MIN

Review the study in the Leader Guide and familiarize yourself with the questions and content. The more familiar you are with the guide the less you'll have to reference it during the study, which frees you up to focus on the discussion.



PRAY 5 MIN

Pray that the LORD would meet you and your friends through each study, and watch for how he shows up!



INVITE

Invite by sharing *why* not *what*. Rather than just sharing the place, time, and content of your study (i.e. the what), share why people might enjoy coming to your study (i.e. the why).

Consider your why. Is it to ask questions about faith? Grow in faith? Grow closer as friends? Learn how God can use us to make a difference? Clarify your "why," and then share it!

First time invitations are best done in-person. However, a text reminder the day of each study is also helpful.

How to Lead Study

Leading an engaging study is the best way for your friends to encounter and follow Jesus! Below are the three parts to every study. For more training, visit howto.bible.

SHAPE OF DISCOVERY STUDY



ENTERING THE PASSAGE

What does it say?

The goal while entering the passage is to observe what it says. Use the prompts in this section to help your group understand the background, identify the facts (e.g. who, what, when, where, etc.), and engage their senses and emotions. The key is to be curious and ask questions about everything!



DISCUSSING THE PASSAGE

What does it mean?

The goal while discussing the passage is to interpret what it means. Use the prompts in this section to gather and discuss observations and questions. While observations focus on the what, interpretation questions focus on the why. The key is to discover why the author wrote this passage, what they were trying to communicate, and how the original audience would have understood it.



APPLYING THE PASSAGE

What does it mean to me, us, and our world?

The goal while applying the passage is to discover what it means for us and how we are meant to live our lives differently in light of it. Use the prompts in this section to summarize, clarify, and respond to the meaning of the passage. The key is to seek transformation, not just more information - about the Bible!

Discussion Guidelines

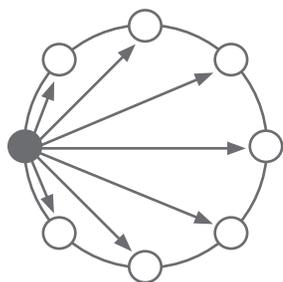
Review the Discussion Guidelines below as you begin the first few studies. Revisit them any time someone new attends. This will help everyone know what to expect.

PARTICIPATION IS CRUCIAL

In a Traditional Study, the *Leader* uses *their* questions to drive the discussion. However, in a Discovery Study, it's the *group's* questions that drive the discussion. Discovery Studies are more engaging and interactive, but they only work if everyone participates.

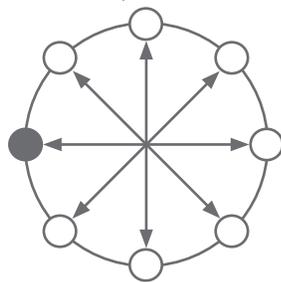
TRADITIONAL STUDY

Leader Driven



DISCOVERY STUDY

Group Driven



ASSUME YOU KNOW NOTHING

Whether the passage being studied is very familiar or completely foreign, it's best for everyone to assume they are reading it for the first time.

Sometimes knowing something can keep you from seeing something new. Focus on the passage and keep outside knowledge to a minimum.

BE REAL

Small Groups aren't just Bible Studies. They're communities, and the best communities are real and authentic. No one is perfect and everyone has questions so be real with one another.

HAVE SOME RESPECT

Everyone does not have to agree, but everyone must respect each other. The best discussions have multiple viewpoints.

Discussion Tips

Use the tips below to facilitate a great discussion. For more tips, visit InterVarsity's howto.bible.

ENTERING THE PASSAGE

Context First. Then Handouts.

Always give context (i.e. Prior to Passage) first before giving handouts. Context is critical but people tend to stop listening when given handouts.

Embrace Silence

Silence can be awkward but it's crucial for studying the passage. Silent study will make for better sharing later. Give people between 3-5 minutes of silent study.

DISCUSSING THE PASSAGE

Facilitate First. Then Share.

