



*This guide will help you facilitate a study of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. Look at the Big Idea and Takeaway for our CGs sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused. For a deeper dive into the passage, refer to the [text notes](#) on the passage.*

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## Overview

### Context of Luke

Luke the Greek physician was Paul's companion during his mission in proclaiming the gospel. Luke wrote this gospel as the first volume of a single work, consisting of The Gospel Of Luke and Acts. Both volumes are addressed to Theophilus and are written in a similar style. The Book of Acts refers to The Gospel Of Luke in its introduction. As a Greek and later a companion of Paul, Luke had never met Jesus personally, yet as a scholar and physician, he set upon the task to interview and record the events of the life of Jesus, according to Jesus' close companions and earliest eyewitnesses (1:1-4). Luke's gospel is, therefore, the most detailed, and it contains the most material of the three synoptic gospels.

### Luke 18:9-30

*9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."*

*15 Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. 16 But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 17 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."*

*18 And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 19 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 20 You know the commandments:*

*'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'*" 21 And he said, "All these I have kept from my youth." 22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." 23 But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. 24 Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, "How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! 25 For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." 26 Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" 27 But he said, "What is impossible with man is possible with God." 28 And Peter said, "See, we have left our homes and followed you." 29 And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, 30 who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."

## Big Idea of the Text

Receiving the upside-down kingdom of God will cost everything (including your pride and propensity towards self-dependence and self-validation) and yet everything is gained, both in this life and the one to come.

## Takeaway for our CGs

In view of God's mercy shown to us through Christ, we respond to Him in humility, joyfully giving up all we treasure and trusting in the Cross alone. We can be confident that as we give up all that we treasure, we will gain true riches in this life and in eternity.

## Our Fallen Condition

Our propensity for self-justification and a reluctance to give up what we treasure (e.g. money, worldly possessions, relationships, reputation) for the sake of following Jesus.

## Study Guide Suggested Answers

Q1. The Pharisee & The Tax Collector (v9-14)

- a. Compare the ways that the tax collector and the Pharisee related to God:
  - What was the focus of their prayer?
  - What do their prayers reveal about what they believed qualified them to approach God?
  - What do their prayers reveal about how their attitude toward others?
- b. According to Jesus, what justified one man and not the other? (v14)
- c. Where have you seen this ugly tendency toward superiority and contempt for others within the church?

Q2. Let the Children Come to Me (v15-17)

- a. According to the disciples, what qualifies people to approach Jesus? (v15)
- b. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God like a child?
- c. What might be the difference between a positive child-like faith and negative childish faith?
- d. What are some real-life examples of child-like faith or childish faith that you've seen?

Q3. The Rich Ruler (v18-27)

- a. What does the rich young ruler believe qualifies him to inherit eternal life?
- b. How does Jesus expose what the rich young ruler truly loves?
- c. Is Jesus saying that it is wrong to have wealth and advocating an ascetic lifestyle? If not, what is the point that He is trying to make?

Q4. Compare V9-14 & V15-17. What common themes or ideas do you notice? What parallels or contrasts do you notice between the characters in these passages?

Q5. Compare V15-17 & V18-30. What common themes or ideas do you notice? What parallels or contrasts do you notice between the characters in these passages?

Q6. Compare V18-30 & V9-14. What common themes or ideas do you notice? What parallels or contrasts do you notice between the characters in these passages?

Q7. How is childlike faith in response to Jesus expressed in all three passages?

Q8. How do we see these themes of humility, obedience and costliness in Jesus on the Cross? What did He lose for our sake? (Phil 2:5-10)

Q9. How does v28-29 encourage us to give up what we treasure? How does what Jesus has done on the Cross encourage us to respond to him wholeheartedly?

Q10. What are we holding on tightly to that is preventing us from wholeheartedly responding to and following Jesus? What do we treasure more than Jesus himself? What might God be asking us to abandon or lose in order to follow Him?