



Questions

Study Procedure: Read the Scripture references before answering questions. Unless otherwise instructed, use the Bible only in answering questions. Some questions may be more difficult than others but try to answer as many as you can. Pray for God's wisdom and understanding as you study and don't be discouraged if some answers are not obvious at first. Do not read the study notes for this lesson until AFTER you have completed your questions.

Day One

1. Vocabulary: Circle the answer(s) that give(s) the best meaning to each word.

- a) credibility: (1) greatly in debt (2) worthiness of belief (3) sense of humor
b) analysis: (1) opinion (2) evaluation (3) prejudice
c) Sea of Gennesaret: (1) Sea of Galilee (2) Dead Sea (3) Lake Tiberias

2. Review Luke 6:27-38. Which of these instructions seemed the most impossible for you to obey apart from God's help? _____

3. Give a personal example of the Holy Spirit's power in your life to show the "impossible" love of Christ to another. _____

Day Two: Read Luke 7: 1-10

1. A centurion was a Roman army officer in charge of a hundred men. The centurion in this chapter asked Jesus to heal his servant. What made him believe Jesus could help? (Give verse with your answer.) _____

2. Why did the Jewish elders eagerly cooperate with the centurion to approach Jesus?

3. Must we have "credentials" to get Jesus to listen to us? _____

4. In verse 9, what made Jesus marvel at the centurion? Explain this fully. _____

5. What can we learn from this about the power of Jesus to help those in need? _____

Day Three: Read Luke 7:11-35



MEMORY: LUKE 7:27-28

1. From Luke 7:11-17

a) Who asked for Jesus to help in this situation? _____

b) What can we learn from this? _____

2. Read Luke 7:18-34 about John the Baptist. Why do you think John had doubts about Jesus when he had been so bold in his faith before? _____

3. What proof did Jesus give to John that He was the real Messiah? _____

4. Explain what Jesus meant in 7:23, "*And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.*"

5. The Pharisees and lawyers still rejected the evidence Jesus kept giving. What example did _____
Jesus give that revealed their childish behavior? _____

Day Four: Read Luke 7:36 - 8:21



MEMORY: LUKE 8:11-15

1. Read Luke 7:36-50 about Jesus' meal with Simon the Pharisee. Select the sentence or sentences that summarize what Jesus wanted Simon to see from the evening's experience.

- a) You are not to compare yourself to other sinners, Simon, but to God's standard.
- b) I could help you learn to really love others, Simon, if you'd let Me.
- c) Women tend to be more emotional than men.
- d) Next time, Simon, put someone at the door to screen your visitors!
- e) Get real, Simon. You are not as good as you think, but I could help you.
- f) Write your own summary here _____

2. Read Luke 8:1-3. Write down something interesting you learn from these verses.

3. Match the following "soil" with its description.

_____wayside _____rocky _____thorny _____good

- a) The emotional heart that gets moved temporarily by whatever it hears, but does not stay focused on any one thing long enough to make a real difference.
- b) A heart capable of stopping momentarily to hear the Word of God, maybe even regularly longing to hear more, but unwilling to clear away other things to really give priority to it.
- c) A heart that has been hardened by continual disregard for the needs of others or God's will. A heart so burdened with hurt, overwhelming responsibility, disappointment, sin, or failure that it has "thickened" to protect itself from feeling anything else.
- d) A heart that has cleared away all competition for "first place" and allows time for regular hearing and study of God's Word. This is the heart where the Word is understood and loved and allowed to "overflow" in a hundred other hearts.

4. According to Luke 8:16-18, what is our responsibility if we have received the Word of God into "good soil"? _____
5. From Luke 8:19-21, what is to go along with good hearing? _____

Day Five: Read Luke 8:22-56. Fill in the blanks from the list below with the name or group to whom Jesus spoke these words. Then, briefly explain why you think He asked the question or made the statement. (Woman with issue of blood, Jairus, Jairus' daughter, the mourners, the man with the many demons)

1. "What is your name?" _____

2. "Return to your own house and tell what great things God has done for you." _____

3. "Who touched Me?" _____

4. "Daughter, be of good cheer, your faith has made you well. Go in peace." _____

5. "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." _____

6. "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." _____

7. "Little girl, arise." _____

8. Now take a few minutes to read your study notes for this lesson.

Notes

Jesus Heals the Sick and Raises the Dead (Luke 7 & 8)

Pay Attention to Your Heart

In the Bible, the "heart" is described as the central storage unit for all sorts of information, good or bad, true or false. Jesus was quoted in Luke 6:45 as saying about it: *"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."* Someone explained this as meaning, "The heart is like a sponge, and what is in yours will come out when you are squeezed!"

