



**CHRIST ON
CAMPUS**

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Christ on Campus – Participant’s Guide

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Journey... Christ on Campus Studies in the Gospel of Luke

...is about Christ on the street, Jesus in person, God on campus! It's about the great reversal of God's kingdom; the leaven of God's grace permeating the dough of common life impacting and elevating our daily existence.

Have you ever wished that things were different - that even if the rich got richer the poor didn't get poorer? What if there was a real Prince and the Pauper story where those on top learned what life was like for those on the bottom and the poor were able to experience the good life?

As I am writing this, I recently had my own story reversal when I looked at my bank account to discover that several thousand dollars had made its way back into my checking account from a bank fraud recovery. I had been scammed through an elaborate computer fraud protection scheme and lost thousands that I had little hope of retrieving. Imagine my surprise and relief to find my money had been refunded to my account safe and sound. The scammers were stopped, and my bank account saved.

Luke, the author of the gospel ascribed to him, taps into this surprising life turnabout theme. The good news of Jesus is a real Robinhood story where rich and poor trade places. He lays out his purpose in the introduction. He's writing an orderly account about the things that have been fulfilled among them. Orderly, in the well-organized fashion that Luke tells the story of Jesus beginning with the introduction

in chapters 1-2, followed by an account of Jesus and His mission in chapters 3-9. Chapters 9-19 take us on a discipleship journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem ending with chapters 19-24 in Jerusalem where Jesus is rejected, crucified, and rises again.

The things fulfilled among them place emphasis on how Jesus brought good news to those who had been left out of God's blessing to Abraham intended for all. Luke presents Jesus as the Suffering Servant messiah that set His course toward Jerusalem at the very start of His ministry in order to give His life for the world (Luke 9:51).

Another important theme in the story of Luke about Jesus is His emphasis on the "unimportant." People like Joseph and Mary, Zachariah and Elizabeth, and old saints like Anna and Simeon. He weaves the account of Jesus' life around tax collector outcasts, female disciples, and 12 young men that no rabbi would have accepted as their students. In chapter 6 where Luke records Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount, the unlikely blessed are the poor, the hungry, those who weep, and the hated. It is the story of the upside-down kingdom where the last have become first and the first are now in last place.

Luke's account of Jesus is unique and necessary by providing a perspective on Jesus and His mission that others only touch on. It's necessary because it's true, but it also describes Luke's own experience with Jesus as a non-Jewish outsider - the topic for the first lesson in this series. A kingdom for the unexpected and undeserved was personal for Luke, but also true to the very core of the Jesus narrative. It was so central that Luke ends the account of Jesus with a story about seeing Jesus for who He really is - Messiah for the unknown and unimportant.

Following the tragic crucifixion two of Jesus' lesser-known disciples are walking away from Jerusalem downcast and discouraged because of His demise. Jesus shows up and walks with them toward the small town of Emmaus where they are headed for the night. He talks with them along the way and reminds them of how the scriptures foretold that the Messiah had to suffer, would be rejected, crucified, and rise again on the third day. While they clung to their own false messianic assumptions, He remained eclipsed from their view. It wasn't until they reached the inn where they were staying and they watched Him break the bread reminiscent of His own broken body on the cross that their eyes were opened, and they finally recognized Him. While they clung to the messiah of their own willful dreams the real

messiah predicted in the scriptures was opaque and hidden from their view.

There are many narratives of Jesus on campus today. There is the church Jesus compelling students to form a connection with a church or campus fellowship during their years in college. There's the prophetic Jesus with wild spokesmen out on the corner yelling at students about their sins and unless they change their ways they're going straight to hell. There is the moral Jesus that college professors refer to - the One who performed no miracles but shared great moral teachings. But where is the Jesus that Luke was introducing to Theophilus? The Jesus that welcomed children and young people? The Jesus that valued the marginalized? The Jesus that proclaimed a blessed kingdom for all? This is the Christ needed on today's campus. It is the Jesus that students must hear about because He is the Christ that they need but He is also the real Jesus, the historical Jesus - the Jesus that Luke wanted the whole world to know and love!

