



## WEEKLY STUDY

### WEEK EIGHT

We covered a longer stretch of Luke this week. In Luke 8:26-56 we find Jesus with three more opportunities to change lives in a big way. Jesus changed the lives of a demon possessed man, a woman who has been bleeding for years, and a ruler in the synagogue whose daughter was dying. People were talking! I pray that you will deepen your belief that Jesus can still change your life too. Sit at his feet this week as you read and pray.

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.

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### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: LUKE 8:26-33 (ESV)

*Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup> When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." <sup>29</sup> For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) <sup>30</sup> Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup> And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. <sup>32</sup> Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup> Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.*

- This account takes place in a Gentile region. It was inhabited by non-Israelites. One bit of evidence is the presence of pig farms (something that was against Jewish law). Jesus was taking his ministry to areas that no one would expect. The man that Jesus encountered was possessed by

multiple demons—meaning that most people who encountered him couldn't see the true person who was lost in the multiple personas present in the one man. That's why Jesus asked his name. In asking his name, Jesus was able to see through the demons and cast them out. **Have you ever had an encounter where you wondered if you were seeing the true person in front of you? What does it mean for you that Jesus can see who you truly are?**

- *Jesus, you see me better than I see myself. Call out the false and the darkness in me and shine your light on and through me today. Amen.*

## TUESDAY: LUKE 8.34-39 (ESV)

*When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country.<sup>35</sup> Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.<sup>36</sup> And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed.<sup>37</sup> Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.<sup>38</sup> The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying,<sup>39</sup> "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.*

- After the demons had fled the man, he was "in his right mind" and being in his right mind, he sat at the feet of the One who had directed the demons to leave him. The whole episode caused such a scene that the bystanders were troubled. They seemed to be more afraid of the One who cast out demons than the demons themselves. It was as if they had come to terms with the presence of evil and were actually more comfortable with the status quo. Even so, news like this travels fast and Jesus chose to move on. There were more lives to change. **When was the last time you found yourself at the feet of Jesus? Was there a moment of getting "in your right mind" that preceded it?**
- *Lord God, I want to sit at the feet of your Son. I want to be in his presence, to be seen and known, to learn from every word. Forgive me for being so easily distracted and quick to move on. Amen.*

## WEDNESDAY: LUKE 8.40-48 (ESV)

*Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him.<sup>41</sup> And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue. And falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house,<sup>42</sup> for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying.*

*As Jesus went, the people pressed around him.<sup>43</sup> And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone.<sup>44</sup> She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased.<sup>45</sup> And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!"<sup>46</sup> But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me."<sup>47</sup> And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed.<sup>48</sup> And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."*

- Notice the symmetry of the formerly demon-possessed man (8.35) and Jairus (8.41) both sitting or laying at the feet of Jesus. Desperation and gratitude that lead to discipleship look very similar. It's the desperation preceding discipleship that moves the woman in the crowd to reach out to

Jesus for healing. The act of reaching out to Jesus led to the release of power. And Jesus declared that the woman's faith had made her well. **Describe a time in your life when you were desperate enough to reach out to Jesus. Did you experience his power entering into the situation?**

- *Lord God, your power is all that I need. May I live out of my utter desperation for Jesus today. Amen.*

#### **THURSDAY: LUKE 8.49-56 (ESV)**

*While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more."<sup>50</sup> But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well."<sup>51</sup> And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child.<sup>52</sup> And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping."<sup>53</sup> And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead.<sup>54</sup> But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise."<sup>55</sup> And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat.<sup>56</sup> And her parents were amazed, but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.*

- This feels like a fast moving story. We even witness a miraculous healing while Jesus is on the way to another miracle. He had just left the scene where a woman's faith had made her well. Today's interaction with a man from Jairus' house shows a lack of faith. "Do not trouble Jesus...the girl is already dead." But Jesus did not chastise the man with little faith, instead, he brought hope and comfort declaring that the girl would be well. There are times in our lives when hope seems lost. Jesus understands that he is introducing a category of what is possible. We are invited in to see him bring new life. **What situations are so devastating that it is tempting to say "don't trouble Jesus with this one"?**
- *Jesus, give me the faith to come to you when I am in trouble. I will wake you up in the boat, reach for the hem of your cloak, and walk into places where death seems to have won. Amen.*

#### **FRIDAY: PSALM 50.14-15 (NIV)**

*"Sacrifice thank offerings to God,  
fulfill your vows to the Most High,  
<sup>15</sup>and call on me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you will honor me."*

- This Psalm contains a reminder to God's people of the covenant they were under. He resets their understanding of what it means to make sacrifices. It's not that God needs the sacrificed animals for God's own sustenance, but that the people need to give the thank offerings in order to remain humble and dependent on God. When humble people call on God in their day of trouble, God will deliver them. God does not require of us the Old Testament ritual sacrifices, but He has the same desire for our hearts before him. **What are the sacrifices you make to God in your daily life? What keeps them from becoming just a ritual?**
- *God, I am overwhelmed that you continue to come after your people. You seek us out and set us straight-offering to deliver us. May my life honor you today. Amen.*

## SATURDAY: LAMENTATIONS 3. 23-26 (NIV)

*I remember my affliction and my wandering,  
the bitterness and the gall.*

<sup>20</sup> *I well remember them,  
and my soul is downcast within me.*

<sup>21</sup> *Yet this I call to mind  
and therefore I have hope:*

<sup>22</sup> *Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,  
for his compassions never fail.*

<sup>23</sup> *They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.*

<sup>24</sup> *I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;  
therefore I will wait for him."*

<sup>25</sup> *The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him,  
to the one who seeks him;*

<sup>26</sup> *it is good to wait quietly  
for the salvation of the LORD.*

- This is the high point in the book of Lamentations. The writer remembers all of the difficulties that he had seemed to blame God for. But here he has refocused on the goodness of God. He recalled that the Lord is good to those whose hope is in him. His desperation led him to seek salvation from God. **What would it look like for you to wait patiently for the salvation of the Lord?**
- *Lord, I recall the difficult things of this life. I do not pretend them away. But I set them before you today and trust in your great faithfulness. Have mercy on me. Amen.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

What are the things that you are desperate for? Resolution in a relationship? An end to political fighting? A new job? Your bills to be paid?

Re-read or recap Luke 8.26-56. As you hear these three miracle stories, consider: which of the three do you most relate to?

**Relate:** A demon possessed man, a woman who has been suffering quietly for years, a father who wants his daughter to live and to thrive. Where do you see your own story in these three stories from Luke?

**Reflect:** Have you seen Jesus show up in a time of need? Where would you hope to see Jesus reveal his power?

**Rejoice:** What has been revealed to you about the goodness of God in this story?