



# **New Testament Survey**

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# Group Exercises: Leader Guide

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Welcome to Our Daily Bread University's (ODBU) New Testament survey course. In this course, ODBU provides the content of the New Testament survey through lectures and related study materials. On the days when you meet with the students who are participating in the course, you, as the students' leader, will encourage them to interact meaningfully with the content they have already taken in. The purpose of this guide is to provide you with some ideas for activities and exercises that will challenge the students to engage and interact with the teaching.

These exercises and activities have been provided to us by Dr. Sid Buzzell, former Chairman of the Theology Department at Colorado Christian University. He used ODBU's course content in his teaching of both Old and New Testament survey to hundreds of college students each year. The suggestions he makes in this guide have already been tried in classrooms and proven to be successful teaching/learning tools. You now can benefit from his creative thinking and from his experience.

In addition to using Dr. Buzzell's materials, we want to encourage you to think of some exercises that will be unique to your personality and teaching style. Here are some general ideas of types of activities you might develop:

- 1. Provide additional information on the Bible book or topic you are discussing with your students. As you view the ODBU lessons the students are completing, you may think of additional information that you want to cover in your meetings using a short discussion. Feel free to add material as you desire, but keep in mind that you should allow time for students to interact with each other and, with your oversight and involvement, to engage with and apply the information they are learning.**
- 2. Discussion. Some topics lend themselves to open discussion on a particular topic led by the teacher. Often these discussions can be initiated by questions the students may have as they study the biblical text.**
- 3. Small-group discussion. You might break the group of students into smaller learning teams to discuss and/or debate on one of the topics or to share with one another their own exegesis and application of a passage or question.**
- 4. Case studies/problem-solving groups. You might give students a problem to solve or an example (fictional or actual) that will encourage discussion and application of the concepts taught in the lesson.**

Be creative and innovative. This kind of teaching is an opportunity to try new ideas, which will encourage students to be actively involved in learning. By the time they meet with the group, you know they have taken in the course material. In the group meetings, the real assimilation of the material begins, and there is almost no limit on ways in which that engagement with the text can occur. So enjoy this course as you use the activities in this guide and as you develop your own style of interacting with students that will encourage their lifelong study of the Bible.

# NT219 Luke–John: Two Interpretations of Jesus

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## 219:1 Luke-John: The Gospel According to Luke and John

### Discussion: Loved and Accepted by Jesus

Dr. Blomberg mentioned that Luke emphasized Jesus' ministry to women in a time when women were largely ignored. But in one amazing incident Jesus not only chose a woman to be the story's hero, He chose a most unlikely woman. This crucial story teaches us some foundational truths about Jesus' wisdom and compassion.

*Luke 7:36–50: 36 Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. 37 And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, 38 and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner." 40 Jesus said to Simon, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he replied, "Say it, Teacher." 41 "A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?" 43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have judged correctly." 44 Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet. 46 You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume. 47 For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little." 48 Then He said to her, "Your sins have been forgiven." 49 Those who were reclining at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this man who even forgives sins?" 50 And He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*

### Questions:

1. Verses 36-37 introduce three characters. Name and describe each of them.
2. What did the woman do?
3. What did the Pharisee do?
4. In verses 44-46, Jesus contrasted the behaviors of the woman and the Pharisee. Consider the three cultural actions Jesus pointed out and summarize what disturbed Jesus about the Pharisee's behavior. What did these three actions indicate about the Pharisee's attitude toward Jesus?
5. Now consider the parable in verses 40-43. How would you state its teaching? Is Jesus forming an exclusive club here by saying that those who have the most sin to be forgiven will be the only ones who can love Him properly? Does that mean if someone has grown up following Jesus and lived an obedient life they will never love Him as much as a debauched sinner? What's Jesus' point here?

## 219:2 Jesus and John: Two Miracle Births

### Discussion: My Identity

Prepare the following questions for a group discussion:

Wealth is a way people build a sense of self-dependence, but there are also other things we substitute for our dependence on God or for our sense of well-being.

1. What things do you see other people using to build a sense of identity?
2. How are you doing? What is your “Claim to Significance”? Does placing your dependence on God make sense to you? Why, or why not?

## 219:3 The Beginning of Jesus’ Ministry

### Exegetical Discussion: What Did Jesus Come to Do?

As we think about Jesus’ ministry, let’s look back to see what Mary believed her son was going to do.

Form groups of three or four and talk your way through the following questions in this passage to help clarify what Mary believed about her coming Son.

*Luke 1:46-56: 46 And Mary said: “My soul exalts the Lord, 47 and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; for behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed. 49 For the Mighty One has done great things for me; and holy is His name. 50 And His mercy is upon generation after generation toward those who fear Him. 51 He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart. 52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones, and has exalted those who were humble. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things; and sent away the rich empty-handed. 54 He has given help to Israel His servant, in remembrance of His mercy, 55 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants forever.” 56 And Mary stayed with her about three months, and then returned to her home.*

1. What’s the difference between what Luke recorded in these passages in chapter 1?  
verses 46-49  
verses 50-55  
verse 56
2. Summarize what Mary said in the first movement of this poem.
3. List the things Mary said her Son would do in verses 50-55.
4. Who, according to verses 50-55, were the main benefactors of Jesus’ ministry?
5. Do you think Jesus was opposed to all rulers and rich people? Explain your answer.
6. Do you think all poor and hungry people going to be blessed by Him? Explain your answer.
7. How would you explain Jesus’ ministry based on this passage?