

Kingdom & Salvation

Luke 9-18

ev/youth

WEEK	PASSAGE	TITLE
Week 1	Luke 9-10	Jesus' Mission
Week 2	Luke 11:1-12:12	True Spiritual Religion
Week 3	Luke 12:13-13:21	The Judge of the Kingdom Inheritance
Week 4	Luke 13:22-14:35	The Kingdom is for the Lowly
Week 5	Luke 15	The Lost are Found
Week 6	Luke 16	What God Sees
Week 7	Luke 17	Stand Firm as you Wait
Week 8	Luke 18	The Kingdom Received by the Humble
Week 9		Easter in Luke (subscribed daily reading notes only, week of Easter)

INTRODUCTION TO LUKE 9-18

Luke's gospel is about God's eternal plan being revealed in all its fullness in Jesus. In fulfilment of the Old Testament, God has sent his Son, Christ the Lord, the great prophet and servant, to establish God's kingdom and save all who will follow him. This offer of salvation is for all people, whether Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, man or woman. However, it is especially for those who are the outcasts, the poor, the widows, the tax collectors and the Gentiles, all who are in the best position to receive the message of hope, because they know they need it and are willing to rely on God for their salvation. As they respond by following Jesus they become part of Jesus' new community, the church; however, there are many, especially among the nation of Israel, who reject Jesus as the Messiah and so stand in opposition to him and his people.

Luke's gospel has two unique features: it is the longest of the accounts of Jesus' life and ministry, and it is the only gospel that has a sequel, the book of Acts.

It appears that at the time of the writing of Luke's Gospel there were four major issues in the church. Luke seeks to address these issues in his gospel and in the book of Acts. The issues were: 1. How Gentiles could be included in God's new community; 2. Why the Jews had rejected the Messiah; 3. How a crucified Christ fits into God's plan; and 4. What it meant to respond to Jesus.

Luke writes his gospel to Theophilus (Luke 1:3) who seems to be a Gentile, and who is a man of rank ('Most Excellent' – Luke 1:3; Acts 24:3; 26:25). Theophilus has learnt something of Jesus, how much we don't know. But Luke writes to give him certainty about the things he has heard (1:1-4). Many have pointed out that the name 'Theophilus' (which means 'lover of God') shows that Luke wrote to all Christians. That is definitely true, but there was probably also a particular person in Luke's mind, while God always intended it for his whole Church.

Luke writes to give Theophilus assurance by dealing with these issues (1:4). He takes Theophilus through the life and ministry of Jesus to show how God has worked to reveal Jesus is the Christ who brings hope. Luke also defends God's faithfulness to Israel. It is not God who has rejected Israel, but many Israelites rejected God by rejecting Jesus. Luke makes clear that the gospel is open to all,

INTRODUCTION TO LUKE 9-18

Jew and Gentile, and the offer of the gospel calls Theophilus to remain faithful and committed even in the midst of Jewish rejection and persecution. Luke's gospel is not for Theophilus alone, but for all who have similar questions. Any Gentile feeling out of place in the new church could find assurance in Luke's gospel. And any Jew troubled by the large Jewish rejection of the gospel and positive response of many Gentiles to the gospel could be assured of God's faithfulness in Luke's writing.

A Basic Outline of Luke's Gospel

1. Luke's preface (1:1-4)
2. Introduction of John and Jesus (Luke 1:5-2:52)
3. Preparation for Jesus' ministry: anointed by God (Luke 3:1-4:13)
4. Galilean ministry: revelation of Jesus (Luke 4:14-9:50)
5. Journey to Jerusalem: Jewish rejection and the new way (Luke 9:51-19:44)
6. Jerusalem: the Innocent One killed and raised (Luke 19:45-24:53)

