



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Series Theme: Stories of Jesus
Text for the Week: Luke 16:1-8
Story for the Week: The Prudent Manager
Message for the Week: A Scandalous Community

Week Nine
Sunday, August 14

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Which job would best fit your personality? Why?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Luke 16:1-8](#) out loud.

[Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

What was your initial reaction to reading/hearing this story? Did it make you go, “Huh?”

What is Jesus’ commending in this story? Dishonesty? Prudent preparation for the future? The use of money? The character of the master? Something else?

Why does Jesus say “...the people of this world are more shrewd with their own kind than the people of the light are?”

How in the world can “The master commend the dishonest manager...” in this parable?

How would you define the character of the master/the rich man in this parable?

Have you ever had to fully put your trust in the character and competence of another person? What did you do and why?

Are we, just like the shrewd manager, putting our full and complete trust, confidence, and hope in the character of “the rich man/master?” How do we know? What does it mean?

“Try It!”

This week’s parable is about the graciousness of our God. At the end of his message, Pastor Doug challenges us and invites us to examine our lives in light of the graciousness of God. Accept this invitation.

Pastor Doug says...“God is the one with whom we (everyone) have to deal. The **gracious** action of God must **define** his (the manager in Jesus’ story) life - not his obsessive scheming, embezzling, or cooking the books – as it must ours. Do people know by how we live that our God is generous and gracious? Are we generous to others because we’re taking advantage of God’s grace to us? Do people commend us for our generosity and grace?

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, we give you thanks and praise, that while we continue to be stubborn and self-righteousness and have often taken advantage of our generous and gracious nature, that you have continued to love and accept us. Thank you, that in your mercy you have not sentenced us to the punishment we deserve. Thank you, that in your grace, you have offered us a way home through Jesus Christ. In the name of Jesus our Teacher and Rabbi, Amen.

Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Blessing Students and Teachers

During the month of August, you are encouraged to bless the students and teachers in your community. What students and teachers live in your community? What public and private schools (elementary, middle, high school, college/university, home school) are in your community? How could you bless and encourage them as they begin a new school year?