

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #28

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 9:10-17

Sermon Date: April 2, 2006

Introduction:

As the apostles return from their ministry journeys, Jesus invites them to go with him to a solitary place. He says to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place to get some rest." (Mark 6:31) Isn't that a refreshing thought? I'm writing this study late at night, and thinking about the rest I need right now. Perhaps you're working on this late at night as well (when will our lives slow down?). What do you most need to rest from these days?

Now imagine asking God for such rest, and then being given a big ministry task instead. How do you think you would feel and respond? What difference would seeing the Lord do a major miracle as you did that task have on your attitude?

Well, that's what happens in this week's passage. As you prepare to read once again the story of Jesus' miraculous feeding of five thousand men, ask God to give you fresh insight into the meaning of this part of scripture, and to show you how he wants you to apply it to your life.

Bible Study:

1. Read this week's bible passage and use the chart on the next page to make observations and jot down questions.

This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/

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Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>¹⁰ When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida, ¹¹ but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.</p> <p>¹² Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here."</p> <p>¹³ He replied, "You give them something to eat."</p> <p>They answered, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish— unless we go and buy food for all this crowd." ¹⁴ (About five thousand men were there.)</p> <p>But he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." ¹⁵ The disciples did so, and everybody sat down. ¹⁶ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people. ¹⁷ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.</p>	

2. "Extra Credit" Research / Cross Referencing Challenges:

a. Can you identify the Old Testament prophet who spoke God's word which resulted in 100 men being fed from too few loaves of bread, with some left over?

prophet's name: _____

scripture passage: _____

b. In addition to the feeding of five thousand, what other miracles did Jesus do in or near Bethsaida?

c. Which of the apostles were originally from Bethsaida?

d. The story of the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand appears in all four gospels. Re-read Luke 9:16 and try to identify what other event that is recorded toward the ends of the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke involves Jesus carrying out a very similar set of actions.

event: _____

3. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

4. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Some “Food” for Thought:

5. In Luke 9:13 Jesus challenges the apostles to feed the massive crowd, and then in 9:14-17 he has them organize the crowd and pass out the food. He even causes there to be twelve baskets left over, perhaps so each of the twelve apostles would have one to carry.

a. Why do you suppose Jesus involved his disciples in the miracle of the loaves & fishes? (After all, they were apparently tired and in need of rest!) What effect might hands-on involvement have had on them?

b. What kinds of similar experiences have you had – providing for people’s needs, perhaps when it seemed difficult or even impossible – and perhaps seeing God multiply your efforts? What did you learn from your experience(s)?

Our Operation Rebound team that traveled to Gulfport, Mississippi to build the houses for the hurricane victims recently experienced a small taste of this phenomenon when they stepped out in faith with a team that at first looked way too small to accomplish their intended task – only to find out that God was at the same time lining up a team of 20 from Pennsylvania, a team of 10 from Wisconsin, and a few Gulfport locals as well, to be in the area at the same time and able to help.

c. God offers us opportunities to give all that we have and then to trust him to add to it in order to accomplish good works he puts in our hearts to do. Who do you see in need around you? Who has God burdened your heart with the desire to help?

d. What resources and/or skills do you have that could meet at least some of the needs of those you thought of in question c. above?

e. How could you step out in faith to begin to address these needs? (Even if you know going in that you cannot meet them fully – or perhaps cannot seemingly make much of a difference at all.) What specific steps could/will you take?

6. The big crowd assembling in a desert area – still unfed as evening approached – provided just the right setting for Christ’s miracle to shine. Corrie Ten Boom advises us to “Let God’s promises shine on your problems.”

a. What are some difficult circumstances that you are now facing or anticipating?

b. What opportunities for God to work do you see in these difficulties? What would trusting God to do such work look like?

7. Find and read the passages in the other Gospels which parallel (tell the same story as) Luke 9:10-17.

Matthew ____:____ Mark ____:____

John ____:____

7.a. How did reading the three other Gospel accounts change your understanding of the incident of the feeding of the five thousand?

8. What is the main point of this week's passage, Luke 9:10-17?

You may find it helpful to Consider Gen 22:14, Isaiah 25:6-9, and John 6:25-59 (in the latter, Jesus' teaches about being the "bread of life" occurs right after he feeds the five thousand).

8.a. How does this main point apply to your life right now?