This is the Jesus we want to learn more about in this Journey series. Luke admits that there have been many who undertook to write an account of Jesus and His ministry but this one is different. This is the story of Jesus for today's student and campus. It is an orderly account of the things that Jesus fulfilled and is continuing to fulfill in students' lives today.

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Breaking Down *Journey*



Journey was created for larger weekly on or off campus meetings in a teaching format and small group discussion. The beginning story or illustration introduces the topic of study.

- **Journey Together** helps ease participants into the topic through ice-breaker related questions.
- **Road Map** is the main passage for discussion followed by questions that help draw out the topic. If you are leading *Journey*, feel free to depart from these as needed and come up with your own questions, while staying on track with the main direction of the study laid out in the leader's guide.
- **My Story** has been prepared as a continuation of the larger group meetings for smaller groups that meet during the week to check in with one another and reflect on how God is using *Journey* in their daily life. We recommend these groups be flexible in terms of location and meeting time. Also, the amount of questions are limited in the My Story section, allowing for more personal interactions and life application.

Getting the most out of *Journey*

Here's what you're going to need for *Christ on Campus*:

- Good soil – an open and receptive heart
- Working the soil - Determination and diligence
- Hunger and thirst - Desire to follow God as He leads
- We also strongly advise reading the entire book of Luke since *Journey* only zeros in on selected episodes. Use this study guide for your group reading/discussion. The important thing is to really lean into Luke's testimony. In fact, set it aside if it's getting in the way of hearing Luke's story. Remember, Jesus is the real study, not *Journey*!

Best Practices: The five S's of hearing and discerning God's voice

- **Seek:** Pray for God to open up the passage for you. Is there a promise for you to claim, a sin to confess, a word for you to follow, an insight to share?

- **Soak:** Read the passage each day and write down any observations, thoughts, questions, connections or anything God speaks to you about the passage.
- **Seal:** Seal God's word to you deep within your heart by taking some time to meditate on the most important truth to you this week. Ask God to open the deeper recesses of your heart to teach you what you need most for your life this week.
- **Script:** Journal or write if even a few lines, noting the ways that God spoke to you from the passage, your meditation, or our group time together. This will help you keep better track of God's voice and the way He is speaking through scripture.
- **Share:** Share with someone what you are learning from your time with God. As you share what you are learning from your time with God in Journey. As you share what you are learning, it will help drive God's word home to you even more and you will notice how God will use what He has revealed to you to bless others.

Journey
Covenant

I want to follow Jesus in the noble purpose He has for me. I want to participate in Journey to enhance my own relationship with God this year. I will commit to doing the weekly assignments and small group meetings.

Signature _____

My best times of availability are

Morning: _____

Evening: _____

Email address _____

Cell Phone _____

Who Was Luke?

Formalism in literature is a study of the text without any outside influence. It disregards or ignores the author's intent or purpose. It was a movement away from Romanticism which centered on the artist and individual creative genius. The goal of formalism like most reactive movements had its positive intent but has been argued by some to have shifted the pendulum too far. This would certainly be the case in the reading of Luke and Acts if we were to completely disregard who Luke was or why he was writing his two-volume set on the mission and message of Jesus. His own conversion, background as a Jewish outsider, and shared ministry with the apostle Paul are integral to both volumes. Let's prepare to learn what we can in this first study about this interesting author who felt the need to add his personal account of the story of Jesus!



1. Who's your favorite author and why?

2. Which of the four gospels have you read most and why?



Colossians 4:14/Acts 16:6-10

According to Paul, Luke was a Greek physician. The verses in Acts 16 are the first reference we have in his writing of the transition from “they” to “we,” indicating where Luke joined Paul early in his second missionary tour as they left modern-day Turkey and entered Europe. Was Luke the “man from Macedonia” Paul saw in his dream inviting them to share the gospel in the territory of Greece? We will probably never know this side of eternity.

