



## WEEKLY STUDY

### WEEK TWO

28 weeks into our study of the Gospel of Luke, we find Jesus again making waves by performing a miracle. We have come face to face with miracles that happen and miracles that don't—in spite of the prayers of faithful people. Jesus clearly shows compassion on those who suffer and grieve, but his whole life also pointed to the idea that there is a kind of life that is beyond the life and death of this world. As you follow the story of the widow and her son who has died, may you find great hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ that defeated death once and for all.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

---

### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: LUKE 7:11-17 (NIV)

*Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. <sup>12</sup> As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. <sup>13</sup> When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”*

*<sup>14</sup> Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” <sup>15</sup> The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.*

*<sup>16</sup> They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” <sup>17</sup> This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.*

- Jesus was near his hometown and was being followed by a crowd of people. They wanted to see miracles and hear the words that he was speaking. Scholars note that verse 13 is the first time that Luke refers to Jesus as *Lord*, but it certainly isn't the last. In the context of such fame, it was

increasingly important that the crowds knew Jesus' identity as Lord and not just as a great prophet. It is one thing to know that a prophet of God sees you and has compassion for your situation—it is another thing to know that God himself sees you and has compassion. Jesus shows up for this woman who has lost everything including her only son, and he brings him back to life.

**Are there dead things in your life that you are still carrying around? Can you offer them up to Lord Jesus?**

- *Jesus, I picture the dreams and the passions that appear to have died. I offer them up to you because you are the Lord, the Son of God who can restore dead things to life. Amen.*

## **TUESDAY: ROMANS 14.7-9 (NIV)**

*For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone.<sup>8</sup> If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.<sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

- This week's message was titled *Jesus is for the Living and the Dead*. Paul wrote about our response to that truth. Death itself is not strong enough to separate us from the love of God. Therefore, whether or not we witness the miracle of being brought back to life in this world, we are under the authority and grace of Jesus—the Lord of both the living and the dead. **What does it mean to live for the Lord? What does it mean to die for the Lord?**
- *God, this life you have given me is so precious that I often cling to it more than I cling to you. May I live for you today. Amen.*

## **WEDNESDAY: 1 KINGS 17.17-24 (NIV)**

*Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing.<sup>18</sup> She said to Elijah, "What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?"*

<sup>19</sup> *"Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed.<sup>20</sup> Then he cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?"<sup>21</sup> Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!"*

<sup>22</sup> *The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived.<sup>23</sup> Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!"*

<sup>24</sup> *Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth."*

- In this passage (which parallels much of Luke 7:11-17), we see a great prophet confronted with the death of a widow's son. This widow had been instructed by God to provide for Elijah to the point of great sacrifice. She gave him food that she could not afford to give up. This is why Elijah cries out to God feeling that his presence has led to the boy's death. Elijah physically involved himself in the miracle which led to the boy's life being restored. The crowds following Jesus in Luke 7 would surely have had this story in mind when another widow lost her son. The miracle there led the crowd to believe that Jesus was *just* another great prophet like Elijah. What Jesus accomplished

through his own death and resurrection revealed that he was even more! **Has your life been impacted by a miracle? How? Who do you give credit for the miracle?**

- *God, I look to your Son for my life even in the midst of death. The only miracle I need for true life is the empty tomb. Amen.*

#### **THURSDAY: 2 KINGS 4.32-37 (NIV)**

*When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch.<sup>33</sup> He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD.<sup>34</sup> Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy's body grew warm.<sup>35</sup> Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.*

<sup>36</sup>*Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite." And he did. When she came, he said, "Take your son."<sup>37</sup> She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.*

- For further context, read starting at verse 8. Elisha is the prophet who followed Elijah (See 2 Kings 2), and he too found a mother in great distress. The mantle that was passed from Elijah to Elisha symbolized the authority and power to serve as a prophet. While Elisha wasn't fully embraced after Elijah's departure, the people could not deny that a dead boy was now alive. This story may also have been on the mind of those who saw or heard about Jesus' miraculous healing of the widow's son in Luke 7. There is a line through these stories that people paid attention to. It caused them to wonder, *What is God up to?* **Pay attention to the ways God is showing up in your life today. Where is there evidence that God is still bringing life to dead places?**
- *Almighty God, I have seen how your story of salvation repeats and reflects itself so that I might pay attention. Thank you for the prophets of old who prepared the way for your Son to come into the world and into my life. Amen.*

#### **FRIDAY: JOHN 12.23-24 (NIV)**

*Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.<sup>24</sup> Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.*

- In Sunday's message we learned about the difference between resuscitation and resurrection. The key difference is that the sons in Luke 7, 1 Kings 17, and 2 Kings 4 all eventually died (again). The resurrection of Jesus Christ (and through him—our own) begins a whole new life that, in him, will never end. This understanding brings context to the words of Jesus in John 12.23-24. Because our lives are in Jesus, we can participate in his death and resurrection. God can use our life and our death to produce fruit that will outlast our earthly lives. **Jesus' words are true both scientifically and spiritually. How do these words apply to your life?**
- *God, may my life—and even my death—bring you glory and produce good seed for your Kingdom. Amen.*

#### **SATURDAY: PSALM 103.1-6 (NIV)**

*Praise the Lord, my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.*

<sup>2</sup>*Praise the Lord, my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits—*

<sup>3</sup>*who forgives all your sins*

*and heals all your diseases,  
4 who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion,  
5 who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
6 The Lord works righteousness  
and justice for all the oppressed.*

- These words came from King David, but they could just as easily have been words spoken by the widow in Luke 7. She may have felt oppressed and lacking in justice because of all of the loss that she had suffered. And yet, she saw God directly redeem her life from the pit and renew her son's life. **What part of your story comes to mind as you make these words your own?**
- *Lord, along with all of those who have witnessed your ability to restore life, I praise you. You have forgiven my sins and lifted me from the pit. Amen.*

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

Read together the full passage from Luke 7:11-17.

- Have you experienced a miracle in your lifetime?
- When have you experienced disappointment because something you prayed for did not happen?
- How do you deal with the discrepancy between fulfilled and unfulfilled prayers for miracles?
- What is the difference between resuscitation and resurrection? Why does it matter that Jesus was resurrected and not simply resuscitated?