SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Luke

Chapter 13

Unless You Repent

MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 13:24

“Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.”

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Luke 13

Jesus heard the bad news of the day and turned it into a word for every man listening: turn around while there is still time. This week He is not asking you to judge anyone else's life, but to let Him straighten what is bent in yours and to walk through the door He holds open.

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

Why Not Me?

READ · LUKE 13:1–5

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What two disasters are mentioned, and what does Jesus say twice, word for word (13:3, 5)?

REFLECT

When you hear about a man who overdosed, went back inside or lost everything, what is your first thought about him? What does Jesus' "I tell you, no" (13:3) say to that thought?

REFLECT

Jesus says repentance is the issue for "all" of us (13:3, 5). What would it look like for you to turn around today in one specific area of your life?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank God out loud for one way He has spared you that you did not deserve, and name one thing you are turning away from today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 13:24)

DAY 2 OF 5

One More Year

READ · LUKE 13:6–9

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How long has the owner been looking for fruit, what does he want to do, and what does the vineyard-keeper ask for (13:7–8)?

REFLECT

The keeper says, "Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer" (13:8). What "digging" and "fertilizer" has God put around your life — people, losses, programs, prayers?

REFLECT

If the Owner came looking for fruit in your life this week, what would He find? What is one fruit you want Him to find by this time next year?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one fruit you are asking God to grow in you this year — patience, honesty, sobriety, kindness — and pray over it by name.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 13:24)

DAY 3 OF 5

Set Free

READ · LUKE 13:10–17

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How long had the woman been bent over, what does Jesus say and do to her, and what does she do right after (13:11–13)?

REFLECT

She had been bent double for eighteen years and still came to the synagogue (13:10–11). What has bent you over — shame, depression, an old habit — and do you still bring it to the place where Jesus is?

REFLECT

The synagogue official cared more about the rules of the day than about the woman (13:14). Where have your schedule or your rules gotten in the way of helping someone who was hurting?

RESPOND — TODAY

Ask Jesus today, in plain words, to loose one thing that has kept you bent over, and tell one trusted brother what you asked.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 13:24)

DAY 4 OF 5

The Narrow Door

READ · LUKE 13:18–30

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What two small things does Jesus compare the kingdom to, and what does He tell the man who asks if only a few are saved (13:19, 21, 24)?

REFLECT

Jesus says “strive,” not just “seek” (13:24). What is the difference in your own walk between wanting God sometimes and going after Him with everything you have?

REFLECT

The people outside said, “We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets” (13:26), but He did not know them. How can a man be around church and Christian things and still not really know Jesus?

RESPOND — TODAY

Spend ten minutes alone with God today with no phone, and simply tell Him you want to be known by Him, not just near Him.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 13:24)

DAY 5 OF 5

Under His Wings

READ · LUKE 13:31–35

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What warning do the Pharisees bring, what does Jesus call Herod, and what picture does He use for His love for Jerusalem (13:31–32, 34)?

REFLECT

Herod's threat did not change Jesus' plans: "I must journey on today and tomorrow and the next day" (13:33). What threat or fear has been pushing you off the road God has you on?

REFLECT

Jesus says, "How often I wanted to gather your children together … and you would not have it!" (13:34). Where in your life have you been pulling away from Him while He was trying to gather you close?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray Jesus' own picture back to Him: ask Him to gather you under His wings today, and name the place where you have been resisting Him.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 13:24)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Jesus would not let the crowd rank the people who died (13:2–5). How can our group become a place where men stop comparing their sins and start being honest about their own?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

The bent woman stood up straight and began glorifying God, and the whole crowd rejoiced (13:13, 17). When has seeing God set another man free stirred up your own faith?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

The kingdom starts as small as a mustard seed and a bit of leaven (13:19, 21). What small faithful thing could each of us do this week that God might grow into something big?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You see me when I am bent over and You still call me to Yourself, so today I come to the narrow door and ask You to…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · LUKE 13:24

"Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able."