1. Paul has never met these people, yet he cares enough. What is significant about Luke’s participation in the missionary efforts of Paul? What influence do you think Paul might have had on Luke and his writings?

2. What is important to note about Luke’s Greek ethnicity or his career as a physician? How might these contribute to his participation in Paul’s missionary tour or his account of Jesus’ mission and message?

Luke 1:1-4

3. What conclusions might we draw about Luke from his introduction?

4. What explanations that Luke gives for providing an orderly account of the story of Jesus stand out to you and why?

5. How confident or comfortable are you with Luke's intent on sharing his own detail of the eyewitness accounts of what happened among them from the beginning?

6. What do you hope to learn or experience from Luke's careful telling of the story of Jesus and His mission? What influence are you expecting Luke's story will have for your witness on campus?

"The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

2 Timothy 2:2

7. How can this group pray for you today?

Who Was Theophilus?

Billy Graham, favorite American preacher and evangelist, had great spiritual influence in the White House over presidents from Richard Nixon to Barak Obama, but he never held a public office. He was once asked by a television anchor why he had not run for president with the notoriety and respect he had across the nation. He replied, "I had a higher calling."

The responsibility of speaking truth to power is never easy - just ask Elijah who led perhaps the greatest revival and reformation in Israel's history but ran from Queen Jezebel when she threatened retribution. We don't know for sure who Theophilus was, but we do know that Luke was compelled to write to him about "the things that had been fulfilled among us." Theophilus (Greek) meaning "friend of God" may have been a title or a surname. We wish we had more information about this mysterious individual, but even the little information we have is enough inspiration to see how God can use us on campus to share with faculty, staff, or the people God places in our path.



1. What famous people have you had the opportunity to meet?

2. Who would you want to write the biography of your life?



Luke 1:1-4/Acts 1:1-5

1. Why is it important to learn about who Luke is addressing his letters to?

2. Between the two volumes of Luke and Acts which one do you favor and why?

Acts 28:17-30

3. How do you feel about Paul's ministry ending in Luke's two-volume set?

4. What does the last verse in Acts tell you about Luke's central concern for writing both Luke and Acts?

5. What impact do you imagine Paul's statement that "God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles and they will listen" had on Theophilus?

6. Theophilus means “friend of God.” What would it take for some of your closest friends to become a friend of God? How could God use you to introduce them to Jesus?

7. The book of Acts trails off with no clear ending, implying that the story of Jesus’ mission and message continues. What stories are being written on your campus to add to the continuing story of Acts?

8. How can this group pray for you today?

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

Colossians 4:5, 6



1. How has God been using *Journey* in your life this week?

2. How does Jesus mean even more to you after this week’s lesson?

Who Was Jesus?

Imagine my surprise meeting someone in the Piggly Wiggly grocery store with a similar last name as mine. Pickell is not a common name. Bob not only had a similar name - Pickle - but his face was tear-shaped like my dad's. Bob was the manager of the store and we talked often since the store was in walking distance from our house. According to him we were related. The original family name was Pickshill and indicated where we came from in England. The family eventually migrated to Pennsylvania. One branch of the family settled in Michigan (my dad's family) and another branch traveled south to Tennessee (his family). Both families did a name change. Mine took Pickell while his just went with Pickle.

I was happy to have met Bob and discover something about my family history until my son was doing some digging and turned up a family tree for both my father's side and my mother. I learned that I had no connection to Bob whatsoever even though we had similar last names. Luke wanted to be clear about who Jesus was and why it mattered. We've learned a little about the author, who he was addressing in the letter. Now it's time to learn about the person he was writing about.



1. What do you know about your family tree?

2. What would you most like to learn about Jesus?



Luke 3:21-38

1. What surprises you most about Jesus' genealogy?

2. What difference does it make that Luke places Jesus' baptism and mission pronouncement before His human genealogical record

3. According to John 8:19-30 there was ongoing discussion about Jesus' father. The Pharisees implied Jesus was illegitimate. How does Luke's presentation of Jesus' background help settle this issue?

