

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE LIFE, WORK,
TEACHING AND CLAIMS OF JESUS CHRIST

Amazed: Fasting

LUKE 5:33-39 | FEBRUARY 8 & 9, 2014

While many others were religiously fasting, Jesus' followers were not. Their behavior caused some to question the seriousness of their faith. Jesus then offers an amazing, albeit enigmatic, response. If the purpose of fasting is to draw closer to God without distraction or barrier, and he is God, then what is the point of fasting while he is with them? "The time will come when (he) will be taken from them; in those days they will fast." (Luke 5:35)



Watch this week's summary message from Pastor Mike at <http://luke.christchurchil.org/resources>. (Videos will be live on Sunday afternoon.)

WITH THE GROUP



LEARNING | BEGINNING TO CONNECT WITH THE TOPIC

What would be more difficult for you to live without for a day: food or electronics/screens?



LEARNING | GETTING CLEAR ON WHAT WAS TAUGHT

What are some reasons that a person would choose to fast? What are some bad reasons or attitudes to have in doing a fast?

What kinds of outcomes might a person expect from fasting?



LOVING | GROWING OUR HEART FOR A LOVING GOD

What was the most helpful or inspirational part of the sermon for you?

Read the promise in James 4:8. Do you believe this is true? In what ways do you experience this truth?



LIVING | STARTING TO LIVE LIKE JESUS DAILY

Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-30. What is the situation that prompted Jehoshaphat to fast? What were the outcomes from this experience in the lives of Jehoshaphat and the Israelites?

Remembering the passage above: Where in your life do you want to see more of God's peace, power and presence? What are three "enemies" that currently push you towards fear?

ON YOUR OWN



PRACTICING

Try to stretch your experience through a fast in which you are seeking God. Choose a food, a meal, or a whole day's meals and try fasting. Or choose an activity and fast. Make sure you are seeking God in this time and not just focused on your own ability to refrain from something. This is about God.



PRAYING

Father, you are my all in all. You have supplied all my needs according to your riches in glory. You are the Bread of Life and I am fully satisfied in you. Help me to seek you first in all things that I might discover that I find more of you in my life and devote every part of who I am to you.



MEMORIZING

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." (John 4:34)