

Grow in confidence – with Luke's Gospel

MATERIAL for Life Groups and Discipleship Triplets

10th Meeting **THEME: How to grow in kindness**

Prepare yourself, pray for your meeting. Read the passage and try to figure out how it fits into its context.

20.00 – 20.10 Icebreaker to begin with: Stress and anxiety are often connected with the conviction that we did not or will not make it – that our efforts are or were not enough. What can make you feel stressed?

20.10 – 20.15 Pray Ask God for His Holy Spirit in this meeting

20.15 – 20.40 Bible passage **Read: Luke 10:25-37**

Look again at verses 25 - 29 (Understand the lawyer's questions)

- What do you know about the role of the lawyers in the preceding chapters?
- What does Luke tell us about the purposes of the lawyer in asking his questions?
- The lawyer wants a definition of 'the neighbour' (so that you can check whether or not you have done your duty, and can be sure that you will inherit eternal life). Is his question relevant and interesting for us as well?

Look again at verses 30 – 37 (Understand Jesus' question)

- Jesus changes the question, from 'who is my neighbour', to: if you were that victim, who proved to be your neighbour then.
- What do you think, was Jesus' aim with his question to the lawyer?

Lesson: Unlike the tax collectors and other sinners, the lawyers thought they were righteous because they knew the law. They assumed they kept it and that they didn't need the baptism of John and Jesus. To say it bluntly: the question, also for us: how do you believe you will be saved? By works of the law? Then know what you have done until now is not enough (see the parable), you must do much more. But the Gospel tells us that the law cannot save us. We must be saved through Jesus Christ. Who believes in Him, receives his mercy and grace. This changes you from within. Whoever you are (religious/cultural background). You aren't kind to earn heaven, but you grow in kindness, because – through faith, through unmerited grace – you have received adoption in God's family and eternal life.

20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper: how to grow in kindness

Christians sometimes confuse the law and the Gospel. This gives stress and uncertainty. For instance: 'God has done so much for you in love. Now what are you going to do in return?!' Such messages are not Gospel messages, but a mixing of law and Gospel. We don't change by trying harder. We do change by understanding and believing what – through grace is given to us and through faith is received by us. We should be aware that our lives do not depend on anyone else but God. And that to have peace with God comes from nothing else but receive his grace in Jesus Christ by faith. Let everyone take some moments of silence and think about this question:

- (How) does this insight help me in situations wherein I feel stressed?

20.50 – 21.00 End Share and end with prayer for each other.