SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Luke

Chapter 21

Lift Up Your Heads

MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 21:28

"But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Luke 21

Jesus sees the two coins a poor widow drops in the box, and He sees the whole future of the world just as clearly. This week He asks you to give Him everything, to refuse to be scared or fooled by what you hear, and to keep your head up — because the One who knew the temple would fall is the One who is coming back for you.

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

All She Had

READ · LUKE 21:1–4

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who does Jesus watch giving, how much does the widow put in, and why does Jesus say she gave more than all of them (21:1–4)?

REFLECT

The rich gave "out of their surplus," but she gave "out of her poverty" (21:4). What do you usually give God — your leftovers, or something you will actually miss?

REFLECT

Jesus noticed a gift nobody else noticed (21:2–3). How does it help you to know that He sees the small, hidden things you do for Him?

RESPOND — TODAY

Give God one thing today that costs you something — money, an hour of your time, or a habit you would rather keep — and tell no one.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 21:28)

DAY 2 OF 5

Do Not Be Misled

READ · LUKE 21:5–11

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What were people admiring, what did Jesus say would happen to it, and what two warnings does He give in verses 8 and 9?

REFLECT

People were impressed by "beautiful stones" that would be torn down (21:5–6). What good thing in your life — even a church thing — have you started to lean on more than on God?

REFLECT

Jesus said, "do not be terrified" about wars and disturbances (21:9). What news, rumor or fear has been stealing your peace lately, and what would it look like to hand it to Him?

RESPOND — TODAY

Turn off one source of fear today — the news feed, the rumor mill, the worst-case thinking — and read Luke 21:33 out loud instead.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 21:28)

DAY 3 OF 5

Not a Hair of Your Head

READ · LUKE 21:12–19

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does Jesus say will happen to His followers, and what does He promise to give them and to keep for them (21:12–19)?

REFLECT

Jesus says persecution "will lead to an opportunity for your testimony" (21:13). Where has a hard situation — a courtroom, a cell block, a family fight — become a place where people could see Jesus in you?

REFLECT

Some will be "betrayed even by parents and brothers" (21:16). If you have lost people because of your faith or your past, how do verses 18–19 speak to that loss?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one hard situation you are in right now, and under it write: "By your endurance you will gain your lives" (21:19). Stay under the load today instead of running.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 21:28)

DAY 4 OF 5

Lift Up Your Heads

READ · LUKE 21:20–28

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What sign does Jesus give for Jerusalem's fall, how long will the city be trampled, and what will people see in verse 27?

REFLECT

Jesus told the people in Jerusalem to flee when they saw the armies (21:20–21), and Bible teachers say those who believed Him got out. What warning from God are you hearing right now that calls for action, not just agreement?

REFLECT

While others faint from fear, believers are told to "straighten up and lift up your heads" (21:26, 28). What would it change in your week to live with your head up instead of down?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray today for the people of Israel and for Jerusalem, and thank God that the "until" of verse 24 has an end.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 21:28)

DAY 5 OF 5

Keep On the Alert

READ · LUKE 21:29–38

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What three things does Jesus say can weigh a heart down, and what does He tell us to do instead (21:34–36)?

REFLECT

Jesus lists "dissipation and drunkenness" right next to "the worries of life" (21:34). Which of those is heaviest on your heart right now, and how has it made you spiritually sleepy?

REFLECT

Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away" (21:33). Which words of His do you need to hold on to more tightly than anything you can see?

RESPOND — TODAY

Set a reminder to stop three times today and pray one sentence: "Lord, keep me awake and ready to stand before You" (21:36).

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 21:28)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

The widow gave out of her lack, and the disciples were admiring the temple's stones (21:1–6). How do money and appearances compete with real devotion in our lives and in our church?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Jesus promised His followers "utterance and wisdom" when they were dragged before authorities (21:12–15). Who in our group has had to speak for Christ in a hard place, and what did God give them to say?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Christians disagree about the timing of verses 25–32, but Jesus' commands in verses 28 and 34–36 are clear. What would it look like for us as men to "keep on the alert" together this month?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You see what I give and what I hold back, and You know what is coming, so today I lift up my head and ask You to…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · LUKE 21:28

"But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."