In the Bible, things are described as entering the "heart" through the "ear" or from what a person "hears." In today's lesson, a key verse was in Luke 8:18: *"Therefore take heed how you hear."* This means that since what you hear--especially from the Word of God--can make an eternal difference in your life, be careful how you hear it and what you do with it. Romans 10:17 stated, *"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing from the Word of God."* Now, we know biologically that the "heart" is a pump for the blood in our bodies, but the "heart" of the Bible refers to a place where the mind, will, and emotions store responses to be "pumped" out through words and actions at critical times. It is that heart that needs to be guarded *"with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life"* (Proverbs 4:23).

Centurion Catches On (Luke 7:1-10)

In Luke 7, a Roman centurion had heard of the words and works of Jesus around the area and stored that information in his heart. When his dear servant was dying, he made contact with Jesus through some Jewish elders he had helped to ask Jesus for healing. Jesus did not need to know the **credentials** of the man in order to respond, but it was helpful of Luke to let us know that this centurion was a man with a tender heart toward God's people and that his faith had increased as it became focused on Jesus. In one of only two places that Scripture recorded Jesus "marveling" over anything, Luke wrote that Jesus *"marveled at him"* when the centurion sent word that a personal visit was not even necessary. As a man used to authority, he knew that Jesus could just order it done and it would be done. That was exactly how it happened. When the centurion's messengers returned to him, the dying servant was healed. Those watching learned another thing about Jesus: He was not limited in His power or authority by time or space.

"The heart is like a sponge, and what is in yours will come out when you are squeezed!"

credentials - what gives one the right to be trusted

**Love
Overflowing
(Luke 7:11-17)**

*The love of God
overflows still into
people's lives where
they are too
overcome to request
or expect it.
Impossible love
made possible
through Jesus to us!*

Jesus went to another city and observed a funeral procession in progress. Without being recognized or asked, He had compassion on the widow over the death of her only son. So, he raised her son from the dead and reunited him with her. *"And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region."* This was more faith-building information to be stored in the hearts of any that would receive it. The love of God overflows still into people's lives where they are too overcome to request or expect it. Impossible love made possible through Jesus to us!

**John's
Questions
(Luke 7:18-35)**

King Herod had imprisoned John the Baptist in response to John's specific attack on Herod's sin of adultery. John had been hearing, even while in prison, about Jesus' continuing ministry of miracles and teaching, but evidently was troubled that the prophetic words about judgment and fire John had warned the people about were not yet coming to pass. John sent word to Jesus, *"Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"* (Luke 7:19). In response, Jesus had the messengers witness repeated miracles of healing that specifically fulfilled a familiar prophecy about Messiah from Isaiah 35:5,6: *"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing."* They were told to go and report what they had seen to John. Jesus sent one last word, *"And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me"* (7:23).

It is hard to imagine that anyone who had been hand-picked, Spirit-filled, and eye-witness to supernatural proof could ever doubt that Jesus was the real Messiah. Yet, when Jesus was not fulfilling John's understanding of what Messiah would do, he doubted. Jesus said that, if a person will trust Him and be willing to recognize that what He was about was completely in keeping with what Messiah was prophesied to do, that person would be blessed. Jesus still does not operate in our lives according to our schedule, but instead, in complete obedience to God's plan. We must not let ourselves get offended at Him, but instead, trust and wait until all things are made right.

Jesus spent some time reminding the people of the powerful ministry of John the Baptist and then pointed out that neither John's style nor Jesus' style of ministry pleased them. The people were on the whole like little children who just wouldn't be satisfied. When people refuse to see or hear the truth, the message must go out to another audience.

