

Home Group Discussion Guide

The Rich Man And Lazarus – Luke 16:19-31

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The following questions are designed to help groups explore the message above by challenging participants to consider how God is wanting them to apply it to their lives.

The questions are a **guide** to help lead discussion.

Please don't feel that all questions need to be asked, instead respond to the needs of your group. If you have new people in your group, take the opportunity to introduce each other and clarify any expectations that are present in your group (such as confidentiality).

GETTING STARTED

1. Can you think of a time when you realised you had been overlooking something or someone that was right in front of you? What changed your perspective?
2. What are some of the invisible “chasms” that can exist between people who live or work quite close to each other?

REFLECTING ON THE MESSAGE

Consider Luke 16:19-24

1. What contrasts do you notice between the rich man and Lazarus at the beginning of the parable?
 - a. What does the story tell us about the relationship, or lack of relationship, between them?
2. In verse 24, the rich man knows Lazarus by name, yet asks Abraham to send Lazarus to serve him. What does this reveal about the difference between **knowing someone** and actually **seeing them as a neighbour**?

Consider Luke 16:25-28

3. Even after the great reversal, the rich man continues to think of Lazarus in terms of what Lazarus can do for him and his family. What does this tell us about what wealth, comfort or power can do to a person's heart?

Consider Luke 16:29-31

4. Abraham tells the rich man that his brothers already have “Moses and the Prophets.” What had God already made clear about how his people should respond to the poor and vulnerable?
(Consider Deuteronomy 15, Leviticus 19, Isaiah 58, Amos 6)
 - a. What themes do you notice?
 - b. What other passages from Moses and the prophets would fit into this theme as well?

RESPONDING TO THE MESSAGE

1. The sermon invited us to **“remember your table”** and **“remember your gate.”** What has God placed within your reach that could be used to bless someone who is doing it tough?
2. Wealth, comfort and power can quietly shape the way we see other people.
Is there an area where your own comfort may be creating distance between you and someone else?
3. As you consider what God has already said through Scripture about the poor and vulnerable, is there something you already know God is calling you to respond to?

OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER

Our Home Groups are the primary place for pastoral care to occur within the Church. We would encourage you to take the opportunity to pray for each other in this space.