Luke 9-18: Kingdom and Salvation

Luke 9:51 is a key turning point in Luke's account. Jesus turns his face to Jerusalem. Along the way there, Jesus keeps revealing more about his kingdom, how it is not the political hope Israel was anticipating for Jerusalem. Instead, Jerusalem was the place he would go to die, to establish his eternal kingdom "that cannot be observed" yet (17:20). Luke tells us that when Jesus does arrive in Jerusalem that "the people thought that the kingdom was going to appear at once" (19:11). But instead, it is Jesus' death on the cross that makes the way into "paradise" possible (23:43). So the journey to Jerusalem is marked by the cross, where Jesus will die (9:22, 13:34, 18:33). It is his death that makes entering the kingdom possible. The whole way that people thought of the kingdom and salvation had been flipped. It was not a hope for the near future of this world, it was not a political renewal for Jerusalem. Instead, the Son of David came to suffer, to save, and to establish a kingdom far bigger and far broader than many Jewish hopes anticipated. Tied to these false national hopes were all kinds of pride, greed, and hypocrisy in people who thought of themselves as close to God. Jesus' way of the cross, his kingdom, and his salvation exposes these sins and calls his people to a life of costly love, generosity, and true worship of God from the heart.

SUGGESTED READING:



Enjoying Jesus by Tim Chester

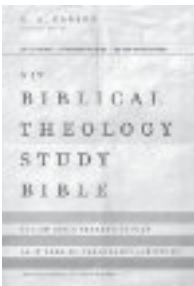
This is a great book tracking through some key passages in Luke helping us to 'enjoy Jesus' as we read about him.



Study Bibles

The ESV and the NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible

Study Bibles can be a super helpful support, but because they are helpful we can become dependent upon them in an unhelpful way. Just remember the study notes are not God's word and they are not an authoritative voice on the meaning of a passage. Often they can be helpful when you are perplexed by a verse or an unfamiliar part of Scripture. They can be particularly unhelpful in Growth Group as well if they become the way to answer (even if it's incorrect) to every question and stop us from thinking about Scripture together. Not all Study Bibles are equal. *The ESV and Biblical Theological NIV Study Bibles* are well regarded and could be especially helpful if you are keen to do the 'Reading Wider' passages this term.



WEEK 1: LUKE 9-10

Day 1

Read Luke 1:1-4, 4:16-21, and 4:42-44

Today and tomorrow we are dipping back into a few key passages in Luke 1-8 to help us understand where we are up to in this account (if you are really keen you could try and read Luke 1-4 today). For some of us, Luke's gospel may be completely new – so it's okay to write down your questions, bring them to your Gteams, or ask someone you meet at Youth – we'd love to help you think more about Jesus and his teaching.

1. What does Luke tell us in the introduction about his account?
2. From the readings in Luke 4, what does Jesus preach about, and what is his priority?
4. What has stood out to you, or what questions do you want to think more about?

Prayer: Ask God that he would give you the certainty of knowing that Jesus has come as the saviour and as the good news that he proclaimed.

WEEK 1: LUKE 9-10

DAY 3

Read Luke 9:18-27, 37-62

1. What can we learn about who Jesus is and what he'll face? Does it surprise you that he knows what's coming and doesn't avoid it?
2. What connections can you see between what Jesus' life is going to be like and the life he expects his followers to have?
3. What is the cost of following Jesus? Is it worth it? If you've already started following Jesus, how is his example shaping your life?
4. (OPTIONAL) There's a lot going on in verses 28-36, but what seems to be the point God is making about Jesus?

Prayer: Ask God to help you count the cost, to see the value of the forgiveness and the eternal life that Jesus offers so that you'd be willing to start or keep living for him no matter the cost.

JESUS' MISSION

DAY 4

Read Luke 10:1-24

1. What does Jesus tell the disciples to do, and what does he tell them to expect?
2. What does this passage help us see about the importance of listening to the preaching of the kingdom? What's at stake?

For notes on some of the significance of the places and some thoughts on the exorcisms, and trampling of snakes and scorpions in this passage, see here >>



3. What do we learn about Jesus and his Father in verses 21-24?
4. How does this passage help us to praise God for revealing his word to us?

