

**Inside out?**

**Luke 6:43-49 – Leaders version**

**Check in** – with the group sitting in a semi-circle go round and ask everyone, including leaders, how they are and how they're feeling about studying the Bible today.

**What does the passage say and mean?**

30 minutes

Read Luke 6:43-44

1. What do you think Jesus means?

*Don't try to come to a conclusion, just let the group brainstorm.*

2. Read v45, which is the explanation of v43-44. What do you think Jesus means by the good and the evil stored in a person's heart?

*He means that we live out what we believe – what is really in our heart is what comes out of our mouths (this is maybe most true and most testable when we are emotional, angry or stressed...). If we listen to Jesus' teaching and allow it to become part of us, it will affect our thoughts and attitudes, our behaviour and our words. If we allow sin to reign in our hearts, this will be reflected in our thoughts, attitudes, behaviour and words. Consider how our hearts are influenced – for good by the Bible, praying, time with fellow believers, positive messages from media, books, films etc. or for bad by TV, media, culture, peers, drugs, alcohol etc.*

3. Why do you think Jesus says this at this point? (think about what Jesus has been teaching in Luke 5&6)

*Jesus has just taught the people about judging other people and loving their enemies. He's getting them to think about whether his teaching has reached in their heart and is having any effect on their lives.*

4. Jesus says that 'out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks', v45. How do you see this happening in your life?

*What we say shows what is really in our heart. Encourage the group to be honest with themselves and think about their own words, particularly with regard to judging people and loving their enemies. Then broaden the discussion to include swearing, putting others down, criticism, lying etc.*

?

What kind of talk do you think brings glory to Jesus? What would happen if your speech changed to this?

*There will probably be valid concern that a change in language to honour Jesus will bring ridicule and rejection on the wing. When we speak peacefully, we feel peace. When we speak angrily or violently, we feel more angry and violent. When we try to speak or act in one way in one situation (Bible study) and another on the wing, we feel guilty and conflicted.*

5. Read Luke 6:46. What kind of words is Jesus talking about now?

*Words that say you are committed to Jesus but in reality you're not obeying or following him. If you call someone Lord you recognise their authority over you, so to call Jesus Lord but not obey him is to lie.*

6. What is the person like who hears Jesus' words and puts them into practice? What is the meaning behind this parable? (v48)

*They are like a man building a house with its foundation on rock. This house can survive the storm because of its good foundation. Jesus is saying that if we build our lives on his teaching – i.e. put his teaching into practice – then we can stand firm in trouble, because the foundation of our life is solid.*

7. What is the person like who hears Jesus' words and doesn't put them into practice? (v49)

*Like a man who built a house without foundations. When there was a storm, the house fell down because it was unstable. If we hear Jesus' teachings but don't act on them, if they go in one ear and out the other, not changing our heart, we are no better off than the person who didn't hear them at all.*

?

Is your life built on the solid foundation of Jesus' teaching? What examples can you give of this being the rock on which you stand?

*Help the group to think of specific examples of how the Word of God has changed their behaviour or given them strength to get through a situation. For those who say no, encourage them to consider how allowing Jesus' teaching to change their heart would change their whole lives.*

**Check out** – with the group sitting in a semi-circle go round and ask everyone, including leaders, how they found the study and if they are safe to go back to the cell.

**Inside out?**

**Luke 6:43-49**

**What does the passage say and mean?**

Read Luke 6:43-44

1. What do you think Jesus means?
2. Read v45, which is the explanation of v43-44. What do you think Jesus means by the good and the evil stored in a person's heart?
3. Why do you think Jesus says this at this point? (think about what Jesus has been teaching in Luke 5&6)
4. Jesus says that 'out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks', v45. How do you see this happening in your life?

**?**

What kind of talk do you think brings glory to Jesus? What would happen if your speech changed to this?

5. Read Luke 6:46. What kind of words is Jesus talking about now?

6. What is the person like who hears Jesus' words and puts them into practice? What is the meaning behind this parable? (v48)

7. What is the person like who hears Jesus' words and doesn't put them into practice? (v49)

**?**

Is your life built on the solid foundation of Jesus' teaching? What examples can you give of this being the rock on which you stand?