

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

Luke 5:33-39

Review

- If you had to go by yourself, would you go to a party that included many people you had never met? Why?
- What would you do if you could take an extra day off work?
- As a child, where was the centre of human warmth for you (e.g. a room or a person)? What made this so special?
- How would you describe God to a child?

Remind

- Who asked the question about fasting? See Luke 5:30.
- According to v.33, who did "fast and pray" (v.33)?
- How often did the Law legally require Jews to fast? See Leviticus 23:26-32. [NB "deny yourselves" = to fast]
- With Jesus with them, what were disciples to do (v.34-35)?
- When were the disciples to fast (v.35)? Would this be an enforced or a voluntary fast?
- Retell the 2 parables using modern equivalents (v.36-39)?
- Review Jesus' main teaching points of the 3 parables?

Respond

- Jesus rejected fasting for public display. But when did Jesus fast privately (Matt 4:2) and teach about fasting for spiritual benefit (Matt 6:16-18)? Why is fasting still relevant today?
- Why is it significant that Jesus would refer to himself as the Bridegroom? See Isaiah 62:5 and Hosea 2:19-20.
- Through the 'patched cloth' and the 'wineskins' parables, Jesus taught that He was not simply 'patching up Judaism'. Do you agree/disagree? What is Jesus' "new" teaching?
- In v.39, Jesus indicated the reluctance of some people to change from traditional religious ways to the Gospel. Is this still true today? How can we help people in this process?
- You could end by reading together Luke 5:35

Luke 5:33-39 (NIVUK)

Jesus questioned about fasting

³³ They said to him, 'John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking.'

³⁴ Jesus answered, 'Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? ³⁵ But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast.'

³⁶ He told them this parable: 'No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. ³⁷ And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. ³⁸ No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. ³⁹ And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, "The old is better."' "