

Fingerprints of Jesus | *Discipleship Guide*

Text: Luke 3.21-4.18

Series Length: Seven Weeks from Feb 18 - April 1, 2018

Table of Contents:

- [Guide 1: Looking Back to Move Forward](#)
- [Guide 2: The Spirit is Our Power Source](#)
- [Guide 3: Tools For Freedom](#)
- [Guide 4: Sight From The Word of God](#)

Resources:

You will also use the resource: [Unbiblical Family Commandments](#) from Emotionally Healthy Spirituality during this series.

Intro for Leaders:

As we saw in our Sunday teaching on [the Incarnation and Why It Matters](#), we see that Jesus became incarnate for us and for our salvation. In this next series of Scriptures, Luke takes us into a deeper look at this salvation. We will call this study The Fingerprints of Jesus. For many in our midst it will be eye opening and heart healing to see the profound depth and nature of the salvation that Jesus brings.

Fingerprints of Jesus will also begin to prepare us for our follow up series (a six part series starting after Easter) which will focus on carrying the Kingdom of God everywhere we go. For perspective, when we did our survey at Vision Night, the #2 thing people were interested in growing in was living missionally. So this series and the next build together to help us do that, and embody our value that Transformed People Transform Cities.

In Lifegroups, we would love to partner with you in making disciples by providing a series of discipleship guides (also listed below) to help you invest in your group members particularly focusing on personally experiencing the deep transformation Jesus's salvation brings in our lives.

Though the teaching series lasts seven weeks, we are only providing four Lifegroup discipleship guides, as we know groups move at different paces.

In addition to the discipleship guides, we are facilitating a church-wide service project on March 10th that we would love for your Lifegroup to do in lieu of your regular meeting that week.

Lastly, if you have extra weeks to cover, taking a week to go up to our prayer room and to spend an evening in prayer as a Lifegroup, or taking a week to eat a meal together as a group would be great supplemental activities.

Background:

You want to prepare your group for going deep in their discipleship to Jesus and in relationship with one another. The activities are exciting and will be wonderful to help us grow, but will also require us to do some hard work on ourselves. Additionally, we are offering a Freedom Weekend to go deeper in these areas for the church on the weekend of May 6th. You will be hearing more about it as we get closer.

Section 1: Sunday Teaching Roadmap

In our Sunday teaching we will be working through Luke 3.21-4.18 as Luke focuses on the defining fingerprints of the salvation that Jesus brings. We will see that this salvation has many layers and dimensions both spiritually, relationally and physically.

The series could be summarized in two sentences like this:

Fingerprints mark an individual as unique. In the next section of Luke's Gospel, he details for us the unique mission and passion of Jesus. We see he is the last Adam, the Anointed King, sent to bring good news to the poor, liberty to the captives, sight to the blind, freedom to the oppressed and the jubilee to the world.

2/18 Sermon 1: New Adam/New Israel/True King

Text: Luke 3.21-4.13, Romans 5.12-21

Sermon in A Sentence: Jesus is the last Adam sent to heal the world. Jesus is the New Israel coming out of the water and the wilderness, Jesus is the true king, anointed by the Spirit.

2/25 Sermon 2: Jesus is The Anointed One

Text: Luke 4.18

Sermon in A Sentence: Jesus was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to bring salvation both spiritually and physically.

3/4 Sermon 3: Good News To the Poor

Text: Luke 4.18

Sermon in A Sentence: The salvation of Jesus means good news for those suffering from the many face of poverty.

Note: Guest Preacher- Don Steadman - Director of Antioch Ministries International.

3/11 Sermon 4: Liberty to Captives

Text: Luke 4.18

Sermon in A Sentence: The salvation of Jesus means liberation for those in captivity.

3/18 Sermon 5: Sight to Blind

Text: Luke 4.18

Sermon in A Sentence: The salvation of Jesus means sight for the blind.

3/25 Sermon 6: Freedom to the Oppressed

Text: Luke 4.19

Sermon in A Sentence: The Salvation of Jesus brings life-giving, life-sustaining freedom to the oppressed

4/1- Easter- Sermon 7: Jubilee to the World

Text: Luke 4.19

Sermon in A Sentence: The Salvation of Jesus brings jubilee to the world

Discipleship Guide #1: Looking Back To Move Forward

Big Idea: Jesus is the Last Adam, the New Israel, the True King come to bring healing and salvation to our world.

But how do we experience this? How does it become tangible and real and meaningful in our lives?

One way is by looking back to go forward.

This activity will help your group members thoughtfully and reflectively look back at what has influenced them and prepare them to look forward to the good things Jesus has for them.

Starter Question For Your Group (Have a few people answer): Is there a family member that you look like (mom/dad/aunt/uncle etc.)? Is there a funny trait that you share with them?

Providing Leadership: Our family of origin is one of the deepest influences on our lives for better or worse. As we learned this week in our study of Luke, we saw that Jesus is the Last Adam who is bringing healing and restoration to the brokenness of our lives and of our world.

But how do we experience this? How does it become tangible and real and meaningful in our lives? One way is by looking back in order to go forward.

