



14 - 20 August 2022 [An eruption of emotions](#)

Related Bible reading(s): Luke 12.49-56

Bible study on Luke 12.49-56

This study can be used by a small family/household group, or by an online group, or – sometimes with a little adaptation – by an individual.

See our [Guidelines for a weekly Bible study](#).

Begin with an opening prayer

Summer is here and so many patterns change – holidays, new places, old places, new faces, old faces, old churches, new churches, families together and families apart. Jesus, Lord of our journeying and travelling, as we come to you, from near or far, what unites us is you – your calling, your love, your living and your dying. In strength and in vulnerability we come to meet you afresh on the road today. **Amen.**

Read the passage

Consider different ways to read the text. For example, hearing it in more than one version of the Bible.

In an online group, you could share parts between those present, or use/adapt this week's Share the Word suggestion: Use the Jump to this week's menu on the right to go to Share the Word and scroll down to find the Gospel reading.

Explore and respond to the text

Start by reading the Bible notes below. You may want to read them more than once, or pause after each paragraph to reflect on what you have read.

Bible notes

The note of impending crisis that has been simmering for a while now explodes, with Jesus urging the crowd to heed what's happening and repent (vv.49-59). Still speaking to his disciples, Jesus reveals the anguish of his heart (v.49f). He has come to bring judgement – as predicted (2.34-35; 3.16f) – but that judgement will fall on him before it falls on anyone else. When Jesus speaks of his impending baptism, he means the cross (v.50) and this evokes in him an eruption of emotion. He knows his death is in the purpose of God (9.30f); it's the reason for his journey to Jerusalem. But he also knows it happens because people reject him and that will lead to their judgement. So, he talks about conflict arising in families because of him (vv.51-53).

The NRSV says Jesus was stressed by this (v.50; and he is) but the word really means 'compulsion'; it is the divine mandate that pushes on to Jerusalem. As his destination comes into view, it is taking an increasingly heavy emotional toll on him. This is the reason for the division his ministry is causing. A baptism of suffering is not what any expected of the Messiah (cf 9.18f). But it is not only the disciples who are struggling to get their heads round this call, so too are the Pharisees and the crowd. The whole chapter narrates the ebbing and flowing of contested views of what God is doing through Jesus.

And so, opinion is divided over him, even within households (v.53) – an echo, perhaps a parody, of Micah 7.6 where the prophet pictures a world in which no one can trust anyone, not even their own families. This is because order has broken down and everyone is doing their own thing. Jesus, by contrast, has come to establish God's kingdom. People are divided over that; should they throw their lot in with Jesus or stick to what they have learned from the Pharisees?

Jesus turns to speak directly to this murmuring group. They have got to see what's happening before it's too late (vv.54f). They can predict the changing weather, but not what God is doing in their midst. And this is because they're tainted with the yeast of the Pharisees ('hypocrites', cf 12.1). Judgement is coming, but the verdict has not been handed down. They could still change the outcome (vv.57-59); they should repent and believe Jesus.

See also: [In conversation: Fit for the kingdom](#)



[John Parr and Hannah Currin discuss the importance of celebrating Trinity Sunday, identifying your neighbour and the restfulness \(or not\) of prayer](#)

Reflection

Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.

It can be quite awkward to witness a moment of high emotion. Whether grief and tears or extreme delight or joy, being around someone expressing a powerful sentiment can sometimes make us feel embarrassed or uneasy. In the Gospel reading, Jesus himself expresses intense grief about the situation he is facing. Here we are not seeing a sanitised version of the kindly Jesus meek and mild, but a real person capable of the full range of human emotions. How does this eruption of emotions make you feel?

Questions for reflection

You may wish to use these questions and the picture to help you think about or discuss issues arising from this week's Bible passage.

[insert pic and text of First impressions - it may be quicker and easier if you copy and paste the html from this item in AAA or CYP Gather]



- What appeals to you about this image of a geysir in Nevada?
- Are you someone whose emotions erupt or simmer?
- Emotions can make us vulnerable – how should we respond?

A simple activity

Reflect on your own and others' emotions.

Invite people to listen to the some or all of the following questions and reflect quietly on their answers.

- Some people find it hard to talk about their emotions, others find it much easier; on a scale of one to ten, how easy do you find it to talk about emotions?
- Can you remember a time when you experienced an eruption of emotions?
- Sometimes it can be difficult to manage other people's emotions. Have you been in a situation where it was hard to deal with someone else's emotional outburst? What was it that made you feel uncomfortable?
- How are you feeling today? What's in your mind and heart? What emotions are foremost for you?

Say this simple prayer to end the reflection: Lord God, thank you for all of our emotions. **Amen.**

Use the Jump to this week's menu on the right to go to more activities in Explore and respond.

Prayer

Adapt to your local context.

A prayer for forgiveness

We give you thanks for variety and richness, for friend and neighbour.

We give you thanks for examples set and lessons taught.

We give you thanks for stories told and journeys shared.

We give you thanks for reconciliation and resolution.

We give you thanks for healing and redemption.

We give you thanks for acceptance and forgiveness.

We give you thanks for the chance of a fresh start.

We give you thanks for the gentleness and care of others in our vulnerability and need.

We give you thanks for time and space.

We give you thanks for people who have journeyed with us, held our hands and been our crutch.

We give you thanks, dear God, for inspiring so many and for simply being YOU.

Amen.

Use the Jump to this week's menu on the right to find more prayers, including up-to-date intercessions.

A prayer to end the Bible study

Thank you, Lord, for giving us a wide range of emotions.
Thank you that, whatever we experience,
even when we feel very vulnerable,
we can be confident that you know what it's like.
Thank you that, as we go from this place, you go with us –
to share our lives, to help and guide us, day by day.
Amen.

Go with God 24/7

Encourage everyone to put their faith into action.

Look out for images that convey human emotion – e.g. on billboards, Instagram, on the TV, in newspapers – and try to think about how these things affect you. Ask people you meet how they are and encourage them to say a little more than just 'fine'. Whenever you encounter a human emotion, thank God that Jesus felt it too.

*Encourage everyone to explore their faith this week with the **ROOTS at home** resource.*