Dishonest Hospitality (Luke 7:36-50)

A Pharisee named Simon acted as host to Jesus one evening. Common people were allowed into a rich man's home to observe special guests, but that night an unusual observer made her way to the feet of Jesus. With great emotion, the woman described by Simon as a "sinner" washed Jesus' feet with her tears and dried them with her own hair. She also poured fragrant ointment on them. Simon resented the intrusion and the attention to Jesus and thought Jesus should have known what kind of woman she was and stopped her. Jesus knew what Simon was thinking and told a parable. Two men owed debts they could never repay. The man they owed forgave both debts, even though one was much larger than the other. Jesus asked Simon which was more grateful? Simon answered, *"I suppose the one whom he forgave more"* (7:43). Right answer but still no heart change for Simon. Compared to the woman, he felt no need to respond to Jesus for help. He was a sinner and needed forgiving but would not get his eyes off himself and on to Jesus long enough to realize that. The woman received what she admitted she needed and expressed her love for Jesus in a lavish way. Simon loved little because he had not asked or received forgiveness from Jesus. What the woman received was available to him, too, but he would not admit his need for it. His heart was not open.

The Teaching Continues (Luke 8:1-3)

Chapter 8 began: *"Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him"* (8:1). Jesus was speaking the Word of God so that people could hear it, store it in their hearts, and be changed by it. Without an explanation of what Jesus was doing, people would not have been able to figure it out. They would have enjoyed the miracles, but would have been helpless after He left to continue in His power. Supporting the travels of Jesus at this time were some women who had been helped by Jesus and believed in Him. Mary Magdalene was one whose name was familiar. There is no Scriptural information to back up the way she is often portrayed in movies as a prostitute. The Bible stated that she had been delivered of the seven demons that oppressed her, but we do not know what they were or how she was affected by them. Joanna, whose husband was a high-ranking official for King Herod and Susanna were named out of a larger group of supporters as **prominent** in their help with Jesus' expenses. Luke's record of such details should encourage us that there are many ways we can help in the effort to preach and teach the Word of God to all who need it now. If we ourselves are not gifted in speaking, perhaps we, like these grateful women, could contribute toward the costs of

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prominent - widely known

getting the gospel out to all the world. Are we doing what we are able to do in response to the love we have received from Jesus?

**The Sower and
the Four Soils**
(Luke 8:4-15)

The Word of God like good seed falls on various heart "soils." Depending upon the condition of the soil, fruit will be produced. Some hear the Word but have continued so long on a path of self-centeredness, invested too much in the material "stuff" of the world, or denied their consciences too often in the pursuit of what feels good, that the soil of their hearts is packed down, hardened to any penetration of truth. Like dropping seed on concrete, the Word stays on the surface, easily removed by Satan.

Often people will respond emotionally to the preaching of the Word. They smile, cry, or sigh when they hear it, momentarily letting it affect them. However, as soon as something else is mentioned, they leave the good seed, barely rooted, to shrivel from neglect. They were hearers, but not doers of the Word.

The heart soil that will receive the good seed of the Word of God is soil that has been purposely cleared of the worldly weeds of competition. If a person will claim space in his or her daily life to study and obey God's Word, that one will realize a "hundred-fold" return on what was planted (8:8).

A third kind of heart soil offers temporary hope for a good crop. The Word is heard and allowed to take root. However, other things are not cleared out to give it the room it needs to grow and multiply. The cares and responsibilities of daily living are allowed to have priority over God's Word and will. The Word will not prosper where it is made to compete and take second place to everything else in a person's life. Time and space for study, prayer, and thoughtful meditation have to be scheduled and guarded or the good seed will be choked out, unable to produce any fruit.

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**Shine Your
Light**
(Luke 7: 16-18)

Jesus ended the parable of the sower with a word picture about a lighted lamp (8:16,17). Light is to be shown and seen, not covered. So, if you have received the Word of God which is the Light the world needs, show it. Then, this warning followed: "Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him" (8:18).

Family Ties (Luke 8: 19-21)

Jesus used an opportunity to make a point about the importance of hearing His Words and obeying them. His own mother and brothers were waiting to see Him, but instead of immediately stopping to meet with them He pointed out to the listening crowd that there was a closer tie to Him than heredity: it was a relationship birthed by hearing and obeying His words.

