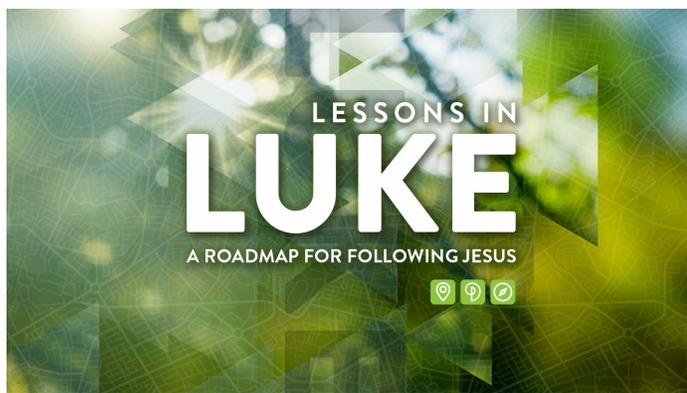


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



The Rich Man

August 28 & 29, 2021

Like a new coach changing the culture of a football team, Jesus' work in us is so much deeper than the X's and O's of our life. It's about the culture or state of our heart.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 18:18-29

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

In some ways, Jesus can be considered like a coach approaching a team with a culture problem. From the word "go", John the Baptist and Jesus are talking about a new thing, a new age, and here in this text he calls it an eternal life that he has come to bring to the world, to all people, and yet many people, were too preoccupied with tradition, history, their vision for how things ought to unfold, and all of the outward ways they knew how to participate. This Rich Young Ruler is one more of those people.

There are a few terms and concepts we need to circle around before we can go any further. The first is this trio of concepts: eternal life, the kingdom of God, and the age to come. It's important to know that the people who would have read the gospels were primarily Jewish to begin with and that in their scriptures and in their faith tradition over many years, they looked ahead with great anticipation to a day when God would step into time and space to make all things new. The language that they put around the time when this would happen included these concepts: eternal life, because the life we'll enjoy in this space would be endless. The kingdom of God because it would be a situation where God would reign over all things. And age to come because it would be a hinge point in history where a new era where God is in charge would begin. They paid attention to Jesus because from the beginning to the end of his ministry, he kept saying he was initiating all that stuff.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a time when you part of a team. What is one of your fondest memories of that team?
- What is Jesus teaching us in this passage?
- What does this story reveal about the state of our hearts? What is God asking of us, as a team?
- How can we apply this story in our lives today? How can we relate with the Rich Young Ruler?

APPLICATION: This week, spend some time in prayer asking God to show you the state of your heart. What might you need to let go of in order to allow God to work in you?