4. Matthew also records a genealogical record of Jesus that links Him to King David and Abraham. Luke goes back further linking Jesus all the way to Adam. What do you think he might be saying about Jesus and the first man?

5. If Jesus is the new Adam, how have you experienced the newness of belonging to Him and joining His family?

6. How can this group pray for you today?

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

Colossians 1:15-17



1. How has God been using Journey in your life this week on campus?

2. What can you share with others that you are learning about Jesus?

3. How does it feel to belong to the family of the New Adam?

The Mission of Jesus

Mission statements matter. I Googled some good ones –

- TED: Spread ideas
- United Airlines: Connecting people, Uniting the world
- Tesla: To accelerate the world's transition to sustainable energy
- Google: To organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useable

I really like Target's mission statement:

- To help all families discover the joy of everyday life

Willow Creek Church's statement is impressive:

- Love God. Love people. Change the world.

Here's the Adventist Christian Fellowship mission statement:

- Reach the campus. Change the world.

Did Jesus have a mission statement?



1. What's the most important thing you've done in your life?

2. What would you like your mission statement to be?



Luke 1:26-38

1. What surprises you most about Jesus' birth?

2. What does Son of the Most High, Son of David, and everlasting kingdom reveal about Jesus' mission?

Luke 17:20, 21

3. Why were the Pharisees asking Jesus about the kingdom of God? What is the kingdom of God and what does it have to do with the mission of Jesus?

4. What does Jesus mean that the kingdom of God was already in their midst?

5. Jesus instructed His disciples to pray for the coming of the kingdom. How can you help advance God's kingdom on your campus?

6. How can this group pray for you today?

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."

Luke 12:32



1. How has God been using Journey in your life this week on campus?

2. What are you learning about the mission of Jesus?

3. Where are you experiencing God's kingdom on campus?

The Mind of Jesus

What was your spiritual barometer like at the age of 12? My family and I had undergone a major move from Michigan to Florida and my whole world was turned upside down. Major life transitions can affect big changes in heart and mind. The family move provided an opportunity for entirely new experiences and direction. I started preparing for baptism with our new pastor who I had a great deal of respect for. I remember looking up each verse and filling out each question in the Bible study guides to prepare for my weekly instruction. My dad bought me a big black King James Version study Bible with HMS Richards study notes for my twelfth birthday. I took it all very seriously which was a far cry from the way I had represented myself to my old friends from back home. In a discussion we had about church as grown-ups I said that I would most likely not stay involved, yet here I was preparing for the big commitment.

In comparison with most of us, Jesus' interest and depth concerning spiritual things at such a young age is remarkable. His keen interest and spiritual rigor at the age of 12 is an indicator to the mental and spiritual bent of His life. What can we learn from the mind of Jesus?



1. What do you think about when you think about God?

2. Describe your first personal encounter with God.



Luke 2:41-52

1. What interests you most in this story?

2. What can we learn about Jesus and His interests at this young age?

3. Jesus' parents found Him sitting with the teachers in the temple courts listening and discussing with them. What do you think Jesus might have been discussing with them?

4. It was the Jewish feast of Passover, the most important of all the annual feasts in the Jewish calendar. Jesus, age 12, was attending for the first time. What questions might Jesus have had for the rabbis concerning Passover?

5. "Everyone was amazed at Jesus' understanding and His answers," Luke says. What do you think Jesus understood and what answers do you imagine was He providing?

6. What do we learn from Jesus in this story that He has already comprehended about His Father?

7. How do you think Jesus' first time in the temple helped shape His life and mission?

8. How can we pray for you today?

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Luke 10:27



1. How has God been using Journey in your life this week on campus?

2. What are you learning about the mind of Christ?

Christ in Community!

