



GEEKS UNDER GRACE
WWW.GEEKSUNDERGRACE.COM

STAR WARS: The Last Jedi (2017) | *Dealing with Disappointment: Luke* | BIBLE STUDY

Facilitator Note: We encourage facilitators and parents to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week, allowing it to be a springboard for deeper conversation and personal meditation.

PRESS START

Throughout *STAR WARS: The Force Awakens*, fans and characters alike embarked on a quest to find the legendary Jedi Master, Luke Skywalker. As that movie ended, we were rewarded with a glimpse of Rey's first encounter with him, but were forced to wait two years to learn why he had run away. **What differences do you see between Luke in the original Trilogy and Luke in these newer sequel films?**

EQUIP

The Luke we find in *STAR WARS: The Last Jedi* is a much more pessimistic character than the reckless boy from Tatooine who blew up the Death Star. He has been let down by both himself and his students, and this disappointment has changed him in ways many people can relate to. We learn as the movie progresses that Luke is not only dealing with the betrayal of Ben Solo, but also with the fact he blames himself and his own failures for that betrayal. He felt he had failed his students and knew he could never live up to the Jedi Master status everyone held him to after Ben turned to the Dark Side and became Kylo Ren. His response was the same reaction many people have when they deal with disappointment in their own lives.

The church is made up of fallen people who often make mistakes, which means disappointment is inevitable. Still, many people expect the church to be perfect, and when it does not meet their expectations (or they do not meet the church's expectations), they cut themselves off; not just from the offending church, but from all churches and Christians, just as Luke cut himself off from not only his friends, but from the Force itself. In both Luke and Christians, cutting oneself off from others prohibits growth and encourages bitterness.

Luke was not the only person we see deal with disappointment. Rey sought him out with great hopes of him training her and joining her to return to the Resistance. These hopes were dashed by a disappointing figure of a man who used to be a great Jedi Master who had become nothing more than an angry hermit. Rey does not let this disappointment take over and leave her bitter, however. Instead, she holds onto her hope and stays with Luke, determined to learn about the Force from the man she knew could teach her. Her persistence and encouragement is eventually what led Luke to reconnect with the Force, the Resistance, and his sister, Leia.

LEVEL UP

Luke 22:55-62 (NASB) ⁵⁵ After they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter was sitting among them. ⁵⁶ And a servant-girl, seeing him as he sat in the firelight and looking intently at him, said, "This man was with Him too." ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him." ⁵⁸ A little later, another saw him and said, "You are one of them too!" But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" ⁵⁹ After about an hour had passed, another man began to insist, saying, "Certainly this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean too." ⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times." ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.

In this passage, we see Peter deny Jesus three times, just as Jesus previously predicted. Peter swore he would stand by Jesus no matter what happened. Instead of living up to his own plan, he failed himself and Jesus by telling everyone who asked that he did not even know Jesus. When the rooster crowed, Peter realized what he had done. He had failed Jesus. This had been predicted, and Peter was certain he would prove the prediction wrong; still, his fear got the better of him, and he spoke without thinking. Peter was devastated by what he had done, and the Bible says he "wept bitterly." Peter had abandoned Jesus in His time of greatest pain, and he could have used this failure as proof he was not good enough to follow Jesus. Instead, the next time we see Peter, he has rejoined the rest of Jesus' disciples. Jesus could have shown His disappointment by replacing Peter with someone more reliable, but if we read farther in the story, we see that is not what happened.

John 21:15-17 (NASB) ¹⁵ So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs." ¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep.

After His resurrection, Jesus sought out Peter and gave him a chance to restore himself. The disciples had been fishing, and Jesus appeared to them on the shore. Peter was so excited to see his Lord that he jumped out of the

fishing boat and swam all the way to the shore. Jesus asked Peter the same questions three times, because it was three times Peter had denied him. Peter was grieved that Jesus continued to ask him the same thing, but Jesus was giving him instructions. He did not just want Peter to say he loved Him; He wanted him to show it by taking care of the Church. Jesus kept Peter in the community and encouraged him, and because of this, Peter became one of the leaders of the early church. He fulfilled what Jesus commanded and cared for God's sheep (the Church) until he was put to death because he refused to deny Christ.

MOD

How do you handle disappointment? How did Jesus handle disappointment? After looking at Jesus' example, what do we need to change about how we handle disappointment in others? In ourselves?

Jesus was perfect and did not give us an example of being disappointed in ourselves, but He was let down by others and continued to love them. Through His interaction with Peter, we see we are valuable to God, despite all our flaws. Everyone has sinned, but God can still use us, even after we have messed up. By remembering this, we can better handle our failures by not letting them discourage us, but enthusiastically return to the work God has for us.

How can we encourage community among believers, especially those who feel let down by the church?

By remaining close to each other and staying in community, people are less likely to turn away from the Church. Building relationships not only helps keep people accountable, but also provides a source of encouragement when disappointing things inevitably happen. It was not until Rey came to find Luke that he began to realize he could not continue hiding his whole life and that he was needed by the Resistance. We need to show others they are valuable and needed in the church.

PRAY

Does anyone have anything we need to pray about? Pray and ask God to help us deal appropriately with our disappointment, so we can encourage others and stay strong with the body of Christ.

THE NEXT LEVEL

Luke hurt both himself and the Resistance by going into hiding. The Bible encourages Christians to stay together, not just because we need each other for encouragement and accountability, but because the Church needs each of its members to use their gifts for the Church to function properly. When we cut ourselves off from Christ's Church, we are not just hurting ourselves, but depriving the Church of whatever gifts God has given us personally.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NASB) ²⁴and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Matthew 18:20 (NASB) ²⁰For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

1 Corinthians 12:15, 22, 25-26 (NASB) ¹⁵If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body...²²On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary...²⁵so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.²⁶And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

Author: Christina Graham | Editors: Colby Bryant & Lexi Tucker

These Bible Studies are completely free for you to print and use. They are funded by the gracious donations from people like you. If you are interested in donating please check out **WWW.PATREON.COM/GEEKSUNDERGRACE** for more information. Your contribution helps us to further our mission to disciple Christians through Pop-Culture and to tell the "geek" world that they deserve Christ just as much as the rest of us. Thank You for your consideration.

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation.