



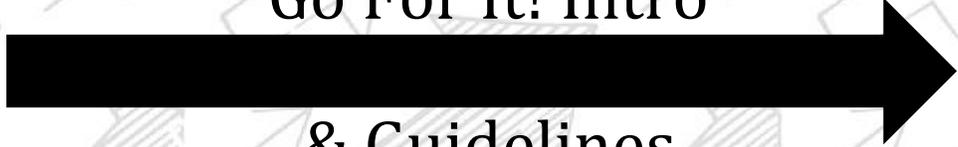
Go For It!

2017-18

Month 8

Ruth - Luke 11:28

Go For It! Intro



& Guidelines

Hello! Welcome to “Go For It”!

We are excited you have chosen to join us on this journey. Every quizzing season is an adventure and we are excited to provide this curriculum for Ruth & Luke (Part I). The purpose of the program is to encourage all quizzers to put their faith into action and to provide coaches with an accessible way to facilitate that progress.

Our prayer is that through these weekly “Go For It” devotionals, quizzers will be given the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Scripture, learn to pray for others, and discover simple, but meaningful ways to put their faith into action. We want to be able to share how encouraging God’s words can be for them in their lives right now. Quizzers can make a difference in their communities, in their schools, and around the Globe today!

Each month the “Go For It” devotionals will be available through the Free Methodist Bible Quizzing Newsletter and through fmquizzing.net. The devotionals can be re-printed and distributed in whatever way is easiest for your Bible Quiz Ministry (electronic or paper). We only ask that you do not charge for the use of the curriculum. It is a free service that we are happy to provide. Each devotional has a theme verse, a lesson, a challenge, additional readings, a prayer focus, and a reflection piece. It is best if you can follow up with your quizzers each week to discuss and pray over the challenge or other aspects of the devotional. Finally, we ask that you join us in prayer for all who are going to Go For It!

God Bless,

Adam Schell & Lindsay Canon

Week One – Do I Have Joy?

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.” ~ Luke 2:10

These next couple weeks, we are going to look at major themes from the book of Luke. The first that stands out to me is joy. This is a theme that runs from the very beginning of the book (when John and Jesus are announced as children who bring great joy) to the very end (when the disciples return to Jerusalem with great joy in the end of chapter 24). In Scripture, when a topic is mentioned both at the beginning and at the end of a book, it forms what is called an “inclusio.” When we see inclusio, it means that the idea mentioned at the beginning and the end is central to everything found in between. In this case, the gospel of Jesus that Luke is recording is a message of joy that should leave its hearers full of joy!

The angels came 2,000 years ago bringing good news that would cause great joy for all people. My concern is that today, this good news has become so commonplace that we are in danger of losing the excitement and the joy that it brings. So, how can we embrace the joy of the good news of Jesus today?

Challenge: When I graduated high school, I received a pretty large number of gifts from people who wanted to support me moving forward. It was a great thing, but it was easy to take advantage of until my mom made me sit down and write out a personal thank you card to each person who gave me a gift. As much as I hated doing this, it made me realize how blessed I was and appreciate what I’d received more. This week, let’s write thank you notes to Jesus; thank Him for all that He’s done for you – make it personal! – and remember the joy He offers.

Weekly Prayer Focus: Pray for joy! Both for you and for all who know the good news of Jesus!

(Day one) This week, I am going to

(Day seven) Reflections on the week:

Additional Reading: Luke 1:14, 44, 58; 2:10; 6:23; 8:13; 10:17, 21; 24:41, 52

I read the additional reading

Week Two – How Do I Pray?

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. ~ Luke 5:16

A second theme in the Gospel of Luke is communicated in a similar way to joy that we discussed last week. We find an inclusio in the gospel concerning prayer, with prayer taking place in Luke 1:10 outside of the temple and prayer occurring in the very last verse of the Gospel as the disciples are continually offering a blessing to God in Luke 24:53. To remind us, this inclusio is supposed to encourage us to look for prayer throughout the book and to remember that prayer is a key part of the content for the author of the Gospel.

In Luke, we find that Jesus is praying *constantly*! He retreats to pray habitually (5:16), prays before He chooses the Twelve (6:12), before He asks His disciples about His identity (9:18), at the Transfiguration (9:28-29), at Gethsemane (22:39-46) and on the cross (23:34, 46). This isn't even scratching the surface of all the time Jesus talks and teaches about prayer, or the teachings that could be applied to prayer. It is clear that Luke is trying to drive home the point that prayer is something that should be in and through our lives in *everything* we do!

Challenge: There are so many ways to live this out, my friends. Organize a prayer walk throughout your community; keep a prayer journal that you are adding entries to throughout your day; turn off the radio in your car and spend your driving time praying; start a small group with some friends that focuses on praying together and encouraging prayer throughout the week. These are only some suggestions. The real challenge is to take prayer seriously this week in a way that shapes your way of life beyond this week. If you do, it'll change your life.

Weekly Prayer Focus: Pray for God's help to find ways to pray continually this week.

(Day one) This week, I am going to

(Day seven) Reflections on the week:

Additional Reading: Luke 5:16; 6:12, 28; 9:18, 28; 11:1-4; 18:1-14; 21:36; 22:32, 39-46;

I read the additional reading

Week Three – Am I Excited?



“Martha, Martha”, the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many thing, but few things are needed-or indeed only one.” Mary has chosen what is better and it will not be taken away from her. ~ Luke 10:41-42

A third theme that I have noticed through Luke is the theme of yearning to be in Jesus’ presence. From town to town and country to country through the Gospel of Luke people are clamoring to see Jesus, to spend time with Jesus, or even just to catch a glimpse of Jesus! In his short time in ministry he became, for the lack of a better term, a celebrity of his time. But today, we do not tend to clamor to spend time with Christ. We may remember to pray before we eat, or remember to read through our chapters once a week, but do we ever wait in eager expectation to spend time with Jesus? Building off Adam’s theme of joy, I know our joy is found in the good news of the gospel, but I also have to remind myself that the good news would not have been possible without Christ. So, with all the busyness of our lives, we should stop and try to encourage one another to be more like Mary, rather than Martha, and more like the little children who could not wait to run into their Savior’s arms.

Challenge: Try to evaluate your feelings toward your private time with Jesus (devotions, pray, etc.) Is it engaging to you? Exciting? Something you look forward to? If no, do not be afraid to change it up. Go for a walk and pray. Listen to music and spend time with God. Write. Journal. Draw. Color. Make a meme! Whatever will make you excited and look forward to carving out time in your day to spend with God. Make it purposeful and personal and then just Go For It!

Weekly Prayer Focus: Planning for your Conference Finals & Your Regional Directors!

(Day one) This week, I am going to

(Day seven) Reflections on the week:

Additional Reading: Luke 5:17-26, 7:36-50, 8:40-56, 9:47-48, 10: 41-41

I read the additional reading

Week Four –Where is your Hope?



But he [Jesus] said, "I must proclaim the good news of the king of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent ~ Luke 4:43

Finally, I want to end this month's theme of themes with one that covers both Ruth and Luke. We were blessed this year to include a book from the Old Testament. Although their stories were from different points in history, they both tell a story of hope. Ruth and Naomi are in dire circumstances toward the beginning of the narrative but find hope in God's plan for their lives. The Lord's hand was not against Naomi, God had a plan for her life and for Ruth's life and He made them both part of the larger narrative of Jesus' birth.

In Luke, although we are only half way through his account of the gospel, he is constructing a story of hope. People are putting their life and hope in Jesus' hands. And although the disciples and the crowds are unable to comprehend Jesus' true mission, Jesus knows that He will be able to bring hope to those in need and He knows His role in the plan to redeem the world. I am excited to continue this gospel into next year as we continue to see the true reason why we should put our hope in Christ!

Challenge: Reflect on how you can encourage others to put their hope in Christ. All throughout this year, we have encouraged you to put yourself out there and try something new. Reflect on how you can continue to do that even beyond quizzing, in your families, churches, schools, and communities. Share your ideas with one another and see if you can set plans into motion!

Weekly Prayer Focus: Service Projects (Within Churches, Regions, & the project at Nationals)

(Day one) This week, I am going to

(Day seven) Reflections on the week:

Additional Reading: Ruth 4: 14-17, Luke 2:28-32, 2:38, 4: 40-44, 11:11-13

I read the additional reading