

For Small Group Leaders...

Welcome! If you are leading a small group using Deeper Riches: Luke, or even studying the Gospel of Luke without the Deeper Riches homework, we have some resources that we hope will help you get the most out of your personal study and group discussion.

Discussion Guides

One of the most challenging things about leading a small group discussion of Luke is that there is a large chunk of Scripture to cover each week in a limited amount of time. In order to assist you in facilitating a discussion that covers the entire lesson, we have put together a Discussion Guide for each week. The questions are selected from the homework and are chosen because they either pull together the entire week's readings, focus on the common threads that run through the whole book of Luke, or allow for personal application. The Discussion Guide appears as the final page of every homework lesson. The guides are also available as individual PDFs.

Printing the Homework

The weekly homework lessons are available in both printable or mobile formats. Some of your group members may benefit from having the next homework handed to them at the end of every small group meeting, especially if they don't have access to a printer at home. It may be worth discussing the first week.

Customizing the Observation Step

The first question of each lesson asks you to make Observations about the text. This is the most important step in the Observe-Interpret-Apply process. The time you invest in this step will make Interpreting and Applying the text that much easier. Your group members will probably have differing levels of experience and comfort with doing Observations. Please be sure to review the different Observation options in the Introduction, so you can encourage them to find what works for them. Familiarize yourself with our Observation Guides as well. Some leaders like to give their group members a laminated copy of the Pocket Guide to keep with their study materials.

Study Luke 1:1-4 at the First Meeting

Make sure to dive right into the first four verses of Luke the first time your group gathers. The Week 1 Lesson covers only Luke 1:1-4, and is meant to be completed together during your first small group time. As the leader you will want to come prepared to share some things you have learned about Luke and his Gospel book. The homework for the remaining weeks is to be completed **prior** to the discussion of that week's text. For example:

Week 1: Meet to discuss Luke 1:1-4, as well as get to know one another and set expectations. Come prepared to lead your group through the Week 1 Introductory Lesson. Discuss how to do *Observations* and the options outlined in the Introduction. Hand out the homework for Week 2, to be completed before meeting again.

Week 2: Discuss Luke 1:5-80 (covered in the Week 2 homework) using the Discussion Guide at the end of the lesson. Hand out homework for Week 3, or make sure everyone has a way to access it easily online.

On the use of Commentaries

As the small group leader, you may find Bible commentaries to be a helpful tool in preparing to lead the discussion, but it is easy to get lost in the incredible amount of commentary that is available for every chapter of Luke. In order to get the most out of your personal study time, I recommend that you reserve your use of commentaries for one or two questions that are burning in your own mind, rather than reading extensively. As a general rule, I do not seek commentary until I have thought hard enough about the question to form an opinion of my own first. Two exceptions to this rule: A good introduction to Luke, which includes an outline and the major themes, can really help you on the front end to unlock your understanding of the entire book. Second, to make sense of things that are specific to the first century, a little expert help can go a long way. A Study Bible or Bible Dictionary can help with that, or just a quick glance through the free online commentaries for a specific verse at biblehub.com. It is also perfectly ok to come to small group without having consulted any Bible commentary.

How to contact us with questions about the homework

If you come across a question in the homework that is unclear or particularly puzzling, please feel free to contact me to ask for clarification. It may be that I had something particular in mind when I wrote the question, and I'd be happy to share that insight. It is also possible that the question was not well worded and a little explanation could go a long way. In that case I would love your feedback in order to make the question better for future users. I would also love to hear from you if a particular question was really used by God to touch the hearts of your group members. Then I can be sure to include it when the study goes to print. You can send questions and feedback to michelle@deeperriches.com.

Small Group Leader Training

It is outside the scope of deeperriches.com to provide personal Small Group Leader training. Please make sure to take advantage of whatever your local church has to offer to learn how to shepherd your group well.

May God bless your personal journey with Jesus in your study of Luke this year, and may the overflow of your time in His presence bless the members of your group abundantly.