When discussing questions, don't share your thoughts right away. Focus on facilitating the discussion first. Then share.

Avoid Long Tangents

People lose focus with long tangents. Refocus your group by either repeating the original question or asking the next one.

Involve Everyone

Try to get everyone to share at least once during each study. Keep asking, "What do others think?"

Text the Answer

Use the passage rather than opinions to answer questions—"Where do you see that in the passage?"

Keep It Moving

Don't wait for the discussion to die before asking the next question. Move on as the discussion begins to slow.

Use Quick Recaps

Quickly summarize the story before moving on to next section of text. It helps build tension and momentum.

APPLYING THE PASSAGE

Use Group Lingo

Use the group's language rather than the guide's as much as possible. It will feel more personal and natural.

Choose One Application

Discuss only *one* Application Option. Choose the one that best fits your group's discussion.

Study Plan

Study	Date	Time	Location
One			
Two			
Three			
Four			
Five			
Six			
Seven			
Eight			

DATE & TIME

There is rarely a perfect time for everyone. Just pick a time that works for most people and be consistent.

LOCATION

Choose a place that is quiet, relaxed, and familiar to your group.

HOSPITALITY

Make people feel at home with snacks, drinks, and a comfortable setting. Invite your friends to bring snacks as well.

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Luke 5:1-11

¹One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God.

²He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore.

Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." ⁵Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. ⁸When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from

me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ⁹For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." ¹¹So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.



Before the Study

PREPARING

In order to better understand the meaning of a passage, it's critical to know how the *original audience* would have heard it. The context below has been provided for you to better understand the world in which these listeners lived. It will also be helpful in answering cultural questions that arise during the study.



LUKE OVERVIEW

Watch this overview to see how each study fits into the large story of Jesus: bibleproject.com/explore/video/luke/

The Lake of Gennesaret (v. 1)

This was another name for the Sea of Galilee. The lake refers specifically to the area just south of Capernaum and was famed for its fishing industry which was especially profitable in the days of Jesus.

Simon Peter (v. 2, 8)

In this culture, there was significance in the meaning of names. The name Simon means "he has heard" while the name Peter means "rock," which would have great significance in Simon Peter's life (Matthew 16:18).

Deep Water (v. 4)

Fishermen at Lake Gennesaret knew that the best fishing was done by night in the deep water. During the daytime they fished in the shallow water.

Greatest Catch (v. 6)

In this culture, people believed in miracles as a way of revealing something about the one performing them. Other people were noted performing miracles throughout the Bible, but they only did so through prayer or calling on God.

Go Away! (v. 8)

In this culture, it was readily believed that if you saw God, you would die (Exodus 33:20). It was believed that God was so perfect and awesome that his mere presence caused one to be acutely aware of their flaws and imperfections, like seeing your complexion under a bright light. Like a blinding light or deafening sound, this experience was so overwhelming it was lethal (Isaiah 6:1-8).

Followed Him (v. 11)

In Jewish culture, it was customary for a Rabbi to invite students to sit under their teaching. It was an honor similar to the way a prestigious university professor might invite a graduate student to be a research assistant under them. However, the teaching style was based more off of an apprenticeship model than a classroom model.



During the Study

ENTERING THE PASSAGE 5-10 MIN

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

Review the Discussion Guidelines (page six) before beginning.

PRIOR TO THIS PASSAGE

Jesus was thought to have been just another guy until he began miraculously healing people from various types of illnesses. In this story, Jesus is teaching in a small fishing town, called Capernaum, on the Lake of Gennesaret. The townspeople are buzzing about who this Jesus guy is. Our story starts as a large crowd forms to see him for themselves.

READ ALOUD

Have three people read the passage aloud for the group. You can use the sections on the following page to assign verses to read.

CREATIVE ENTRY

Imagine you are Simon Peter, a professional fisherman who had just pulled an all-nighter with nothing to show for it. You are discouraged and exhausted. You had just finished cleaning out your nets and are ready to go home when a new teacher in town asks if he can use your boat. What goes through your mind?

