

JESUS

through the eyes of the unlikely

Week of February 26 – Do Not Worry¹

Overview:

Who do *you* see when you look at Jesus? Teacher? Miracle worker? Divine Son of God? All of these? Our view of Jesus is shaped by our own perspective, our church history, and our study of scripture. Over the next several weeks, we will view Jesus from Luke's perspective, through the eyes of some unlikely characters he met while on earth. We'll discover themes like identity, power, surrender, forgiveness, redemption, and many more. We pray that as you see Jesus in fresh ways, you are drawn to follow Jesus more closely and become more like him every day.²

Group Objectives:

Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purpose of community groups

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members.
- For each person to release one worry into God's hands in a practical way.

DNA statement(s) tie-in:

- *We are empowered by the Holy Spirit* —The Holy Spirit within us enables us to live a life beyond belief—a life filled with joy purpose and power. We live in a supernatural reality that includes, yet transcends, the physical universe.

Conversation Starters:

- Share about a time when God provided for your needs in a miraculous (or at least surprising) way. What happened as a result?

Listening to God

- Where did you see God at work last week? How were you able to join him?

Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion

When you think of worries in your own life, what comes to mind? Health, food, housing, jobs, or something else? Today's text (Luke 12:22-34) is like a perhaps more familiar one in Matthew 6. With anxiety and mental illness at an all time high in our society, it seems prudent to repeat the teaching for emphasis. Look for comparisons and contrasts between the two texts and remember that Luke's audience was primarily Gentiles; Matthew wrote mainly to Jews. While the directive is clear (Do not worry!), our daily choices may belie our willingness to obey.

¹ This week's lesson was written by Dawn Gentry.

² For a monthly reading and devotional guide to accompany this series in Luke, go to cccomaha.info.

- **Read Luke 12:22-34**
 - What are some of the specific categories Luke reminds us not to worry about?
 - What examples does Luke use as reminders of what it looks like to “not worry”?
 - How does fear relate to worry? (see verses 32-34) Why do you think so many passages in scripture remind us to “Fear not!”?
 - Have you ever felt convicted to sell all your possessions? How might possessions lead us to worry? How might possessions keep us from a right relationship with God?
 - See also Matthew 19:16-26
- **Read Matthew 6:25-34**
 - What does Matthew remind us not to worry about? Do you notice any differences between Matthew and Luke?
 - Read verse 33 again. What do you think “all these things” refers to? Will God provide everything we need? Or everything we **think** we need?
 - Do you ever find yourself worrying about tomorrow? What are some practical ways we can overcome this tendency?

Leaning into Obedience:

- Lent is a season celebrated by many Christians as a way to prepare oneself for Easter and Christ’s resurrection. (Lent started on Ash Wednesday, February 22, this year). During Lent, many people fast from food, social media, or other things to increase their focus on God and time spent in prayer.
 - How might “giving up something for Lent” support our desire to worry less? How could it be a formative practice that helps us to “seek first God’s kingdom”?
- What “worry” or “fear” is God calling you to release this week?
 - How can the group encourage you this week as you respond?
- How do you sense God calling you to respond to this passage?
 - Is there an example to follow? A command to obey?

Prayer Prompts:

- Invite members of the group to share personal prayer requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following questions.
Where have I fallen prey to worry? How can I turn this concern over to God?
- Option: Read Psalm 103:1-18 over your group. Make a list of all the blessings God has already provided each of us.