

# Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus

## Notes on Lesson Six: Lord, Lord

### Lesson Six: Lord, Lord

Luke 6: 20-36

#### Central Message

This message is more about God than it is about us. Jesus wanted his disciples to have the same character that God has. God loves us even when we have done nothing for him – even when we are evil. God loves his enemies.<sup>38</sup> When we try to love our enemies, we learn a lot about God. It is not easy! When we try to live God's way, we find out how far we are from God. We find out how “poor” we are.

However, “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.” You know how much God loves you, so you are able to love others. You know how much God has forgiven you, so you are able to forgive others. You know the King! And you want to learn more from him each day.

#### Life Application

Try Jesus' commands for one week, and see what you can learn about God!

#### Community-Building Activity and Introduction<sup>39</sup>

##### *Rules for Living*

**Preparation:** Write the instructions on a board, or print the worksheet or cover page from the supplementary materials. If you use the instruction strips, copy and cut enough strips for each person.

**Instructions:** Jesus gave this rule for living: “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” Here is another translation of the same verse. “And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.” What is one of your own rules for living?

**Teaching Notes:** If they use the cover sheet, they will be able to make some notes first. They may agree with Jesus' rule, but ask them to think of another “rule” they think is important. Good rules are general and reflect our principles, but without much time to think, they may only think of rules may cover specific situations.

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<sup>38</sup> God loves his enemies, but if they continue to go against him, they are still his enemies. They will be judged.

<sup>39</sup> The community-building activities and the introductions are often combined in the lesson notes because sometimes the introduction is first, and sometimes the activity is first.

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Whatever they say is fine. If they need help, ask them some questions. How do they treat (help them with this word) their parents? What should they do when they get angry? What rules do they teach their children?

When you are finished with the community-building activity, read the introduction in the workbook together. Note that the introduction includes an activity. If you have a board or a large piece of paper, you can put the verse up. The workbook asks them to find the verse and fill in the words, but see if they can fill in the words before looking.

<p>“Jesus answered them, “It is not the _____ who need a _____, but the _____. I have not come to call the _____, but _____ to _____.”</p>
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5:31 Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 5:32 I have not come to call the righteous<sup>40</sup>, but sinners to repentance.”<sup>41</sup> (See the footnotes below if they need a review of the vocabulary.)

### Lesson Notes

#### Part One: Blessings and Trouble

#### Luke 6:20-26

##### Preparation:

Note that the numbers below refer to the numbers in the workbook.

1. Jesus is speaking to his disciples. A large crowd of his disciples have gathered, according to Luke 6:17.
2. They are to look for repeated words, opposites, and the form of the sentences. You can ask them, “Is this a paragraph?” “Is it a letter?” We want them to see that it looks like poetry or song. As they read, they will be more aware of the repetition and opposites, and better prepared for the language.
3. It is suggested that they take ten minutes to look over the text. If you are doing this in a group, they only need a few minutes by themselves before you work on it together. You can help them see the text by using a board:

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<sup>40</sup> Righteousness usually means “right with God,” “acceptable to God.” Jesus has a different meaning for the word here. Can you guess it?

<sup>41</sup> Repentance is a complete turn away from sin and toward God.

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Blessings	Trouble
poor	rich

As you write down the opposites, talk about WHY his disciples would be blessed or have trouble in each circumstance.

LINK Go over the list again and ask for the double meaning of hungry and well-fed. Remind them of the sick and the healthy. Suggest that the poor, (although Jesus is talking about people who don't have money or who are needy) may be those who are "poor in spirit," they feel "needy" towards God. Remind them of Peter and the miracle.

### Part Two: Love Your Enemies

### Luke 6:27-36

#### Preparation:

Note that the numbers below refer to the numbers in the workbook.

1. This may be for a wider audience, "those who hear me."
- 2.3. Searching for the "if" statements will help them follow the line of reasoning as they read.
4. They are looking for commands such as, "Love your enemies." "...turn to him the other [cheek] also."
5. After they find the verb phrases in vs. 27-31, such as "mistreat you," and "...take your cloak," you could ask some of them to find out what "sinners" do, vs. 32-34.
6. 6:35 ...he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 6:36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."
7. As you discuss the meaning of the Golden Rule, look back at the rule the "sinners" follow (we often do as well...). They follow, "Do good to others if they do good to you." The Golden Rule is based on how we would like to be treated. Jesus goes even further by the end of the paragraph. "Treat others as the Father treats them," or we could say, "...as the Father has treated you."
8. This question is hard to answer in full. We want to explain and balance Jesus' words. But he is basically saying that the disciples will be blessed when they are poor, hungry, and treated poorly by others because they follow Jesus. They

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will be blessed when they love their enemies and give to people without expecting anything back. Why? Perhaps it is because they will better understand the heart of God and how much God has done for them.

9. What might happen? What risks are we taking? Again, we want to explain and balance this, but there are risks. We might be mistreated. We might lose everything. We might become poor, hungry...etc. If we do these things, we will not be in control of everything in our life, but that means that God can be in control.
10. We can learn that the Father is full of mercy, for us and for others, and that he wants us to be like him.

LIVE Give them time to talk about this. Many will not believe that a person could ever be successful if they follow these words. Be sure to ask them what they are calling success. Jesus turns everything upside down. Success is being sons and daughters of the Most High. When they are finished talking, conclude with the "consider" section, and maybe the verse that follows it.

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## Workbook One: Exploring the Identity of Jesus

### Lord, Lord

**In the last lesson**, we met two of Jesus' disciples. He did not choose the most respected or educated men, but men and women who were ready to learn.

**In this lesson**, Jesus teaches his disciples what the Heavenly Father<sup>2</sup> is like, and how the Heavenly Father wants them to live. This is especially important for the twelve men whom he selected to be leaders-in-training.<sup>3</sup>

### Community Time



### Rules for Living

Jesus gave this rule for living.

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

Here is another translation of the same verse.<sup>4</sup>

“And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.”

Write one of your own rules for living:

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Discuss these rules with a partner.

<sup>2</sup> Jesus calls God in Heaven, “Our Heavenly Father.”

<sup>3</sup> They are called “The Disciples,” “The Twelve,” and later, “The Apostles.” Look up Luke 6: 12-16.

<sup>4</sup> The New Testament was written in Greek. We have several translations of it in English. The two here are the GNB and ESV.

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“And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.”

What is one of your own rules for living?

Discuss these rules with a partner.

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