SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Luke

Chapter 8

Take Care How You Listen

MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 8:15

"But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Luke 8

Luke 8 is about how you hear. The same word of God that a sower scatters on four kinds of ground also calms a storm, frees a tormented man and raises a dead girl. This week, ask God to make your heart good soil — and to help you trust His word when every other voice says it is too late.

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

Four Kinds of Ground

READ · LUKE 8:1–15

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What happened to the seed in each of the four places it fell, and what does Jesus say each one means (8:5–8, 11–15)?

REFLECT

The seed is the same every time; the ground is different (8:11). Which soil describes how you have been hearing God's Word lately — the road, the rock, the thorns or the good soil?

REFLECT

The thorns are "worries and riches and pleasures of this life" (8:14). Which of those three is crowding out God's Word in you right now?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one thorn and take one concrete step today to cut it back — turn something off, make a call, or set a limit.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 8:15)

DAY 2 OF 5

Take Care How You Listen

READ · LUKE 8:16–21

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where does a person put a lamp, and who does Jesus say His mother and brothers are (8:16, 21)?

REFLECT

Jesus said, “take care how you listen” (8:18). How do you usually listen to a sermon or a Bible reading — to be informed, to be entertained, or to obey?

REFLECT

His true family are “these who hear the word of God and do it” (8:21). What is one thing you have heard from God that you have not yet done?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pick one sentence from today’s reading and do what it says before you go to bed.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 8:15)

DAY 3 OF 5

Where Is Your Faith?

READ · LUKE 8:22–25

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Jesus say before they set out, what was He doing during the storm, and what did He ask afterward (8:22–25)?

REFLECT

Jesus had already said, “Let us go over to the other side” (8:22), yet they cried, “we are perishing!” (8:24). What promise of God have you forgotten in your current storm?

REFLECT

After the calm they were “fearful and amazed” and asked, “Who then is this?” (8:25). How has seeing God’s power in your life changed the way you think about who He is?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down the storm you are in and, next to it, one promise of God; read the promise out loud each time the worry comes back.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 8:15)

DAY 4 OF 5

What Great Things God Has Done

READ · LUKE 8:26–39

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How is the man described before he met Jesus, and how is he described afterward (8:27, 29, 35)?

REFLECT

The man went from the tombs and chains to "sitting down at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind" (8:35). What "chains" has Jesus broken in your life, or what chains do you still want Him to break?

REFLECT

The town asked Jesus to leave because He cost them their pigs (8:33, 37). What are you afraid Jesus might cost you if you let Him all the way in?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do what Jesus told the man: tell one person at home, in a few honest sentences, "what great things God has done for you" (8:39).

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 8:15)

DAY 5 OF 5

Only Believe

READ · LUKE 8:40–56

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What had the woman suffered and for how long, and what message came to Jairus while Jesus was still speaking (8:43, 49)?

REFLECT

The woman came from behind in secret, but Jesus called her "Daughter" in front of everyone (8:44, 48). What do you keep hidden from people because of shame, and what does it mean to you that Jesus calls the ashamed "Daughter" or "son"?

REFLECT

Jairus heard "Your daughter has died" and then Jesus' words, "Do not be afraid any longer; only believe" (8:49–50). Where are you hearing "it's too late," and what would it look like to keep walking with Jesus anyway?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray by name for one person you have given up on, and ask Jesus to come to that house.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 8:15)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

The women in 8:1–3 gave from their own means because Jesus had healed them. What has Jesus done for you that you can give back to His work, and how?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

The disciples, the Gerasenes, the healed man and Jairus all heard a word from Jesus and responded differently (8:25, 37, 39, 50). Whose response is closest to yours this week?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Twelve years of sickness and a twelve-year-old girl both met Jesus on the same afternoon (8:42–43). How can we as a group make room for both the "Jairus" and the "woman" who come to us?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, plow up the hard ground in my heart and help me hold Your word fast, because today I need You to…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · LUKE 8:15

"But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance."