

The Kingdom of God
Lesson 17: The Coming of the Son of Man
LifeWalk Leader Guide

Open/Icebreakers: Think about a time when you knew that “judgment” was coming. Maybe you got a speeding ticket and had to appear in court or maybe your kids made a mistake and you had to take responsibility. What feelings are associated with coming “judgment?”

Digging In: Luke 17:22-37

1. Jesus is speaking with his disciples in these verses. As confusing as these verses seem, what main point do you think Jesus is trying to make to the ones closest to Him?
2. Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of Man. This would have been recognized as a title of authority. Daniel prophesied about the son of man in Daniel 7:13-14. What is Jesus saying about himself? Why would He use this title?
3. The gospel of Matthew includes similar language. Read Matthew 24 and 25. What is Jesus referring to when he mentions ‘the day of the son of man’ or ‘the coming of the son of man’?
4. Scholars are divided on this topic. Some feel Jesus may have been speaking about the temple being destroyed (mentioned in the first part of Mt. 24) which occurred when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in AD 66-70. Some feel Jesus is talking about His Second Coming or final return. What do you think? Why do you feel this way?
5. Consider the dual nature of prophecy. Read 2 Samuel 7:12-17. Nathan, the prophet, spoke these words to David. Solomon fulfilled them, but this language is used in Luke 1:32 referring to Jesus. Could it be that Jesus could have been referring to the destruction of the temple/Jerusalem and His Second Coming in Luke 17? Discuss your thoughts.
6. Verse 25 seems to point to something that would happen “in this generation.” Jesus (and the disciples) would suffer. He tells them (perhaps in response to their potential suffering) not to look for (or cling to) false hopes. This ‘coming’ or judgment would be obvious and sudden in its nature like the flood and Sodom and Gomorrah. Verse 33 seems to be the “main point.” What do you think? How does one “lose his life so it will be preserved?”

Reflection:

1. Regardless of how we understand the phrase “days of the Son of Man” there are plenty of passages in the New Testament that make it clear that there will be a return of Jesus and that does concern all of us. The point of this passage is that we are to love with that recognition and remember what it means for how we relate to the time and stuff we are responsible for in this world until either our death or Christ’s return. Why would Jesus ask his disciples to remember Lot’s

wife? What mistake(s) did she make? Why did she receive immediate judgment? What are the implications for today's Kingdom Citizens?

2. How can your group unite to put into practice the kingdom truths of these verses?

Prayer: God, help us to live ready for your return. May we bring about your will on earth as it is in Heaven.