



## Week of May 5

Luke 8:43-48; Luke 14:7-24; Luke 18:1-8<sup>1</sup>

### Overview

Jesus mastered the art and power of story and was prepared to tell stories that perfectly fit any context. One way Jesus approaches evangelism was unique from methods we may have used or seen in the past; he never used a gospel outline or prepackaged materials to help lead him into spiritual interactions with non-believers. He asked good questions and told interesting, effective, and pointed stories to communicate core truths in a way that connected the gospel to the heart of the listener. Today we are going to look at how Jesus used story to share the gospel and practice that method for ourselves, so when God opens doors, we can share his gospel through story.

### Group Objectives

***Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purposes of community groups.***

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members...how can you "build one another up" this week?
- Pray for God's call to reach your "one more."

### DNA statement(s) tie-in

- ***We are On Mission to Reach One More.*** Every person matters to God, so every person matters to us. God invites every one of us to join him in his great mission to **reach one more** – one more coworker, neighbor, family member, and friend.
- ***We are All for Jesus.*** Jesus saves us from our past, remakes us to be like him, heals our broken places, and is coming back as our king. Only Jesus is worthy of our allegiance, and worldly division has no place for those who follow him.

### Conversation Starters

- What stood out to you from this week's sermon?
- What is your favorite story or parable that Jesus told (or was told about him) and why?

### Listening to God

- How have you seen God working in your life and the life of others this week?
- Have you held back from something you felt prompted to do or say? Share with someone in your group and pray for boldness to take this step of trust with Jesus.

---

<sup>1</sup> This discussion guide was written by Allison Dykhouse and edited by Dawn Gentry. For additional content, see the [sermon online](#) and the reading plan [found here](#).

## **Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion**

Jesus told over 46 stories in the Gospels and the disciples told many more of him. Stories are a great way to connect because they are engaging, memorable, and relatable. They help get a point across, and draw people in. By sharing stories, Jesus was able to draw crowds that would normally not stop to listen. The stories he told often had people asking follow-up questions as they grappled with his meaning. Often, he shared the Good News of the kingdom to come; though they didn't always understand, they knew they wanted what he offered. As we read these stories, we know "the rest of the story"; Jesus is Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King. As we share stories of Jesus's life and teaching, we can share the Good News the same way Jesus and the disciples did.

Let's look for the main gospel point of each story below. Then share that story with a partner in your own words as if you were sharing it with your "One More". If you prefer, you can even do a modern parable "retelling" that your friend would understand.

### **Read:**

#### **Luke 8:43-48**

- What is the main gospel point of this story?  
*Jesus has the power to heal; We can have faith in Jesus' healing power.*

#### **Luke 14:7-24**

- What is the main gospel point of this story?  
*Humility is greater than entitlement; it is more blessed to give than receive; God's kingdom is for those who respond to his invitation.*

#### **Luke 18: 1-8**

- What is the main gospel point of this story?  
*Justice belongs to God; God is a just judge; be persistent in prayer, the Father hears.*

After reading through these stories, choose one of the stories you read and discussed (or pick another favorite passage) and share the story as if you were going to share it with your friend over lunch. Ask the Lord for a story that helps you connect the story to something you have been discussing together. Take 5 minutes to prepare, then take turns sharing your story as you would with your one more.

### **Reach One More Challenge**

- This week pray for an opening to share this story with your "One More," or someone else that God puts in your path. Plan to share with the group next week how you saw God at work.

### **Prayer Prompts**

- Invite members of the group to share requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following prompt.
  - *Jesus, what story do I need to sit with, letting your Good News speak truth into my life?*

### **For further study**

- For more about the **Reach One More** initiative, see [www.reachonemore.cccomaha.org](http://www.reachonemore.cccomaha.org).
- For practical ideas you can implement as you reach one more, see <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzdVE7HNsqM-FEzli5Etuzj379W7kUsxO>
- Heather Holleman, *Sent: Living a Life that Invites Others to Jesus*
- Pathak & Runyon, *The Art of Neighboring*