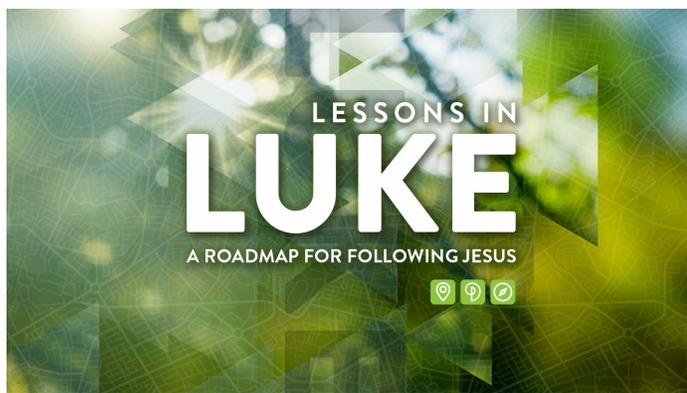


# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## No More Escalator Theology

May 2, 2021

Our spiritual journey is not about us climbing and performing, working hard, always wondering if we've gotten it right or done enough, or are actually finding God. The spiritual journey is about discovering that following Jesus - knowing, hearing, seeing him - is really about hearing God say, "I love you, you're enough."

### SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 6:17-19

Read the scripture text together as a group.

#### BACKGROUND INFO

Our series is taking us through the gospel of Luke which gives us a beautiful picture of Jesus as the one who embraces the "least" and actively seeks out those who are drifting, wandering, lost and trying to make it up the down escalator. This story is about nearness of Jesus. It's a story about Jesus finding us, coming to us. Luke described it as a "large, level area," like a big, wide open field. This may seem like an insignificant geographical detail. But it isn't. Far from it! Luke wants us to know that far from being removed, remote and inaccessible, somewhere high up on a mountain someplace, Jesus wants to be on the level with these people. There are so many places in the bible where a hill or a mountain – some elevated spot is the place where significant events take place that reveal the kingdom of God.

But not here. Here, in Luke's Gospel, the point where heaven and earth come together, the place where the Kingdom of God is revealed for those who are searching for something more is a "large, level area." Jesus is on the level with them. Jesus wants to speak plainly to them. He wants to be very clear that the spiritual life isn't about climbing, trying to get up a cosmic escalator. So, for every one of us who's ever struggled spiritually, feeling like the search for peace and contentment, trying to feel closer to God or trying to understand Jesus is like trying to get up the down escalator, this is a story for us.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Be honest...have you ever tried to go up the down escalator? Thought about it? Share the story.
- Luke is intentional in pointing out that Jesus is on the same level as the people. Why is this important?
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus wants to meet you right where you are? Relief? Hope?
- Why does this brief, seemingly simple story, hold so much power?

**APPLICATION:** This week, give Lectio 365 a try. Spending intentional time in God's word each day can help you feel closer to God, getting off the escalator and meet Jesus where you are on level ground.