The Gospel describes becoming a Christian in terms of new birth, and is the means by which we are adopted into the new family of Jesus. In Christ, God forgives the past, but as we all know and experience on a daily basis, the effects of our past are not erased. It has great influence on our present- on the way we relate to God, ourselves and others.

In Christ we are given new birth, and as we grow we need to learn the ways of the new family of Jesus. We all come into this family with brokenness and wounding from being born into a broken world and into imperfect families.

God's desire, regardless of our past and upbringing is to heal us deeply and to build us into mature, loving members of his family. To do that, we must become aware of what needs to be healed and transformed in us.

Growing as disciples requires us to honestly reflect on the positive and negative impact of our family of origin, as well as other significant influences in our lives. This is difficult but fruitful work. But as we look back and learn, it sets the stage for experiencing the redemption of God and growing in Christlikeness.

This activity will help your group honestly and authentically look back, and then prepare to move forward in the new way of Jesus.

Discussion Question 1: The Bible is full of stories about family trees, and in reading it, we see the way the choices of one generation impact subsequent generations. Who can give some Biblical examples where this idea is seen?

Examples include

- Abraham/Isaac/Jacob/Joseph
 - Positive: heart for God, faith to follow him
 - Negative: favoritism in parenting, deceit that runs through generations)
- David/Solomon
 - Positive: heart for God, leadership gifting
 - Negative: adultery that runs through generations.

Discussion Question 2: What is a TV show, movie or current example of how family traits impact generations positively or negatively?

Discussion Question 3: If your family of origin was in the Bible, and their stories were mapped out for us to see, what might be some positive and negative legacies that you would notice? What are one or two patterns have impacted who you are today?

Read: The salvation of Jesus brings us into a new family line. Ephesians 4.17-31 gives us some of the characteristics of the new family of Jesus we have been adopted into, and gives us hope for the way God wants help us grow to maturity. We are going to read it together:

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!— 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil. 28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Discussion Question 4: What are one or two “new family traits” that get you the most excited about growing in and leaving a new legacy? How might the “fingerprints of Jesus” reshape your life and legacy?

Closing: Next week we are going to look at how the Holy Spirit helps us move forward from our past to our new future.

Discipleship Guide #2: The Power of the Holy Spirit

Big Idea: Jesus ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is God's empowering presence to enable us to grow into our salvation.

Starter Question For Your Group (Have a few people answer): If we were to look back at the timeline of your life, what was your funniest/most awkward growing up phase? Was it defined by a particular hairstyle? Clothing choices? Music or TV choices?

Providing Leadership: Growing up toward maturity is often a clumsy, slow and at times painful process. Last time we talked about what it looks like for us to experience Jesus's salvation and grow in this new family towards maturity.

Today we are going to focus in on the power source for that growth: The Holy Spirit! Jesus ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit, and he has given us the Holy Spirit as the powersource for our new life in Him.

[Personalize it] Have one of your leaders share about their family background, the positive and negative legacies and then a specific story or example of how the Holy Spirit has brought healing, restoration and new life in the way of Jesus. As you share this story you are both modeling for your group members what this looks like, and also setting the temperature for what should be a powerful night.

Discussion Question 1: Does anyone else have a similar story they would like to share about how the Holy Spirit has ministered to them and helped them grow?

Read: *Galatians 5.19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

Lead: Here we see that the characteristics of the new family of Jesus grow in us as fruit of the work of the Holy Spirit. Tonight we are going to minister to one another in the power of the Holy Spirit. For some of us this might be new, and that is ok- our Lifegroup is a safe environment to learn and grow. No one has to share who doesn't want to. What we would like to do is have a member of our group share a bit of your family story, the positive and negative legacies that story left on you, and then we want to take time to pray and minister to you.

As we minister we are going to pray and ask for you to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Think of this as like a dry sponge being saturated water. Then we are going to take time to listen to the Lord and share prophetic words with you. It would be great if you could record these words on your phone as they could become dear treasures for you in the coming weeks and months. Again, if you are new to this, or this terminology, you will get the hang of it as we go. Who would like to go first?

Note: Our groups vary quite a bit in size, demographic and maturity. Therefore you as the leaders will need to figure out how best to facilitate this, but we encourage you to go for it in faith and trust the Lord to minister in a powerful way. You will spend the rest of the evening taking time to do this, do as many people as seem interested in prayer ministry or as many time allows. If people don't want to participate, feel free to let them move at their own pace.

Discipleship Guide #3: Tools for Freedom

Big Idea: One aspect of Jesus's salvation is setting captives free. Tonight we are going to explore confession, repentance and forgiveness as practical tools to help us experience freedom.

Review: Does anyone want to share how the Spirit ministered to them in our last time together? *** Leaders note: Taking time on the above question will build faith for what God is doing in your group.*

Starter Question For Your Group (Have a few people answer): We just experienced the Winter Olympics. If you were going to be in Olympics, winter or summer, what sport would you be in the olympics for and why?

