



Lesson Aim: To discuss how Jesus came to bring change that leads to life.

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your personal study time and/or discussion.

Icebreaker: Briefly share about a wedding you attended that was a memorable experience.

1. **READ Luke 5:33-39.** Why is Jesus questioned about fasting?
2. What is Jesus implying by the parable in verses 34-35? In verses 36-39?
3. How does this relate to Levi's call and the disciples' not fasting? (reread Luke 5:27-32 if necessary)
4. At the time when Jesus taught these parables, how do you think some of the different groups of people listening would have responded to this idea of radical change (examples: Pharisees, the disciples, the tax collectors and "sinners")?
5. Why can change (in general) be difficult?
6. Specifically, why can a needed change to our values, attitude or behavior patterns be so difficult? If willing, share a personal example of this with the group.
7. **READ Colossians 3:1-17.** Compare and contrast the changes that a Christ-follower is challenged with making from the "clothes" of the earthly nature (verses 5-11) to those of God's chosen people (verses 12-17).
8. What are some ways the text suggests we can do this?
9. Jesus speaks of the joy of being in relationship with Him ("the guests of the bridegroom"). Practically speaking, in your experience, what works against having joy in your life? What helps to bring joy to your life?
10. Is joy more of a feeling or choice? Explain.

Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our warm and friendly message-based **LifeGroups**! Get a copy of this Study Guide at theBridgeFresno.com by clicking on the "Resources" link.

LUKE 5:33-39

PRINCIPLE #1: We are, by nature, resistant to change... even good change

CONTEXT (Luke 1:1-5:33)

- ❶ He beat Satan at his deception games (Luke 4:1-13) ▶ Power over temptation
 - ❷ He drove out evil spirits (Luke 4:31-37) ▶ Power over demons & hell
 - ❸ Healed numerous people (Luke 4:38-44) ▶ Power over sickness, disease, sin & brokenness
 - ❹ Calmed the storm at sea (Matthew 8; Mark 4) ▶ Power over the elements of nature
 - ❺ Befriended a hard-core sinner (Luke 5:27-31) ▶ Lover of the fallen & despised
- ▶ IMMEDIATE OCCASION: Going Away Party for Matthew (Levi)
- ▶ CONFUSING ISSUE: Fasting Mode vs. Feasting Mode

PARABLE #1: BRIDEGROOM & JOY (Luke 5:34-35; cf. John 10:10b)

- ▶ ISSUE: What kind of attitude should the friends of the bridegroom have?
- ▶ MAIN LESSON: The new order of things which Jesus ushered in does not fit into the old mold of man-ordained fasting!

PARABLE #2: NEW PATCHES, OLD GARMENTS (Luke 5:36)

- ▶ ISSUE: The people of Jesus' day were so fixated with a concept of long-faced, duty-oriented, tradition-driven religion that their knee-jerk reaction to Christ would be that anything He was advocating had to be somehow combined or patched unto the old system.
- ▶ MAIN LESSON: The new breaking in of the Kingdom of God was not designed to be a simple "add on" or "extra" concerning God's purposes for the human race... it would fulfill & replace the old system, not patch it.

PARABLE #3: NEW WINE, OLD WINESKINS (Luke 5:37-39)

- ▶ ISSUE: The expanding new wine of God's Kingdom advancement doesn't mix well with the unelastic old wineskins of legalistic righteousness.
- ▶ MAIN LESSON: Attempting to combine the old and new faith systems would be not merely unsuitable but injurious, tending to defeat, rather than to promote the aims of God's Kingdom.

PRINCIPLE #2: New life requires new forms & new expressions

APPLICATIONS

- ❶ Have you tasted the new wine & entered into the joy of the Bridegroom?
- ❷ Are we as a church, and as individuals, committed to the process of becoming new wineskins so that we can joyously receive the new wine of Jesus Christ?