SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Luke

Chapter 17

Faith That Forgives, Thanks and Watches

MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 17:33

“Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.”

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Luke 17

This week Jesus walks with you along a border road and asks three things of you: forgive the brother who keeps sinning against you, come back and thank Him for what He has done, and keep your eyes forward instead of looking back at the life He brought you out of. He is not asking you to be strong — only to trust Him with a faith as small as a mustard seed.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Luke study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Seven Times a Day

READ · LUKE 17:1–6

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does Jesus tell you to do when your brother sins, and what do the apostles ask for when they hear it (17:3–5)?

REFLECT

Jesus says to forgive a man who sins against you "seven times a day" and says "I repent" each time (17:4). Who is the person you are tired of forgiving, and what has it cost you to keep holding it?

REFLECT

The apostles said, "Increase our faith!" and Jesus answered with a mustard seed (17:5–6). Why do you think forgiving someone takes faith in God rather than just willpower?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one person you need to forgive, and pray for him by name today — then take one small step toward him, even if it is only a short message.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 17:33)

DAY 2 OF 5

Only What We Ought

READ · LUKE 17:7–10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does the slave do when he comes in from the field, and what does Jesus tell His disciples to say when they have done everything commanded (17:7–10)?

REFLECT

Where have you started to feel that God owes you something because of how well you have been doing — your sobriety, your church attendance, your service?

REFLECT

Jesus taught His men to say, "We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done" (17:10). How does that sentence free you from having to prove yourself?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do one quiet act of service today that nobody will thank you for, and offer it to God as a gift, not a payment.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 17:33)

DAY 3 OF 5

Where Are the Nine?

READ · LUKE 17:11–19

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How many lepers were cleansed, when were they cleansed, and what four things did the one who returned do (17:14–16)?

REFLECT

The lepers were cleansed "as they were going" — they obeyed before they saw anything change (17:14). What is Jesus telling you to do that you are waiting to feel ready for?

REFLECT

Only the foreigner came back "to give glory to God" (17:18). What specific mercy has God shown you that you have never gone back to thank Him for out loud?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down three specific things God has done for you, then say thank you out loud for each one — and tell one other man about one of them.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 17:33)

DAY 4 OF 5

The King in Your Midst

READ · LUKE 17:20–25

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the Pharisees ask Jesus, and what does He say must happen to the Son of Man first (17:20–21, 25)?

REFLECT

Jesus told the Pharisees, "the kingdom of God is in your midst" (17:21) — the King was standing right in front of them and they missed Him. Where might Jesus be present in your life right now that you have been too busy or too suspicious to notice?

REFLECT

Jesus warned, "Do not go away, and do not run after them" when people say "Look there! Look here!" (17:23). What voices or quick fixes have you been tempted to chase instead of staying close to Jesus?

RESPOND — TODAY

Spend ten minutes today in quiet with no phone, simply telling Jesus that you know He is here and that He is King.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 17:33)

DAY 5 OF 5

Remember Lot's Wife

READ · LUKE 17:26–37

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What were people doing in the days of Noah and Lot right up until judgment came, and what does Jesus tell us to remember (17:27–28, 32)?

REFLECT

Lot's wife was led out of Sodom and still looked back (17:32). What part of your old life does your heart still turn back toward — a place, a crowd, a habit, a way of thinking?

REFLECT

Jesus says, "whoever loses his life will preserve it" (17:33). What would it look like this week to let go of something you have been clinging to so that you can hold on to Jesus?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name the one thing you are most tempted to look back at, tell a trusted brother about it, and ask him to pray with you to keep your face forward.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 17:33)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Jesus put forgiveness and faith side by side (17:3–6). What makes forgiving a brother in this group hard, and how can we help each other do it without pretending the hurt never happened?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Ten were cleansed but only one came back (17:15–18). What keeps men like us from coming back to thank God, and what could gratitude look like when we meet together?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Jesus compared His coming to the days of Noah and Lot, when life went on as usual (17:26–30). What would it look like for us to live ready for His return without living afraid?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Master, have mercy on me — increase my faith to forgive, teach me to come back and thank You, and keep me from looking back, because…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · LUKE 17:33

"Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it."