



SERMON STUDY GUIDE
For the sermon preached on
9/20/2020:
“Disrupter-in-Chief”
Luke 4:14-30

How to use the Study Guide During Virtual Online Group Meetings

Group life is even more critical during this incredible season. Over and over, group leaders are reporting that suddenly there is a new hunger to connect, share, pray, and meditate on Scripture together, and so we are making these guides available weekly and suggesting a new format during this season.

As you know, our Group Life’s vision is to “practice the way of Jesus.” And while Jesus never had to lead a Torah study over Zoom, he was strategic in his teaching ministry, and we want to be as well.

There are a number of differences between meeting in person and meeting online, ranging from the obvious to the subtle. One is, given our attention spans for online meetings, we want to encourage you to limit the length of your call between 45-60 minutes and we are calling this “Check-In Plus One.” Meaning, spend a few minutes checking in with your group and see if there are any new needs with them (or even amongst their neighbors). The “One” is to spend time in study. As our virtual season continues, our desire for meaningful content and interaction will grow. Given our new format, the study guides based on Sunday’s sermon will be designed to be more application based (as opposed to unpacking the text with the Inductive Bible Study method). You might consider sharing the passage beforehand with your group in hopes that they might spend more time with the Scripture before the gathering.

As always, we are so grateful for you, your gifting, your servant leadership, and all that you do in practicing the way of Jesus in community.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tim Ghali and Pastor Rachel Keeler on behalf of the Group Life Team

For the Leader: “Check-In Plus One”

Welcome everyone to the Zoom call and outline the goal of this call being 45 minutes. Spend 15-20 minutes checking in with one another, then move into a time of prayer, and then spend some time discussing the application of the Scripture passage.

A “Check-in” question might be, “How are you doing, and is there anything new that has arisen in your life or in your neighborhood that we can pray about?”

This is the second week in our new teaching series, “Disrupted: Following Jesus Outside the Box,” and Pastor Bryan preached a message called “Disrupter-in-Chief.” This fall, we will be spending time learning from the Gospel of Luke, and today’s passage is Luke 4:14-30.

Q – Our text today is from the middle section of Luke 4, the beginning of Jesus’s preaching ministry. In just a few verses, the crowd’s attitude toward Jesus goes from “All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips” (v. 22) to “All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff” (vv. 28-29).

- What were some of the ways that Jesus’s preaching was disruptive?
- Pastor Bryan spoke about how Jesus challenged people’s very way of life and called into question all their familiar religious practices and patterns. How does Jesus’s preaching challenge *our* way of life today? In what ways might the message of Jesus even challenge our own familiar religious practices and patterns?

Q – Pastor Bryan shared the stories of some of the disruptions he has experienced in life—the death of his grandfather, leaving his family to go away to college, marriage and parenthood, coming to Grace Chapel—and spoke about how those disruptions led to significant discovery and growth for him. He talked about how disruption exposes what has been hidden and makes space for something new.

- Recall a significant time of disruption in your own life. What was the source of the disruption? What did it feel like to go through it? What hidden things did the disruption expose? What new and good thing did God plant in your life through the space created by that disruption?

Q – At the end of the sermon, Pastor Bryan spoke about all the disruptions we have been experiencing in 2020. He said, “2020 has busted up our lives like a plow breaking up hardened soil,” and offered us the following questions to reflect on:

- What seeds might God be planting in the spaces created by this Great Disruption? What new practices and priorities might take hold in your home?
- What new ministries might God want to raise up here at Grace? What new people might we reach in the spaces created by online ministry?
- What seeds of healing and justice might take root in our hearts and community through the disruption caused by social and racial and political unrest? What ignorance and prejudice might be exposed by these uncomfortable conversations?

As we conclude, let’s pray that the Lord will open our ears to hear what He might be speaking to us, open our eyes to see what He might want to expose, and open our hearts to the new seeds He is wanting to plant there.