



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: Luke 7:18-35 CSB

Bible Reading: Luke 7:18-35 CSB

18 Then John [the Baptist]’s disciples told him...all these things. So John summoned two of his disciples 19 and sent them to the Lord, asking, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” 20 When the men reached [Jesus], they said, “John the Baptist sent us to ask you, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’” 21 At that time Jesus healed many people of diseases, afflictions, and evil spirits, and he granted sight to many blind people. 22 He replied to [John’s disciples], “Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive

their sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor are told the good news, 23 and blessed is the one who isn’t offended by me.” 24 After John’s messengers left, [Jesus] began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the wind? 25 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothes? See, those who are splendidly dressed and live in luxury are in royal palaces. 26 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 27 This is the one about whom it is written: ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.’ 28 I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John, but the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” 29 (And

when all the people, including the tax collectors, heard this, they acknowledged God’s way of righteousness, because they had been baptized with John’s baptism. 30 But since the Pharisees and experts in the law had not been baptized by him, they rejected the plan of God for themselves.) 31

“To what then should I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? 32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to each other: ‘We played the flute for you, but you didn’t dance; we sang a lament, but you didn’t weep!’ 33 For John the Baptist did not come eating bread or drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon!’ 34 The Son of Man has come eating and

drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' 35 Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children." (Luke 7:18-35)

SUMMARY:

In this passage from Luke 7, John the Baptist—now imprisoned—sends messengers to ask Jesus if He truly is the promised Messiah. Jesus answers not simply with words but by pointing to the works He is doing: the blind see, the lame walk, and the good news is preached to the poor. Though John faithfully fulfilled his role as the forerunner foretold by Isaiah, Jesus' ministry does not unfold exactly as John expected.

After John's disciples depart, Jesus affirms John as the greatest of the prophets, yet declares that even the least in God's kingdom is greater than he. Jesus then confronts the crowd's divided response to both John and Himself, comparing them to children who reject every tune played for them—unwilling to accept God's message in any form. A key theme in Luke's Gospel is Jesus' table fellowship. His critics accuse Him of being "a glutton and a drunkard" because He eats with tax collectors and sinners—the very people many believed were beyond God's grace. The passage ends with a sober reminder: though many resist God's work, "wisdom is vindicated by all her children" (Luke 7:35).

When God Doesn't Meet Our Expectations

"I want a God that satisfies my desires, whether or not those align with my needs. And so it is with all of us. Maybe God is a cosmic bodyguard who protects you from harm. Or the world's best nanny, making sure your children turn out right. Or a divine doctor, healing your every physical and mental ailment. Or a wonder-working accountant, solving all your financial problems—provided you drop off a portion in the church coffers, of course. We welcome God into our lives with anticipation, with expectations. But when God turns out to be someone we don't recognize or who doesn't meet our expectations, it's easy to scatter like smoke in the wind." –Article in Christianity Today around unmet expectation.

Small Group Discussion Questions:

Read through Luke 7:18-35 slowly twice.

1. What stands out to you from the text? Why?
2. Why do you think John asked Jesus "are you the one or should we expect someone else?"
3. Have you ever experienced doubt in your walk with God? Why is doubt &/or asking questions sometimes helpful for our walk with God?
4. Why do you think Jesus was constantly criticized for eating with the "wrong people?"
5. Why is hospitality (shared meals) such an important part of the life of the church and the way of Jesus?
6. How do we not take on the expectations of our culture or even western church culture while try to faithfully follow Jesus?
7. Is there an area of your life where you've had certain (unfulfilled) expectations? Are you being invited to surrender those (unfulfilled) expectations to God?
8. Jesus concludes with "wisdom is proved right by her children". You could translate this as meaning "What is the 'fruit' of a life following Jesus" (It's not always what we expect). Discuss what this might mean
9. What does the life of a "fruitful" disciple of Jesus look like in Toronto in 2026?