STUDY SILENTLY

Invite everyone to reread the passage silently. Note who, where, when, and what. Imagine yourself in the story. Note repeated words, comparisons and contrasts. Develop questions for further discussion.

DISCUSSING THE PASSAGE 40 MIN

SHARE OBSERVATIONS. GATHER QUESTIONS.

First, invite everyone to share their observations. Then, gather questions asking for verse references and write them in their respective sections below. Do not discuss until everyone has shared. Finally, use the checkboxes to select no more than six questions to discuss.

DISCUSS QUESTIONS

If You Say So... (v.1-7)

- Why did Peter, a professional fisherman, listen to Jesus, a teacher, and let down his nets? (v.5)
- _____
- _____

Hooked! (v.8-11)

- Why does Simon Peter call Jesus "Master" initially but "Lord" after they caught all of the fish? (v.5)
- Why does Peter respond this way especially after such a great catch? What is he afraid of? (v.8)
 - Imagine you had just walked into class during your first week of school. You were feeling confident and excited to meet new people until you saw that one person that everyone loves. They are confident, effortlessly good looking and have the attention of everyone. How do you feel in the presence of that person?
- What does Jesus mean when he says that they will "fish for people?" (v.10)
- Consider everything that these men would have to leave in order to follow Jesus. Why would they do that? (v.11)
- _____
- _____

APPLYING THE PASSAGE



10-15
MIN

SUMMARY

All the cards seemed to be stacked against catching anything, yet after listening to Jesus, Simon hits the jackpot of his fishing career. In what should have been a celebratory moment, the fish don't even matter to Simon. What matters is that he knows he is standing face-to-face with the living God, and it crushes him. Throughout the Bible, when people are in the presence of God, they feel completely overcome by his power to the point of death. Yet, Jesus does not leave Simon in a place of fear. He responds telling him not to fear and to follow him. Simon Peter's response is significant. He leaves his fishing business at the height of his career because he experiences something so extraordinary that he can no longer settle for the ordinary.

BIG IDEA

When you experience God's extraordinary power in life, you can no longer settle for an ordinary life.

APPLICATION OPTIONS

Discuss *one* Application Option from the next page. Then finish by sharing The Bigger Story and Creative Response.

THE BIGGER STORY

Yet, the reality is that most of us settle for our own plans because, if we're honest, we don't see God as that extraordinary. In fact, we won't ever see him as offering something better until we see the bigger story. As mentioned, if people came face-to-face with God, they died. Yet, Simon doesn't, which either means Jesus wasn't God or someone else died in his place. On the cross, Jesus died in humanity's place so that we could experience the fullness of God's love and power. It's only when we see that we are motivated to leave our ordinary lives for him.

CREATIVE RESPONSE

Depending on the comfort of your group, you can simply pray or creatively respond through journaling, music, or another form of prayer.

APPLICATION OPTIONS

Jesus In the Ordinary

Simon Peter was by the shore for work, not to hear Jesus' teaching. Yet Jesus came into Simon Peter's ordinary world and showed him his power.

Do you think Jesus would want to get into your boat? Why or why not? How would you like to experience God's presence in your life this semester?

Letting Down Your Nets

Even though Simon Peter knew Jesus was a great teacher, he assumed he was the professional fisherman in the boat. Despite Simon Peter's skepticism, he takes a risk and goes out to deeper water, releases his nets, and is blown away by the catch he gets. **What are the "nets"**

that you hang onto for control in your life? What holds you back from dropping your "nets" and trusting Jesus? How could you begin to loosen your grip and trust him more this semester?

Redefining Majors

Simon Peter majored in fishing. He studied and practiced the trade of fishing his whole life until Jesus showed up. Yet, Jesus doesn't change his major. He redefines it - "from now on you will fish for people." **Why did you choose your major? How might Jesus redefine your major for his purposes? How would that change the way you approach school this semester?**