Fading Faith (Luke 8:22-25)

Jesus, revealing His humanity, needed a nap one day. As He traveled by boat with the disciples across the Sea of Galilee, He slept. When a severe storm began, instead of applying what they had seen about faith and prayer from Jesus, the disciples panicked and woke Him up. He rose and rebuked the wind and water, and they were amazed. But He said to them in Luke 8:25, "Where is your faith?" Like students who thought they knew the material until they actually saw the test, they had more learning and growing to do. However, the incident further convinced them that Jesus was unique in His ability to even command the forces of nature to do His will.

Foreigner Freed (Luke 8:26-39)

When their boat landed in the country of the Gadarenes, across the sea from Galilee, they were met by a man living in **isolation** from the rest of the population "who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs." The demons in the man recognized Jesus (see James 2:19) and cried out through the man, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me." How shocked the disciples must have been to hear even demons in a remote area call Jesus by name and title! There is much in the invisible realm of the supernatural that modern disciples still don't understand. Thankfully, what we can know is that Jesus is greater than any power of Satan. Although Scripture does not describe exactly what type of demons controlled the man, it does say there were many of them. When asked, he said he was called **Legion**, because of the number of the demons. They affected him mentally, emotionally, and physically so that in the past the nearby community had had him under guard until he broke the chains and had to be driven into the isolation of the wilderness. Jesus commanded the demons to come out of the man and allowed them to enter a herd of swine that then charged over a steep place into the sea. (Mark 5 recorded there were 2000 pigs involved.) The healing of the man formerly known as Legion was evident by the fact that when the surrounding people came to see what happened, they found him "sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind" (Luke 8:35). The freed man wanted to follow Jesus but was

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isolation - separation, being alone

Legion - a large number of soldiers

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told to stay and witness to his own people. However, the people of that territory did not want Jesus staying near them. Sadly, still, where Christianity hits a community's pocketbook, it is often rejected. If following Christ causes the "pigs" of profit to leave, such as bars, nightclubs, gambling establishments, places of prostitution, or adult-only entertainment, a community will often refuse to join Him.

**Two More
Demonstrations
of Power
(Luke 8:40-56)**

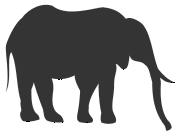
Jesus and His disciples did not stay where they were not wanted and returned to Galilee. A multitude was waiting. A Jewish leader named Jairus managed to get near Jesus, fall at His feet, and beg Him to heal his only daughter. Jesus went with him, but as they walked *"the multitudes thronged Him"* (8:42). A woman who had spent all her money on doctors but had not been healed of a twelve-year illness that caused loss of blood, worked her way through the mob to Jesus. She just wanted to touch the edge of His garment, believing that would be enough to bring healing. She was right, but she did not know that Jesus would be aware or concerned when her faith connected to His power. His disciples thought His question *"Who touched Me?"* was inappropriate considering the crowd of people around them. Yet, how wonderful for us to know that even in a multitude of people, the faithful actions of an individual are noted by Jesus. He made the woman confess her condition and actions to the listening crowd, as well as her healing. Such confession was good for her as she was assured that Jesus cared for her individually and was also good for the faith of others listening. He sent her away with His blessing: *"Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."* For twelve years she had been "unclean" because of her illness and unable to fully participate in social or spiritual activities. Publicly, Jesus freed her for a new life of witness and usefulness to her community.

Jairus was probably frustrated at this delay in returning to his home and sick daughter with Jesus. In fact, someone came while Jesus was still speaking to the woman and told Jairus his daughter had died. In demonstration that He was not limited by time or earthly happenings, Jesus told Jairus to not fear, *"only believe, and she will be made well."* The mourners were already in place when they arrived at Jairus' home and laughed when Jesus took Peter, James, John, and the girl's parents with Him to "wake" her. The mourners knew she was dead. *"Little girl, arise,"* Jesus said, and she did! Another demonstration had been given and witnessed that Jesus was God in the flesh and could do everything He promised.

**Keep It
Quiet**

Jesus did not want that miracle published: *"He charged them to tell no one what had happened"* (8:56). Again, this was in keeping with His main aim: to plant the Word of God in the good soil of faithful hearts so that understanding of Who He was, what He was doing, and how people could receive Him could be passed on to all who needed to know. The miracles brought the crowds, but His Word heard and believed brought real heart change.

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Reminder

Don't forget to write the memory verses from each lesson in your Bible Journal.

Do your best to memorize as many verses as you can each week.