Providing Leadership: Everyone of the athletes that made it to the Olympics didn't start as one of the best athletes in their sport, but they have spent years and years practicing to help them grow and improve.

This week we saw that one aspect of Jesus's salvation is setting captives free. We grow in freedom in Christ, in a similar way, through engaging in some basic but powerful practices that help us experience freedom. Tonight we are going to look at and practice three of those: confession, repentance and forgiveness. Additionally, we would like for these to be a regular part of our culture as a Lifegroup in an ongoing way, to help us all experience the freedom that Christ has for us.

*** Note: Again, all of our groups are different in terms of size, relational history, demographics etc, so you will need to discern the best way to administer this- example might be breaking up guys in one room, girls in another. ***

Read: *Acts 3:19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.*

James 5.16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

1 John 1.9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Colossians 3:12-14 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Discussion Question: What do these scriptures call us to and promise to us related to confession, repentance and forgiveness?

Lead: Have one of your leaders share a personal example of how confession, repentance and forgiveness has helped them experience freedom in Christ. This will set the tone and temperature for the night, so lead with confidence, depth and authenticity at this point.

Activate: Tonight we are going to put these verses into action together.

Distribute pieces of paper and pens to the group. Have everyone make 3 columns on the paper: Column 1: Repentance
Column 2: Confession
Column 3: Forgiveness

Communicate to everyone, as we are learning to grow in the salvation and freedom that Jesus has for us, and particularly looking at how that redeems places of brokenness in our lives that are legacies of our family of origin, we want to take another step in healing by practicing repentance, confession, and forgiveness.

You can use the handout- [Unbiblical Family Commandments](#) to help as a starting off point for people.

In column 1 you are going to write negative legacies that you see from your family of origin, that you realize you need to repent of.

In column 2, you are going to write out prayers of confession related to these matters. We are going to encourage you to share those items with one or two trusted friends and have them pray for you.

In column 3 we are going to write out people who we need to forgive connected to these negative legacies. It might be a particular family member, institution or even yourself. As you fill this column out, take time to pray and forgive them from your heart. If it is someone you need to call or visit to express forgiveness, we encourage you to take that step.

Remember, this is the hard work of discipleship, but we are promised freedom as the fruit of working through this.

Wrap It Up: We want to encourage you to share what you need to confess with one or two other trust friends in our group. That can happen now before we leave, or sometime outside of this group.

Discipleship Guide #4: Sight from the Word of God

Big Idea: Another dimension of the salvation that Jesus brings is sight to the blind. The Word of God is a gift to us to help give us proper sight.

Review: What did the Lord do in you as you practiced repentance, confession and forgiveness in our lesson last week?

Note: Again taking time to review will built faith for what God is doing in your group in this season.

Starter Question For Your Group (Have a few people answer): What is your favorite worship song or hymn?

Providing Leadership: One of the most iconic worship hymns of all time is Amazing Grace, written by John Newton. It contains the following line:

Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound / That saved a wretch like me / I once was lost, but now am found / T'was blind but now I see

The song articulates one of the profound truths of the Scripture, that the salvation of Jesus helps us to see clearly and rightly.

As we have been growing these several weeks, we have been working through negative legacies from our family of origin that God is wanting to heal as a part of being in his family. One of the reasons we can get tangled up in sin is because we don't see, or don't see clearly.

One way we practically experience "seeing" is by letting the Word of God re-orient our "sight" around Truth.

Read:

2 Corinthians 4:4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

1 John 2:11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalms 19:7-9 The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether....

Lead: Have one of your leaders share how God's Word has helped them receive sight and healing from negative legacies from their family of origin. Again, this is going to set the model and the temperature for the rest of the evening.

Discussion Question: Does anyone else have a similar testimony they want to share about how God's word has helped them receiving sight and healing?

Activate: Tonight we are going to put these verses into practice to attack lies that we believe related to these issues that we might see clearly. We are going to do that by applying the Word of God to our lives.

Distribute a piece of paper and pen to everyone in the group. Make 2 columns. Label the left column "Blindspots/Lies I believe" and column 2 "Seeing Clearly / Truth of God's Word."

As you reflect on the issues you are working through and the way those have impacted you and your family, I want you to consider tonight the lies that surround those issues. They may be lies about God, lies about yourself or even lies about other people.

Take time to write down the various lies that the Holy Spirit brings to mind as you reflect. You can use the [Unbiblical Family Commandments](#) to help jump start you if need be.

In the right column, you are going to write down specific Scriptures that speak to the lies you are tempted to believe. You can use the concordance in your Bible or online to help find specific verses.

After 10-15 minutes, come back together and let people share various lies and Scriptures that speak to them.

Discussion Question: What is the good fruit you would experience by seeing according to God's Word vs. according to the lies you are tempted to believe?

Discipleship Challenge: Everyday this week, we want to challenge you to meditate on this verse in the morning, at lunch and in the evening. Next week when we come together we are going to share how this impacted us this week.

If the idea of meditating on God's word is new to your group, you can offer to connect people who aren't sure what to do with someone who feels strong in the area of Scripture meditation.