I suffered a major heart attack last year. They call it the “widow maker.” It’s a massive heart attack that occurs when the left anterior descending artery (LAD) is totally or almost completely blocked, and the heart cannot beat or pump normally. I was very fortunate since the survival rate of such an attack outside a hospital is only 12%. I am now a heart patient, on several meds and on a low cholesterol diet. But the good news is that my cardiac care doctor assures me that I suffered almost no real damage to the heart muscle.

I’ve read that Jesus died of a heart attack. Was it the widow maker? When they went to break his legs, which would have caused Him to slump down and finally die of asphyxiation, they found He was already dead. To confirm His death, they pierced His side and out seeped water and blood plasma indicating that His heart had stopped. Jesus had a heart problem. It beat way too hard for God and the human family and the crushing sin of the world caused His divine/human heart to break. What can the heart of Jesus teach us about the heart of God?



1. What do people mean by the phrase “Bless your heart”?

2. Who is the best hearted soul that you know and why?



Luke 5:12-16

1. What do you appreciate most about this story?

2. Why did Jesus touch the man before healing him?

3. When have you felt shunned like a leper? How did Jesus touch you?

4. We know that God has the power to heal, but is He willing? What do we learn about the heart of God when Jesus responds to the man, "I am willing"?

Luke 6:17-36

5. What can we learn from the Sermon on the Mount about the heart of Jesus?

6. How was Jesus the very example for loving our enemies? How difficult do you find this command and why?

7. What surprises you and impresses you most about the heart of Jesus?

8. How can we pray for you today?

"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Colossians 3:17b-19



1. How has God been using Journey in your life this week on campus?

2. What are you learning about the heart of Christ?

3. When did you first experience God's great love for you?

The Joy of Jesus

It was 3 a.m. when my wife was suddenly awakened from an exhausted sleep by the sound of a distant wailing. We were camped out on a church school gym floor with our youth group after a day of tubing down the Ichetucknee River in North Florida. My wife instinctively reached out her hand to the ground beside her where our eighth-month-old son had been sleeping - nothing... "Ryan is gone!" Now I was awake. "Ryan's gone?" I followed the wailing across the gym and out into the street where in the moonlight I found our son crawling back and forth very distraught and alone. Imagine our joy and relief to find him, hold him, and know that he was safe in our arms again.

This is the joy that Jesus describes from the very heart of God when the lost are found. I invite you to experience His joy with me in a fresh look at the three parables of grace.



1. Have you ever been lost? What did that feel like?

2. What has brought you the most joy in life?



Luke 15:1-32

1. Describe the circumstances that prompted these parables?

2. Who do you most identify with, the Pharisees and teachers of the law or the tax collectors and sinners, and why?

3. What do you appreciate most about these stories?

4. How would you contrast the "muttering" of the Pharisees and teachers of the law with the rejoicing in heaven, rejoicing before the angels, and the homecoming banquet prepared by the Father?

5. What comparisons can you make between the lost coin and the older son, between the lost sheep and the prodigal son? How do these illustrate the tax collectors and sinners and the Pharisees and teachers of the law?

6. What surprises you most about the waiting, watching, running father? Which son do you most relate to and why?

7. According to these parables what brings joy in heaven and to the heart of God? How does Jesus describe that joy?

8. How can we pray for you today?

“At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, ‘I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.’”

Luke 10:21



1. How has God been using *Journey* in your life this week?

2. What is one thing you have been able to share with others from the letter to the Colossians?

The Followers of Jesus

The friends I made in college were the best I ever had. In fact, a few of my college friends are still some of my closest friends today. What was so different about my college friends? Maturity. My friends in college were ready for deeper and more mature relationships. We were preparing for life now and our conversations and associations were more focused. I found myself able to be more open to people and more vulnerable. Dating was also easier. There were less expectations in comparison to any relationships I had in high school. College also provided an opportunity to remake myself and choose my own social group. I learned about the importance of our friend choice in college. It's true that your friends can make or break you - pull you down or build you up.

Scripture says that Jesus chose His followers and yet He also called them His friends (John 15:15, 16). What can we learn about Jesus from those closest to Him?



