

## The Gospel of Luke: The Story that Shapes Us

### *Liturgy for Groups*

#### **Introduction**

The Gospel of Luke captures the greatest story ever lived in a very unique way. For example, as a physician by training and the only non-Jewish gospel writer, Luke often shows a special concern for the outsider, foreigner, and women. Additionally, Luke writes his gospel account to a Roman official (Theophilus) during a time when the early church was just emerging; so he writes in an investigative style in order for his audience to trust the details and the history. This particular uniqueness of Luke's perspective and approach is not only helpful in our understanding of Jesus, but can also (re)shape the story we live from.

#### **Centering Time** (5ish minutes)

- Individually: Close your eyes and breathe deeply. Repeat a word or phrase, such as Luke 1:42: *“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...”*
- Corporately: Light a candle and pray together from Luke 10:27, *“Lord, help us be people that love you with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our strength and with all our mind and, love our neighbor as ourselves.”*

#### **Reflecting on Text and Sermon** (35ish minutes)

- Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to the group through the Gospel reading
- Read the text from Luke used in the sermon (then sit in silence for 30 seconds)
- What are some initial observations from the text? Things like:
  - What is happening?
  - Who is present?
  - How do people respond to Jesus?
  - Is there a word or phrase that sticks out to you? Consider why.
- What were your takeaways from the sermon and/or hearing the text read again?
- How does Luke's storytelling shape your understanding of the person/way of Jesus and human nature (reaction/attitude/behavior)? How does the teaching and actions of Jesus in the text reveal who God is and who we are?
- Is there a spiritual practice that could reinforce what you learned from this Gospel text? If so, what would it be? Are you willing to try that practice this week?

### **Praying for One Another** (20ish minutes)

Another unique feature of Luke's Gospel is the way Jesus' prayer life is highlighted. Jesus is seen praying in Luke more than all three other Gospels combined. No wonder the disciples turned to Jesus and said: "*Teach us to pray.*" Therefore, you should allocate enough time to pray for one another. Your prayer focus could be inspired by:

- General requests
- An insight from the scripture text
- Something happening in the neighborhood, city, world
- Listening prayer for each other

### **Praying for the Group** - from *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*

Pray together, "*Lord, help us minister to others in ways that validate and authenticate them as fellow children of God. Keep us from daring to assume that our good fortune is our own doing or that our ability is anything other than a gift. Amen.*"

### **Blessing** (take turns with group members giving "the blessing")

*May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever he may send you.*

*May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.*

*May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you.*

*May he bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.*

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*