



LC STUDY GUIDE
“Neighbor”

The Passage: Luke 7:11-17
May 28 – June 13

How to use the LC Study Guide

Hello Leaders! Thank you for your ongoing commitment to pursue Christian community and the study of Scripture that leads to life transformation in Christ and strives to serve “the other.”

These studies have been designed with the following aspects in mind:

1. To facilitate a discussion on the passage of Scripture that was preached that particular Sunday using the Inductive Bible Study Method (not necessarily on the themes of that particular sermon). In summary, this method stresses “Observation” (what the reader can see from the text), “Interpretation” (what we can learn when we study the text with various tools, commentaries, and resources), and “Application” (how we can apply the Scripture to our lives).
2. Groups using this study range from the new leader to the highly experienced. Groups themselves have their own context. This study attempts to hit the middle. The stronger studies require about an hour or two of leader preparation to contextualize this resource to the needs and personalities of your group.
3. In addition to prep time, please spend time in prayer during preparation and before and after the study. It’s the power of the Holy Spirit that illuminates the Word of Scripture and we are humbled that He uses our combined efforts as part of this work. (For more tips on using this study, please see the endnotes.)

As always, we are so grateful for you, your gifting, your servant leadership and all that you do for the cause of Christ. Please let us know if we can help you in any way.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Tim, on behalf of the LC Team

Introduction

As the ministry year nearly comes to a close, our sermon series shifts to a series on neighboring and focusing on others. Here in this passage, Jesus is walking through a neighboring town in the midst of a funeral procession. At this point, he is moved by the grief of the mother and decides to be a neighbor who gets involved and do something about it.

Luke 7:11-17

¹¹ Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. ¹² As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”

¹⁴ Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

¹⁶ They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” ¹⁷ This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country

O – What details of the story stand out to you?

O – From the text, we recognize this miracle was as much for the mother as it was for the young man. Identify the number of ways life comes back for this family.

(The obvious ones are the young man and the mother’s grief. But because the mother was also a widow, her son was likely the main provider for her as well. Jesus, the giver of life, is blessing them in numerous ways here.)

O/I – In the preceding story, where Jesus heals the daughter of the centurion because of the man’s faith, we look at this story and ask, where is the faith in this story that moves Jesus to act?

(It’s important to note that Jesus does not only heal in response to the faith around him. One might argue that in this instance, it was the faith of Jesus moved by his sympathy for the grieving mother that was on full display.)

O – What type of foreshadowing do you see Luke implying here with a grieving mother and her son being brought to life? Can you identify the distinctions?

(Though Luke does not include Mary’s grief the same way John does, this is a foreshadowing of Jesus’ death and his mother’s grief ... and three days later being raised back to life. This time, there is no second physical death like with the young man, but rather an ascension into heaven along with the invitation for all to live the resurrected life.)

A – Verse 15 tells us the young man started talking upon being brought back to life. Perhaps his first words were, “What happened?” Identify one volunteer to be the young man and use your imaginations to act out the scene.

Afterwards, discuss what you could relate to in the ways Jesus may have healed you or brought grace into your life.

(Consider the themes of loss and emptiness and how Jesus brings hope and is a giver of all forms of life.)

I – Often the miracle stories contain some form of imagination or response from the other characters of the story. In this one, Jesus felt mercy for the widowed mother and raised her son back to life in sympathy. What do you think Luke hopes his readers appreciate in this passage?

(While it is fairly speculative, Luke seems to connect this story with the one previous. In the former, he describes a father with having enough faith in Jesus for his daughter to be healed. In this miracle however, Luke seems to want to highlight Jesus' compassion and the normalcy of his humanity.)

A – What can we learn and apply from what Jesus showed us here regarding sympathy for neighbor and being an agent of healing for those in need?

-
- a. Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single meeting. Take some time to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best. Select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your Life Community group.
 - b. Complement these questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? what do others think?)
 - c. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don't rush people but encourage participation. Avoid answering your own questions!
 - d. Application: Pace the study to conclude with difference-making application.
 - e. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into “teaching” rather than facilitating, causing people to feel distracted or de-powered.