1. Who are your closest friends and what do they say about you?

2. What's the most important thing you have learned about being a good friend?



Luke 8:1-15

1. What surprises you most about these verses?

2. What do you imagine it was like traveling with Jesus as a woman? What do these women followers teach us about Jesus?

3. Would you consider this list of women as additional disciples? Why or why not? Why do you think Luke mentions these women when none of the other gospel writers do?

4. What is the main point of Jesus' parable of the sower? What is the connection between it and the list of followers Luke has provided?

5. What kind of follower is indicated by each type of soil? What kind of soil best describes your relationship to the mission of Jesus right now?

6. What other surprising followers of Jesus are you aware of? How important are Jesus followers to His overall mission?

7. What is the most important thing you have learned or been reminded of in today's study about Christ on campus?

8. How can we pray for you today?

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."

Luke 12:32



1. How has God been using Journey in your life this week on campus?

2. What do you appreciate most about the team of students you live and minister with?

Who Is My Neighbor?

Who is my neighbor? There is probably no better teacher or example for this question than Fred Rogers, director and star of his own second longest running children's television show, *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*. As a Presbyterian minister, Rogers most likely took his cue of being a neighbor from Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan since the program focus was more on being a good neighbor than who belonged or who did not.

The truth is that making neighbors did not come easy for Mr. Rogers. Wikipedia reveals he had a difficult childhood. Shy, introverted, and overweight, he was frequently homebound after suffering bouts of asthma. He was bullied as a child for his weight and called "Fat Freddy." According to Morgan Neville, director of the 2018 documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*, Rogers had a "lonely childhood ... I think he made friends with himself as much as he could. He had a ventriloquist dummy, he had [stuffed] animals, and he would create his own worlds in his childhood bedroom."

Like all of us, Mr. Rogers needed a good neighbor or two, especially in his challenging years as a young student. His rough childhood taught him how important it is to love ourselves for who we are and to extend the hand of friendship.



1. Have you ever been helped by a stranger? (Describe.)

2. What qualities do you hope for in a good neighbor?



Luke 10:25-37

1. Why do you think Jesus told this parable in response to the lawyer's question?

2. Why do you think the priest and Levite didn't stop to help the man who had been robbed?

3. What do you think motivated the Samaritan to stop and help the man?

4. What does a Good Samaritan on campus look like? How often do you keep a look out for those needing a Good Samaritan?

5. Who has been a Good Samaritan to you?

6. After reading this parable who would you say is your neighbor?

7. What is the most important thing you have learned or been reminded of in today's study about Christ on campus?

8. How can we pray for you today?

"Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

James 2:15-17



1. How has God been using Journey in your life this week on campus?

2. Who does the Good Samaritan most remind you of?

3. What is God teaching you about being a good neighbor on campus?

Prayer on Campus

Red Moon Rising is the story of a prayer movement that has swept over many countries spawning 24-hour houses of prayer with stories of changed lives in every situation. Red moon comes from the prophecy in Joel 2 about young men receiving visions and old men having dreams and the moon turning blood red in the last days. The Apostle Peter indicated that Joel's prophecy was being fulfilled at Pentecost when Jesus' followers were filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking to others about God in languages they were not familiar with. God was breaking down the language barrier to share the good news of His kingdom.

Does prayer work on campus? Can God ignite students with answers to prayer that will cause the entire campus to become aware of His presence? The truth is all great American revivals started with students gathering to pray. Most of the great movements in our world have originated on college and university campuses. What could happen today if students turned their hearts toward God in prayer for the transformation of their friends and campus? Everycampus.com is a prayer movement of Christian students on campuses just like yours with this very mission. Check it out and join the mission of God on campus!