READING WIDER: On most days this term, there will be an optional passage to read to help you cover the whole Bible in three years. Today's extra reading is Psalm 19. What does this psalm add to how we can praise God today?

Prayer: Praise the Father for planning all of history to make salvation available through the Person and work of the Son, Jesus, who was given the Spirit as the promised Messiah (anointed one). Praise God for saving us.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

Optional Weekend Reading

READING WIDER: Read Luke 10:25-42 and 11:27-28

1. In Jesus' time it was unheard of for a woman to be a disciple of a Jewish teacher (rabbi). What can we learn from Mary's example and Jesus' attitude towards her? What has Mary chosen that is better?
2. How might Martha have perceived her actions as good? Perhaps, even like she was being a 'good Samaritan'?
3. What priority does Jesus give to listening to his word? How might his priority be reflected in your own life?

THINKING DEEPER: If you'd like to think further about Jesus and his words, or about the connection between the Lawyer and Mary you can read some notes here >>



Prayer: Father, give me the eyes of faith to see the wonderful gift of your word. That in this book your Son speaks so that I might know him and relate with him. Please forgive my lack of care towards your Word in my habits or attitudes. Help my love for Jesus show in a love for his word.

DAY 2

Read Luke 11:13-28 and Exodus 8:19

1. What accusation is brought against Jesus, and how does he disprove it? (Beelzebul is the name of a false god. It is associated with the great sins of Israel's kings and their distrust of God – see 1 Kings 16).
2. What dangers does Jesus point out in this passage? What blessings are on offer, and how do you receive them?
3. How should the power of Jesus' words shape our attitudes towards them?

THINKING DEEPER: To read more about the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Coming of the Kingdom, see here >>



Prayer: Use the Lord's prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) to shape your prayers to your Father.

WEEK 2: LUKE 11:1-12:12

DAY 3

Read Luke 11:29-36

1. What is Jesus' view on his generation?

2. What sign will be given to them? (Matthew 12:39-40 is also helpful.)

3. What is the 'something greater than Jonah' that Jesus is referring to?

4. The light probably refers to the salvation Jesus is bringing (e.g. Luke 1:76-79 and 2:30-32)
 - a) Where can you see in your life that you are hiding the truth about Jesus from the people around you.

 - b) If the message of salvation can be the light that saves a person, how is this an encouragement for us to share Jesus and invite people to places where they can hear about him?

READING WIDER: Most days there will be an optional passage to read to help you cover the whole Bible in three years. Today's extra reading is Psalm 25. How does this psalm help us appreciate Jesus' life? And how does it encourage us to live like Jesus?

Prayer: Pray the Lord's Prayer and ask that God might help you be a light as you hear the enlightening words of Christ.

DAY 4

Read Luke 11:37-54

1. Try writing the main point of this section in a sentence or two.

2. What does this passage teach about:
 - a. The importance of both inner and outward deeds, and which has priority?
 - b. The way money is linked to our worship of God?
 - c. The importance of teachers of the Bible practising what they preach?

3. In what ways is Jesus' judgement on these teachers 'heavy'? Why might this be? (11:32 may be helpful).

4. The Jewish leaders could honour the dead prophets, who no longer called out their sin, but they could not honour John the Baptist or the Messiah! What does this reveal about the human heart and the difficulty of seeing our sin and humbly repenting?

THINKING DEEPER: To read more about the Law in Christian life and why the leaders of Jesus' day are responsible for all the innocent blood, see here >>



Prayer: Father, too often I've neglected the big things and little things you have commanded me to do or to flee from. Sometimes my outward worship is begrudging. Sometimes I even fail to do the simple outward things at all. Forgive me and transform me by the power of your promised Holy Spirit.

WEEK 2: LUKE 11:1-12:12

DAY 5

Read Luke 12:1-12

1. The word 'hypocrite' comes from the Greek theatre and means an "actor". Why do you think Jesus uses this description of the Pharisees?
2. What is the relationship between hypocrisy and fear? Whom should we fear, and why?
3. In what situations could you imagine your allegiance to God and the Son of Man being tested? What convictions would you need and how might you grow them in your life?

