

A LENTEN STUDY: Luke's Good News

This study series is based on Tom Wright's commentary on the Gospel of Luke, *Luke for Everyone*. The four passages from Luke and one from John for study are included from the International Lectionary for year C. They are:

- Luke 4:1-13
- Luke 13:31-35
- Luke 13:1-9
- Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
- John 12:1-8

You will need a copy of Wright's commentary for each of these scripture passages.

This outline is a suggestion for how to study the text from Luke and the context of participants' life and work. Please adapt it from week to week as your experience of meeting together unfolds. Take it in turns to be the leader for the group.

1. Take 2 or 3 minutes in silence to become aware of how you are feeling. Bring your whole self into God's presence, and become aware of how God looks at you with kindness and love. Rest for a time in that assurance.
2. One of the group members reads the passage from Luke's gospel set for study.
3. Take another minute in silence to become aware of your first reaction or response to the text. Then ask everyone to give their first response to the text. Allow everyone to share their response without comment from others. The intention is not to discuss these first impressions, but to note how reading the passage for the first time has been heard by study group members.
4. Now read Wright's commentary paragraph by paragraph, taking turns around the group. Stop after each paragraph to discuss what Wright is offering for your information and reflection. Some of the following questions may assist your reflection and conversation:
 - What in this paragraph of commentary is new information to you about the passage or its context/setting? (We will discuss what this may mean for you next.)
 - In what way was Wright's paragraph helpful or unhelpful to your understanding of the text?
 - In the light of your understanding, how does the text connect with your life and work experience (or seem at odds with your experience)? Relate to a specific circumstance where your experience connects with Luke's insight.
 - (Let everyone share their response to the question without interruption or comment, then consider together: 'what understanding or images appear to be common? How does what is common relate to the context of people's lives and work? Does someone's response stand alone: what do you think

that person is hearing in the text? How is what they hear shaped by their personal circumstance/context?)

5. Then consider any questions Wright asks in his commentary.
6. After you have read the whole commentary for the passage being studied, take a minute of silence to reflect on 'what do you believe was the most important point Luke was making about Jesus' Good news for his (Luke's) church in 60-70 A.D.? And 'what do you feel is important for you, your study group or for your congregation from this study? Share your responses to these two reflections.
7. Conclude with a prayer. The leader may offer a prayer. Or each person who wishes may offer a brief prayer. It may help to agree on a theme for the prayer, for example; pray for the group and its members; offer thanks for the group and its members; pray for concerns that have arisen from the study.
8. Share supper or refreshments.