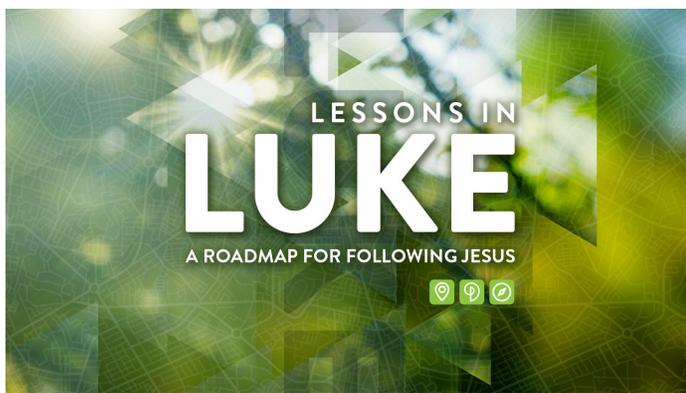


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Spirit-Driven Change

May 23, 2021

Change is hard. Especially when we're trying to change something about ourselves. A pattern of behavior. A bad attitude. A critical eye. But what if the pathway to change isn't about trying harder but about trusting more? That is the good news we're exploring this week.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 6:43-49

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Jesus, like a good doctor, knows that these struggles to love and forgive and bless and give are merely symptoms of a deeper problem. The real problem is our heart. The heart, in the first century, was the very center of the whole person, where every thought, desire, action and word flowed from. Just as unhealthy fruit is a symptom of a deeper problem within the tree, our propensity to judge, to curse, to hold grudges and be stingy point to a deeper problem within us. A heart problem. In fact, he twists the knife a little deeper when he starts talking about houses and foundations. Jesus is simply saying that the way to experience a rock-solid life, the kind of abundant life that he promises, is to do what he says. The problem, of course, is that we don't. We all struggle to love without limits, to give without hope of return, forgive when it isn't deserved and bless when we've been cursed. And why? Jesus has already told us: we have a heart problem.

So, where does that leave us? I'd say, "pretty hopeless". And perhaps that's just where Jesus wants us. Convicted of our own brokenness. Wrestling a bit with our own inadequacy. Coming to terms with our deep need of heart-healing. And what Dr. Luke, the author of this Gospel, is trying to show us repeatedly is that Jesus is in the business of healing. More than any other Gospel writer, Luke records Jesus healing people in body, mind and spirit. Jesus even raises the dead. And if Jesus can do that, Jesus can certainly heal our wounded and sin-sick hearts.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Tell a story about when you tried to make a change in your life. What was your experience?
- What is Jesus teaching us in this passage?
- What can we do, practically, to address this "heart problem" that we all have?
- How can Jesus' healing change our ways?

APPLICATION: This week, consider how you will embrace the dance of transformation. What is God transforming in you to heal your brokenness and to set you on a path of change?