



DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

12 & 13 FEBRUARY 2022

“DISCIPLES WHO LOVE, DO, BLESS, PRAY”

LUKE 6.27-36

The main study guide material for this sermon series is to be purchased at <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/for-everyone-bible-study-guide-215>.

It is recommended that the e-book be purchased. Nevertheless, individuals or Connect Groups that wish to purchase hardcopies may do so from physical Christian bookstores, or online stores (Amazon, Bookdepository, Blackwells, etc)

The material in this document is intentionally brief. It is intended as a supplement only.

- **Begin by reading the Scripture passage together.**
- **Review the video of the sermon if needed (see <http://www.brmc.org.sg/category/resources/sermons>).**
- **Refer to the [main study guide](#) Chapter 7 as well as this supplementary material.**
- **Feel free to discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group’s current context and present stage in life.**
- **Remember to allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another, before ending your group session.**

Info Sidebox

Bible Reading Toolkit: Careful cross-referencing to other passages of Scripture

There are two dynamics to hold in tension when cross-referencing other portions of Scriptures. On one hand, as a starting point, we want to approach each passage in its own immediate context. We want to attentively hear what God is saying through that particular biblical writer. We certainly don't want to "read into" the passage other ideas that are not intended to be there! In particular, we want to be careful not to cross-reference other passages that are, in fact, talking about a different subject. To prevent this, we must first understand the passage to which we are cross-referencing.

On the other hand, we note that many of the biblical authors themselves cited or alluded to older portions of Scripture. The New Testament authors generally assume that readers have some familiarity with the Old Testament. Thus, it is difficult to understand the New Testament without some understanding of what the Old Testament is saying.

Given these twin dynamics, there are two general rules to help us use cross-references properly:

1. Begin by **understanding each passage in its own immediate context**.
 - a. Consider the genre of the passage. Take each passage of Scripture in its immediate literary context. E.g. consider the narrative flow of Gospels/narratives. Or consider the flow of argument for epistles.
 - b. Look out for intentional citation or allusions by the Scriptural writers – these are often given as footnotes in our modern English translations. Observe whether the divinely-inspired biblical author himself interprets the citation/allusion. If he does, that's the proper understanding! If he doesn't, turn to those passages and read them in their own contexts.
2. When there are **parallel accounts** (such as in the four-fold Gospel accounts, in Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles, or in Ezra and Nehemiah), it is a good practice to look at those parallel texts, but **only after** first reading the passage carefully in its own context (Step 1 above). This practice helps us understand the specific focus/emphasis of each Biblical book/author.
3. If you are cross-referencing a particular topic or theme (e.g. "grace", "forgiveness"), do be careful to:
 - a. Read each cross-reference text **in its own immediate context** (Step 1 above).
 - b. Recognise that while Bible concordances or online Bible keyword searches are a starting point, the best way to begin a thematic study is through a Bible dictionary. As many free Bible dictionaries are out-of-date, we recommend the following:
 - i. Baker Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology
(<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/bakers-evangelical-dictionary/>)
 - ii. Dictionary of Bible Themes
(<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/dictionary-of-bible-themes/toc>)
 - iii. Encyclopedia of The Bible
(<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/encyclopedia-of-the-bible/toc>)

Response, Application, Prayer

1. We have seen from Luke 6.27-36 that Jesus calls his disciples to a radical lifestyle. This is obviously not easy, because it runs against cultural expectations and norms. Which of these “Love, Do, Bless, Pray” do you personally find the hardest to live out? Is there a small practical step you can take to move closer to Jesus’ intended lifestyle for you, his disciple?

2. As you study this Scripture passage, do you sense the Lord prompting you to change a particular attitude or perspective? Is God nudging you to shift a certain priority? Is the Spirit prompting you to take a certain action as a step of commitment and faith?

3. The journey of discipleship is a high calling. There are numerous truths in Luke 6 that remind us and spur us on. Pray for one another using these words in Luke 6, so that we might together walk in courageous faith and in bold obedience, in response to Jesus’ call.