



Our JOURNEY
through the
PANDEMIC - III

INSIGHTS FROM LUKE 7

A stylized landscape illustration. The sky is a dark blue gradient with several small white stars. A large, bright yellow sun is positioned in the upper right quadrant, partially obscured by a large, jagged mountain peak. The mountain is rendered in shades of purple and lavender. In the foreground, there are several smaller, rounded hills in various shades of blue and purple. The overall style is soft and artistic.

Jesus,
our Amazing Healer,
Invites Faith

Luke 7

1-10

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant

“Worthy” or “not” - Jesus listens to our pleas and comes with us to heal those we love and value. He has authority to heal without having to say a word.

11-17

Jesus Raises a Widow's Son

Jesus has compassion on a widow's fresh bereavement, and is willing to touch a dead man to raise him from the dead!

18-23

Messengers from John the Baptist ask Jesus a Tough Question

Jesus is an *amazing* healer and powerful preacher, but gets that some still take offense at him. He responds to questions asked of him.

24-30

Jesus Challenges the crowd's views of John the Baptist

Jesus calls out how we are intrigued by weakness, we judge by outward appearance, and many religious types actually reject God's purposes for our lives

31-35

Jesus Calls out people's stubborn and judgmental nature



How you might
think it
happened...

2 Now a **centurion** (Roman regimental sergeant-major)

had a **servant** who was **sick** and at the **point of death**,

who was **highly valued** by him. [UNUSUAL KINDNESS]

3 When the centurion heard about Jesus, **he sent** to him **elders** of the Jews, asking him to **come and heal** his servant. [UNUSUAL ATTITUDE TO JEWS]

4 And when they came to Jesus, **they pleaded with him earnestly**, [lobbyists, advocates] saying, "**He is worthy** to have you do this for him, **5** for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue." [DEEPLY RELIGIOUS/RESPECTFUL]

6 And Jesus went with them.

不好意思
Bù Hǎo Yì Si



When **he was not far** from the house, the **centurion sent friends**, saying to him, “Lord, **do not trouble yourself**, for **I am not worthy** to have you come under my roof. (knows Jews can’t go to Gentile homes, but also demonstrates HUMILITY)

7 Therefore **I did not presume to come** to you. But **say the word**, and let my servant be healed.

8 For I too am a man **set under authority**, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

9 When Jesus heard these things, he **marveled** at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, “I tell you, **not even in Israel** have I found such faith.”

10 And when those who had been sent returned to the house, **they found the servant in good health.**

How it
actually
happened

(a SIP
miracle? :D)



“Worthy” or “not”

Jesus

LISTENS to our pleas,
and GOES WITH US

to HEAL those we love and value...
even those “not even in Israel”

His word has authority to heal
without even having to say a word.

None of us are
worthy

But we all have
people we love and
value

Who has come to you in the past 6 months asking for your help, prayers, or intercession?

How/Has
Jesus healed
them?

If not, send for Jesus.

Call on his authority.

11 Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. **12** As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the **only son** of his mother, and she was a **widow**, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. **13** And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, **“Do not weep.”**

14 Then he came up and **touched the bier**, and the bearers stood still. And he said, **“Young man, I say to you, arise.”** **15** And the dead man sat up and ***began to speak***, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

16 Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, **“A great prophet** has arisen among us!” and **“God** has visited his people!”

17 And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.



Jesus has **compassion**
on a widow's fresh
bereavement.

His word raises a dead
man back to life!

**Many are
bereaved right
now.***

**Many are also
being saved
from death.**

**If you're wrestling with WHY...
Take your Question to Jesus**

18 The disciples of John reported all these things to him.

And John, **19** calling two* of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, **“Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”**

20 And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, **‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’**”

21 *In that hour* he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight.

22 And he answered them, “**Go and tell John** what you have seen and heard:

the blind receive their sight,

the lame walk,

lepers are cleansed,

and the deaf hear,

the dead are raised up,

the poor have good news

preached to them.

23 And blessed is the one

who is not offended by me.”

