

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- You can watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.

Welcome: *Icebreaker – If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be?*

Study Tip: Throughout this series, as we walk through this key section in the gospel according to Luke, we would like to supplement your study with other key passages that relate to becoming rich in the kingdom of God in the gospel of Luke!

Luke 6:17-49: These passages are Luke’s recalling of the Sermon on the Mount. If you are interested in determining Luke’s motivation for writing his account of the sermon on the mount, try reading this section alongside of Matthew 5-7 and identify any differences that you see. As you do this exercise, pay attention to Matthew’s emphasis to Jesus’ reversal of the Law while Luke concerns himself with how Jesus’ teachings turn the table of social norms, specifically for outsiders in the community.

Luke 7:36-50: Luke exhibits a pattern of documenting events that happen at dinner parties, especially when it includes the Pharisees. So, when a “woman of the city” approaches the dinner, washes Jesus’ feet with tears, and anoints his feet with expensive ointment, Jesus takes the time to use a money analogy to show how she had been forgiven much! This is a great scene to introduce as you begin to talk about kingdom investments and what it means to be rich toward God!

Luke 22:24-30 In this later passage, we see some of the key themes of today’s discussion arise. Here, the disciples are concerned with elevating their own status to that of the greatest in the kingdom of God. However, Jesus outright flips the script on his disciples teaching them to not vouch for the seat of honor but humble themselves and serve. Then, they will be invited into this kingdom banquet where they will sit on thrones as judges, true seats of honor in the kingdom!

What’s Going on This Week

This week, Pastor Buz launched us into the second week of our series titled *How to Become Rich!* Pastor Buz drew our attention to *Luke 14:1-24* to challenge us to rethink the ways in which we seek and invest social capital. As your group wrestles with this week’s study guide, pay close attention to your own heart as you decide who to “invest” time in and why you do this. As you apply these scriptures in your own lives, share different ways in which your group can begin to use the guest list of Jesus to expand and multiply the demographics of your group!

“If you are in need of a home, spend time creating a home where all are welcome.” – Pastor Buz Hannon

GROUP MEETING (60 – 90 minutes)

Worship (10 – 15 minutes)

Take time with your group and prepare your hearts as you enter the presence of God for this meeting.

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| <p>Option 1: Worship Music Have someone share their favorite worship song. You can find it online, play it, and sing along! Have them explain why the lyrics have impacted them!</p> | <p>Option 2: Money Parables Jesus talks more about money than heaven and hell combined. Can you think of any parables about money that stand out to you this week?</p> | <p>Option 3: Creative Meditation <i>Isaiah 25:6-9</i> What does it mean to feast with the Lord? Take some time before your group meeting to allow the Holy Spirit to paint a picture in your mind of the Kingdom Banquet!</p> |
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Word: Identify any Pharisaical leanings in your heart (15 – 25 minutes)

Primary Texts: Luke 14:1-14 – The parable begins with Jesus exposing the Pharisaical view of the Sabbath. Adhering to the Sabbath regulations had become (a) a signal of “religious prestige” among the Jewish community and (b) a determining factor of your affiliation in the community of God! This leads to the first 2 portions of the banquet parable. **What stands out to you about the way in which Jesus exposes those placing themselves in the seat of honor and the dinner host who invites people only to be repaid by them?**

Prayer Tip: Pay attention to any feelings of unhealthy individual pride in terms of striving for honor and prestige as well as unhealthy group pride that excludes outsiders from joining in the group!

Word: Explore ways to invest in the Kingdom Economy (15 – 25 minutes)

Primary Texts: Luke 14:15-24 – Here, the parable shifts to the great banquet in the kingdom of God! This section of the parable gives us glimpses into the definition of *blessing* from Jesus’ perspective, some of the human *investments* that may cause us to miss this kingdom banquet, and where Jesus finds true *social capital*. **Out of the definition of *blessing*, the temporary *investments*, and the *social capital*, in which one of these 3 categories is the Lord challenging you the most. How can you reorient your eyes on the kingdom banquet and invest your time in the overlooked people in your life?**

Prayer Tip: Pay attention to any ways that your group members could become rich toward God by striving after the Lord’s blessing, heavenly investments, and kingdom social capital.

Witness (20 – 25 minutes)

In light of this week's discussion, here are some different ways that your group can pray!

- Pray for anyone who may be struggling with pride as discussed in the study guide
- Pray that God's Spirit would guide your group to make kingdom investments this week
- Pray for any individual prayer request that comes up in your group.
- Pray for the entire group and how they may be able to contribute to future group meetings.
- Pray for an interaction with someone who you can invite into your next group meeting!
- Pray for God's hand in the multiplication and revival of your group!

We invite your group to participate in our churchwide [PrayFast](#) event (Tuesday 9/21 from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM)

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

-Stay up to date with Coronavirus Ministry Opportunities: Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to [3Crosses.org/coronavirus](https://3crosses.org/coronavirus). If you or anyone in your group is looking to serve food in our pantry, access spiritual care, or seek financial assistance, you can find all you need at [3Crosses.org/neighborhood](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood)

-Join relief efforts locally and around the world: Looking to contribute to what is going on both locally and around the world? Visit our website and join one of the [relief efforts](#) being made available through our church partners or sponsor an [indigenous missionary](#)!

-Read Ahead: *Read Luke 14:25-35* As we shift our focus towards new values, we must “cash out” of our old value system and invest in this new one. This is a scary, costly journey. In Luke 14, Jesus paints the picture of what it will cost us to pursue this new way of life.

-Life Groups 2021: For more information about joining a group, hosting a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org