1. What are some of your most surprising prayer experiences?

2. What is the thing you have found hardest to pray for?



Luke 11:1-13

1. What are your first thoughts or questions from this passage?

2. What motivated the disciples to ask Jesus to teach them how to pray?

3. What are the first elements in Jesus' model prayer? Why are these the priority?

4. How important was prayer to Jesus? Why does Jesus encourage us to not give up on prayer?

5. What encouragement does Jesus give that our prayers are heard and will be answered?

6. What other things does Jesus remind us to pray for?

7. What are you praying for on your campus?

8. What is the most important thing you have learned or been reminded of in today's study about Christ on campus?

9. How can we pray for you today?

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him."

I John 5:14, 15



1. How has God been using Journey in your life this week on campus?

The Best Deal Ever

A friend's husband passed away and she needed to get rid of his car that had been sitting in the driveway for years. Bob had some health issues and hadn't driven his vehicle for a long time. It was a blue grey 1996 Toyota 4Runner with 27,000 original miles. She was selling it for a very reasonable price, and I needed another vehicle. Someone else had already expressed interest. In fact, people were stopping by asking if it was for sale. Fortunately, she wanted to sell it to me. The truck was literally like new. How could I pass up such a deal? I went down to the bank and drew out the money and paid her in cash.

Good deals like this don't come around all the time and when they do, you must act fast. Truth is, what looks like a good deal often turns out bad. Recognizing a bargain from a scam takes cunning and craft. Jesus compares acting on the gift of God's kingdom with the kind of shrewdness needed in good business. What can we learn from Jesus about taking advantage of the best deal in life that will ever come our way?



1. When have you ever lost a job?

2. What's the best deal you've ever made?



Luke 16:1-12

1. What surprises you about this story?

2. Why do you think Jesus told this parable?

3. What do you think about the shrewd manager? Was he wise, foolish, or a swindler?

4. Why did the master commend the dishonest manager? How would you like to have someone like this working for you?

5. What does Jesus mean by gaining friends for ourselves by worldly wealth so that when our wealth is gone, we can be received into eternal dwellings? This doesn't seem to fit with Jesus' ethics.

6. How does the maxim of being a trustworthy servant in verses 10-12 seem to contradict the parable that honors the dishonest manager? What is Jesus' point in this parable?

7. What is your personal take-away from today's reading and discussion?

8. What is the most important thing you have learned or been reminded of in today's study about Christ on campus?

9. How can we pray for you today?

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare."

Isaiah 55: 1, 2

Heaven's Table

Some of my best memories in campus ministry have been around a table eating with a single student, gathered with students for a celebration meal, or weekly Friday Night Fellowship dinners beginning Sabbath together. One meal I will always cherish was a gathering with students from MIT and Harvard. I was in the Boston area attending a church committee meeting and was scheduled to sit for my doctoral defense. Since I was traveling, I planned to defend online from my hotel room. The defense went well, but as doctoral defenses go, I was drained and feeling a bit anticlimactic so far away from home and no one to celebrate with.

Then I remembered my good friend Andrew, Adventist campus minister for the Boston area. I called him up and told him I was in town and shared my circumstances. He invited me to a Bible study they were having on campus. Afterwards we all went out for a celebration meal at a nearby Mexican restaurant. It was great to be with old and new friends on this very important occasion.

Good deals like this don't come around all the time and whThe table is almost as important as the cross in Christian theology. What does Luke have to teach us about Christ on campus from the banquet table of Jesus?



1. If you were planning a banquet, what foods would you serve?

1. What are some of your best table celebrations?



Luke 14:15-24

1. What are your first impressions from this story?

2. What connection do you make between the parable and the man's opening comment concerning the feast in the kingdom of God?

3. Who is represented by those making excuses not to attend?

4. Who are the secondary guests out in the streets and alleys? What about those from the roads and country lanes? Who are they and who might they represent?

5. How is this another story about the great reversal of God's kingdom?

6. How do you think Jesus' parable sat with the guy who made the comment about someday feasting in God's kingdom?

7. How does a great banquet represent the Kingdom of God? How can sharing a meal with someone be an example of the kingdom?

8. What is the most important thing you have learned or been reminded of in today's study about Christ on campus?

9. How can we pray for you today?

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."

Revelation 3:20

