



## Week Three Reflections and Readings

### Day 15—Luke 8

A God Who Cares and Can Do Something About It. Luke 8 contains stories of Jesus' teachings and Jesus in action. And one of the most dramatic stories of Jesus in action is when he calms the storm; verses 22-25. When the storm overtook the boat, the disciples panicked but Jesus was asleep. And they ran to him and woke him up in fear that they were all going to be washed overboard and drown. I wonder, in that moment, if the disciples were really asking, "Jesus, don't you care about us?"

We ask that question sometimes too don't we? Don't you care? Why me? Why my friend? Why my family? Why my business? Don't you care Jesus?" It's the undying question. The question asked by literally every person who's graced the face of the earth... There's never been an individual who hasn't wrestled with this aching question. Does my Jesus care? That's the question the disciples were wrestling with. And sometimes we do too. (You may be struggling with that question today... wondering if He cares about what you're going through?) When it seems that Jesus is asleep in the stern in your situation, remember, it just may be that He's testing your faith.

If Jesus was just another tired old teacher he could have gotten up and helped them be afraid and that would have been about it. But instead, he chooses to reveal just WHO He is to these disciples. He chooses, with just a word, to demonstrate His power to do only what the God who created the sea could do – subdue it! Jesus chose the Sea of Galilee as His stage to establish and increase the disciples' faith in Him as the strong Son of God, as the Incarnate Christ! (Don't miss the contrast: one moment He's sleeping in the stern, the next He's stilling the sea – one moment he seems impotent to do anything about the situation, the next He displays His omnipotence!) He is Jesus, Lord of creation. He is more than a good man – He's the God-man – He is Lord. There's no need to fear – He's in complete control. The Lord of creation is also Lord of our lives! (Rev. Jody Flowers)

- *Is there a storm in your life right now?*
- *Does it seem like God is silent in the midst of your storm?*
- *Could it be that this storm in your life may be an opportunity for Jesus to display His power, authority, and love?*
- *Do you trust Him to do so?*



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### **Day 16—Luke 9:1-36**

In our scripture today, Jesus saw the crowds and He knew they were hungry and He knew what He was going to do about it all. But He just needed someone to share. Jesus asked Philip if they could buy enough bread to feed everyone. And Philip took Jesus' question and the needs of the people seriously; he even calculated roughly that it would take more than six months' wages to buy enough bread for everyone to receive only a taste

Andrew, another disciple, took the hunger of the people and the emerging problem seriously, too. He had been out in the crowd looking into the availability of food among the people, and all he had found a boy with five barley loaves and two dried fish. Andrew told the other disciples and then raised the critical question: "What are they among so many?" In other words, how can the tremendous need before them possibly be met by such a small offering?

Jesus received the boy's gifts and He did the rest. He commanded his disciples to have the people sit down in the grass. More than five thousand hungry, needy people sat down. Jesus then took the five barley loaves and two dried fish, gave thanks for them, and distributed them to the crowd. Everyone ate, and everyone was filled. Then, as Jesus commanded, the disciples collected twelve baskets of leftover bread. That little boy shared what he had and Jesus did the rest! When we share what we have in faith, God takes what we have and multiplies it to bless others.

All of us have something to give to God. (great financial resources—you have been blessed to be a blessing; some of you have great leadership gifts....experiences to share to help shape and guide and mold younger believers....time....skills or abilities that you are only using for you....) All of us have something in our hands that we can give to God. And you know what!? It all depends on whose hands it is in. It's not about what you are holding in your hands because your hands by themselves don't do miracles. But when you take what you have (little or lot, big or small) and you place it in God's hands, then the miracles happen, then the blessings flow, then the world changes. It all depends on whose hands it is in.

- *What do you have in your hands today?*
- *And will you share it with Jesus?*

### **Day 17—Luke 9:37-62**

Jesus heals a demon-possessed boy (Luke 9:37 – 43): Here we see how Jesus heals a boy because of the request of the father. It gives me Hope to know that I can ask God to heal a Love one; even when that person might not know how to come before the Lord on there own accord.



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The Hope is even more to see how Jesus still went on to heal the boy after acknowledging that this was a “faithless and perverse generation”. This tells me that God is willing to help us even when we fall short of who we should be in Christ.

The disciples argue about who will be the greatest (Luke 9:46): It gives me Hope to know that I do not have live up to man’s standard of greatness to be great in God’s eyes. (Judy Cordero)

### **Day 18—Luke 10:1-24**

Jesus told his disciples, as they went out, that He was sending them where "he himself was going to come" (NASV). "Whatever house you enter first say 'Peace be to this house' and if a man of peace (or person of peace) is there, your peace will rest upon him. Stay in that house eating and drinking whatever they give you. Do not keep moving from house to house."

Why would Jesus say to "stay in that house?" There are reasons for Jesus' instructions. If we are where "he himself is going to come," then we are where he has readied a harvest and also made ready a person through which we are to enter that harvest. (Carol Davis)

We find great hope in knowing that God can use us to invite others to know Him too.

### **Day 19—Luke 10:25-42**

Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37): There is Hope in the fact that Jesus confirms that we have the opportunity of eternal life by walking in Love. Loving God with all of our heart, soul, strength and mind. Loving our neighbor as ourselves. The parable is an example of Love in Action and defines who our neighbor is.

Jesus visits Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42): Jesus explains to Martha that Mary has chosen the better part and no one can take that away from her. This statement gives me Hope because it tells me that once I have chosen Jesus no one can take Him away from me. (Judy Cordero)

### **Day 20—Luke 11:1-28**

Jesus teaches his disciples to pray (Luke 11:1-13): I see the Hope in knowing that God’s kingdom is available to us, God provides our daily needs (key word daily), and our sins are forgiven when we ask God (verses 1-4). To know that we can speak to the Father in prayer is the Hope of all believers. To know that He listens and answers is even more Hopeful (verses 9-10). (Judy Cordero)

### **Day 21—Luke 11:29-54**

This part of Luke’s Gospel is one of the toughest. It consists of lots of warning and judgment. And yet, hope remains. We can catch some glimpses of hope in that: Evil cannot prevail over God; there is always for Forgiveness when our hearts are right within; God’s light in our lives can shine into a dark world; and Truth will always stand. (Billie Barton)