Past / Present / Future

Pastoral
leadership

Lay
leadership

Young
Families

Site Usage

**Despite COVID, God's been at work on
EVERY front (3/1 Vision Refresh)**

Back in March, we issued a



Huong + Neil Burrow + 3
Don + Lisa Luong + 2

Elaine Khoe + family

Alan + Zach and Zoe Tan

Sandy + Jack Fu + 3
Bruce + Liping + 1

Supriya + Joe + 3 + grandparents
Gary Claassen + Lily Lee

Karen + Johnson + Ian + Kayden
Vonzie + Ryan + Kenzie

God answered prayer!

10 families came apple-picking!

We started out LAST school year with

August, 2019: 3-4 Home Groups (bi-weekly) + 1 Young Adult Ministry (monthly)

Cupertino

Fremont/Sunnyvale

San Jose

Saratovale

We're starting out THIS school year...

August, 2019: 3-4 Home Groups (bi-weekly), 1 Young Adult Ministry (monthly)

August, 2020: 6 new Bible Studies

4 Zoom communities (prayer)

Thurs Bible Study (9)

Sun Yoga (4-6)

Youth Families (monthly) (20)

Wed Workout (6-7)

Sun Manuscript Study (9)

Draw Time (6-7)

Thurs Open Fellowship (4)

Happy Hour/Tea Time (5-7)

Fri Women's Bible Study (3-4)

Summer Women's Bible Study (8-10)

with 10 New Groups!
(5+10 =15... 5x3 = 15)

Because of the growth from these New Groups

COVID has prompted many to seek out **Bible study + prayer + community.**

These new groups, birthed out of a blend of

- God-given vision & human intentionality,
- organic & organizational cultivation
- lay leaders & pastoral staff partnering together

bring New Life!

THREE people got BAPTIZED last weekend!



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Jesus is an **AMAZING** healer and preacher; some still take offense at his unconventional ways.

A stylized landscape with a yellow sun rising over blue mountains. The sun is partially obscured by the mountains. The background is a gradient of blue and purple.

God has been doing **SO MUCH** during **6+ months of SIP**, despite unconventional times!



24 When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John:

“What did you go out into the wilderness to see? **A reed shaken by the wind?** [scenery, a spineless man?]

25 What then did you go out to see? **A man dressed in soft clothing?** [fashion show?]

Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts.
[Of course not]

26 What then did you go out to see? **A prophet?**
[SPOKESPERSON FOR GOD]

Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

27 This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before
your face,

who will prepare your way before you.’

28 I tell you, among those born of women none
is greater than John.

**Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God
is greater than he.” [Jesus’ new era]**



In the same way... **greater things are yet to come**

- 1) **Discipleship, care, and growth** of all involved with Home Groups through Quarterly Trainings for Shepherds + establishment of co-leaders
- 2) **Marriage enrichment** experience offered in 2021 for OVCC + friends
- 3) **Reimagining Taskforce** (new elders; strategic, innovative creatives to answer the question: how do we need to reimagine CHURCH right now?)

UNCONVENTIONAL



We Built Community Around People We Love

- Johnson, Jon Wong and Beatrice

We Invited PARTICIPATION

- 3 acts: Creative, Artistic, Musical, Interactive

60 people from WITHIN OVCC

45 people from BEYOND OVCC

9 non-Christians present + very engaged!

- stay flexible (AQI)
- have break-out room questions
- proclaim the full gospel next time!

We had FUN + LAUGHED

as we EXPERIMENTED + LEARNED together

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- 4) **UnTalent Show: Christmas Edition** planned for Sat 12/12
“Tell Me the Christmas Story” Singalong Sunday for Sun 12/20

What will your response be?



29 (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, **they declared God just**, having been baptized with the baptism of John, 30 but the Pharisees and the lawyers **rejected the purpose of God** for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

VARYING RESPONSES

Some are

**OPEN,
REPENTANT,
YIELDED,
EARNEST**



Others are

**Not Open,
Resistant,
Doubtful,
Threatened**

31 “To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like?
[current generation of religious leaders]

32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’

[Jesus and J the B not dancing to their tune, not following their lead]

33 For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’

34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’

35 Yet wisdom is justified/vindicated by all her children.”

Jesus calls out
how some have a tendency to
complain, judge, resist...

Follow Jesus' Model

Pursue “sinners”
and those “outside of Israel”



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