

# Grow – Pray - Study

Hastings United Methodist Church

Grow  
Pray  
Study



Adventure By The Park  
March 1<sup>st</sup> Luke 5:12-15

## The Gospel of the Nobodies “The Disabled & Sick”

Day	Read	Theme
MONDAY 3.2.15	Luke 4:14-44	Jesus announced good news to the poor
TUESDAY 3.3.15	Luke 5:1-32	Healing the hurting, calling followers
WEDNESDAY 3.4.15	Luke 5:33-6:16	New wine meets old wineskins
THURSDAY 3.5.15	Luke 6:17-49	The “Sermon on the Plain”
FRIDAY 3.6.15	Luke 7:1-35	Jesus’ powerful acts; John’s puzzled question
SATURDAY 3.7.15	Luke 7:36-8:21	Finding fertile soil for faith

**Monday** – As you read about Jesus in the synagogue in Nazareth, what seems to have changed people’s reaction from verse 22, where they were “impressed by the gracious words flowing from his lips,” to verse 28, where they were filled with murderous anger? In what ways did “This is Joseph’s son, isn’t it?” express doubt about Jesus’ messianic claim (cf. Mark 6:1-6)? In what ways did Jesus’ mission address both physical and spiritual bondage, poverty and blindness?

**Tuesday** – In verses 17-21 and 30, a shadow fell over the joy Jesus’ healing, liberating power brought. Israel’s religious leaders, who should have led the people in recognizing and welcoming Jesus, were shadowing him, not to learn, but with a critical, fault - finding spirit. In what ways did Jesus’ ministry pose a threat to those leaders? In what way s can you keep your self from feeling threatened by anyone whose service to God attracts attention or shows spiritual power?

**Wednesday** – Old ways of doing things aren’t t necessarily bad, but they aren’t necessarily good, either. With the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God was establishing new ways of working in the world — new wine that required new wineskins. Think back on your own spiritual journey: how has God transformed you from old way s of living to new ways?

**Thursday** – Jesus spoke here about “status inversion.” Like Mary’s song in Luke 1:46 - 55, this sermon offered God’s favor and comfort to people we typically see as unfortunate, while warning those we see as particularly elevated. For us, in a rich community in the richest country on earth, Jesus’ words can be disturbing. Which parts of his sermon most challenge our culture’ s wisdom on how to “succeed”? Which of Jesus’ promises in this sermon mean the most to you?

**Friday** – How di d Jesus’ words in verses 22 - 23 respond, in a gentle, Bible - based way to John’s troubled question? (Remind yourself of how Jesus quoted Isaiah in Luke 4:18-21 to see how well his answer her e meant that he was indeed “ the one.”) Then he added a forceful, loyal defense of John’s ministry. How can Jesus’ gracious way of dealing with John’s question give you confidence in going to hi m when you have questions or struggles?

**Saturday** – When Jesus explained the parable of the farmer sowing seed, he listed four kinds of human “soil” who hear the good news (8: 11-15). Which soil type do you think best described Simon the Pharisee? Which most characterized the “ woman from the city, a sinner” who anointed Jesus’ feet? Which of the four soil types has best described your spiritual journey so far? What spiritual practices can help you continue growing your capacity to be “good soil” in the months ahead?

March 8<sup>th</sup> Luke 8:26-39 The Gospel of the Nobodies “The Demon Possessed”