



WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK SIX

This week, we continued to look at chapter 8 of Luke. The teaching of Jesus continues with a deeper exploration of hiddenness and revelation. The secrets of the Kingdom of God will come to light in our lives and in our world. So we must take care that we tune our hearts to see and hear them—even as they take root in us. Do you know that God has a purpose for your life? For some, their purpose seems to be quite obvious. For others, it seems to be hidden, but as we pursue Jesus and the Kingdom he came to point us towards, we will find that His purpose in us will come to light. May it be so as you study and pray this week!

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.

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

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 8.16-18 (ESV)

“No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light.”¹⁷ For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light.¹⁸ Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.”

- A lamp is meant to light up a room, but a lamp hidden under the bed can burn up the bed. It’s not where it’s designed to be and therefore, it’s not doing what it was designed to do. Jesus carried a thread from last week’s parable of the sower: the secret or mystery surrounding the things of God. There are a couple of common interpretations of this. Either the Kingdom secrets will be revealed when Jesus returns, or it is being revealed right now, and will continue to be brought to light. Or both. **Things that are under the surface, will eventually come to light. Can you name some places where you catch glimpses of the coming Kingdom?**
- *Jesus, may the light of the Gospel reveal the truth about who I am and who I am meant to be. Amen.*

TUESDAY: LUKE 8.19-21 (ESV)

Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd.²⁰ And he was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you.”²¹ But he answered them, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.”

- Many followers of Jesus have struggled with these words. They may not be as harsh as they sound. Jesus loved his family, and while other gospel accounts hint at some concerns that his family had for Jesus' well-being, Luke narrows the focus. Jesus isn't necessarily closing the door on his flesh and blood. Instead, he is opening the door to anyone who hears and does the word of God. He radically expanded the definition of family! **Do you have friends that seem more like family than your biological family? What is at the core of that bond? What does it mean to you to be considered a part of Jesus' family?**
- *Jesus, thank you for opening the door to me. Today, I lean in to hear the word of God, give me the strength and resolve to do it. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 11.33-36 (ESV)

“No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light.³⁴ Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness.³⁵ Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness.³⁶ If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”

- Jesus elaborates on the teaching from this week by saying that there are two kinds of light. There is good light and bad light. You might notice this when you change out low quality light bulbs for higher quality bulbs. It can change the room and make visible what was already there but unseen. The hope for a follower of Jesus is that we could live lives fully in the light...good light...that casts out darkness. **Can you think of someone who seems to be full of light? What is it about them that makes you think this? Can you identify darkness within yourself that needs to come to light? Lift it up to God.**
- *God, I want to live in the light that you have brought into the world. I want to allow the darkness to come to light. Amen.*

THURSDAY: LUKE 12.1-3 (ESV)

In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.² Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.³ Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.

- As was often the case when Jesus talked about the Pharisees, the temperature seemed to go up with these words. It is interesting that there were thousands of people in the crowd, but Jesus turned and spoke to his disciples first. He seemed to be preparing them for a season where it looked like the truth would not be revealed—like the way of the Pharisees would prevail—but that which has been said in the darkness will be amplified. **What are some recent examples of darkness that's been exposed and amplified? Has this happened in your own life?**

- *Lord God, shine your light on my heart. Burn out any hint of hypocrisy in me and be glorified through my life. Amen.*

FRIDAY: ROMANS 8.14-17 (NIV)

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

- In the light, and as members of Jesus’ family, we find our true identity and purpose. Paul reminds us who we truly are when we are led by God’s Spirit: we are the children of God, no longer slaves, but sons and daughters, and co-heirs with Christ. Paul is quick to point out that this identity and purpose will not keep us from suffering but ultimately will allow us to share in the glory that Jesus revealed in his resurrection-life. **What names do you commonly use for God? Does the way you address God reveal anything about how you see yourself?**
- *Abba, Father, you have claimed me as one of your own beloved children. May I live into my identity and purpose that is centered in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

SATURDAY: EPHESIANS 2.19-22 (NIV)

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

- It is almost scandalous to consider that Jesus allowed foreigners and strangers into the household of God’s people. And we who have been invited into the family are not relegated to a spot in the basement, rather we are formed into a holy temple where God dwells! We are built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ himself. **How might others see God dwelling in you?**
- *Lord, thank you for calling me a citizen of your Kingdom. May I be a living temple where your Spirit dwells for the sake of the world! Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

The Bible is full of signs. A sign is something that points to something else. Jesus himself is the ultimate sign pointing us to the Kingdom of God—it was his mission on earth. If God's purpose is hidden in you, just waiting to be fully realized, **how can the following aspects of your life be used to point back to God?**

Work/Hobby:

Family:

Daily errands and chores:

Finances:

Parenting or caring aging parents:

Serving through the church: