

The Kingdom of God
Lesson 13: The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Part 2)
LifeWalk Leader Guide

Open/Icebreakers: Are you a creature of habit? Talk about one of your habits. How did it form? Why is it a habit? Do you have any bad habits? Why is it difficult to stop bad habits?

Digging In: Luke 16:19-31

1. Abraham did not grant the rich man's request from Vs. 24. What is the next request from the rich man in vs. 27? Why would he make such a request? What might this say about him?
2. Why would the rich man want his brothers to be warned? How do you think his brothers lived? Why would they need warning?
3. Why would Abraham deny the rich man's request? Would you pay attention if someone you loved came back from the dead and told you how to avoid hell? Why would Abraham feel that even if someone returned from the dead- the brothers wouldn't be convinced?
4. What would "Moses and the Prophets" say about the situation of the rich man and Lazarus? What action would the rich man be called to take?
5. Can you speculate on why the rich man (and possibly the brothers) chose not to help Lazarus?

Reflection:

1. What point is Jesus trying to make in this parable? Does it say something to us about acting on what we know to be true? Why is this so hard? Is it just in reference to the poor? What other implications does this parable have on our lives?
2. We get good at doing things the more we do them. How do we cultivate effective "kingdom" habits? How can we take precautions against becoming calloused or insensitive to the truth of what God wants us to do?
3. How can your group unite to put into practice the kingdom truths of this parable?

Prayer: God, help me act on the truth that I know even if I don't like the implications it has on my life. Help me see people as you see them. Help me ascribe unsurpassable worth to everyone. Thank you for Jesus and His sacrifice. Holy Spirit, move my heart to love and service.