READING WIDER: Read Psalm 26. How does this psalm help us understand Jesus' life? And how does it encourage us to follow his example?

THINKING DEEPER: To explore more about the blasphemy against the spirit and the unforgivable sin raise questions, see >>



Prayer: Ask God to protect you from hypocrisy, to enable you to fear Him rather than people, and to empower you to stand for Him and confess His Name.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

Optional Weekend Reading

READING WIDER: Read Acts 1-3

1. What encouragement is there from this part of God's word today?
2. What does it teach about Jesus and salvation?
3. What does it teach you about responding rightly to him?

Prayer: Father, thank you for the great salvation you have accomplished through Jesus' death and resurrection. Help me to continually respond in repentance and faith to this good news. Please bring many more to repentance.

WEEK 3: LUKE 12:13-13:21

DAY 1

Read Luke 12:13-21

1. What connections or themes can you spot in this passage and with previous weeks?
2. What's the difference between the rich man's view of himself and God's verdict on his life?
3. In verses 14-21, how does Jesus help us reframe our perspective?
4. How does this passage help us think about the things we own? Our whole life? What might be some practical outworkings in your life?

READING WIDER: Read Acts 4. What do you find encouraging about the way the gospel transformed Peter and John and the early Christians?

Prayer: "Help me never trust in vain, All the treasure hands have made, Riches all will rust and fade, None endure beyond the grave."
You can listen to, or sing the whole song here >>



DAY 2

Before you read today's passage, what have been the main things you've been thinking about or worried about in the past few weeks? Write down the big things on your mind.

Read Luke 12:22-34

1. What does Jesus want us to stop doing, and what does he tell us to do instead?
2. How does Jesus show us that following these things will be good?
3. What fears might hold us back for the life Jesus puts forward? How does Jesus address these fears?
4. What would it look like for you to stop worrying, and see how God is providing for you now and into eternity, and instead seek first his kingdom?

THINKING DEEPER: To read more about the place of worry in the Christian life of trusting God, see here >>



Prayer: Father, too often the things of this world capture my heart and dominate my concerns and worries. Renew my mind to know you care for my needs and your gift of the kingdom that is eternal. Help me to fix my mind on these things and hold loosely to the things of the world.

WEEK 3: LUKE 12:13–13:21

DAY 3

Read Luke 12:13-15 and 12:35-48 (Read Wider 12:49-59)

1. Try and summarise the point of Jesus' teaching in one or two sentences?
2. What might it look like for you to heed his teaching?
3. When Jesus was asked to help sort out a family will, Jesus responds "who appointed me a judge..." but throughout this section we see Jesus as the Master who will return to judge. It's not that Jesus isn't the judge (Acts 17:31), but he has not come to resolve human disputes (12:51). He has come as the King of God's kingdom – an inheritance far bigger and better than any earthly treasure (12:22-34). He is seeking to recalibrate us to care about the things that truly matter and not obsess about lesser things. What might be something you value in life that Jesus wants to recalibrate?

READING WIDER: Read Acts 5-6. After what seemed like a high point in Acts, what challenges faced the early church, and how are they similar to challenges Christians face today?

THINKING DEEPER: Jesus the King who rules – thinking about the words 'fire', 'baptism', and 'division', see more here >>



Prayer: Ask that God would keep you from an unproductive life that disregards the coming of your Master. Pray that Jesus' perspective would shape your heart and life.

DAY 4

Read Luke 13:1-9

1. What is God's message to the world in suffering and tragedy?
2. What might the fig tree represent? How is it connected to the message of repentance? (Note: Luke 12:49 – Jesus' judgment is being held off.)
3. If final judgement is coming, how might that shape your priorities?

READING WIDER: Read Acts 7. What themes can you see in Stephen's words? What connections can you see with Jesus' death, and why might that be (see Acts 9:4)?

Prayer: Ask God for an ongoing soft heart that is quickly grieved by your own sin. Bring your sin to God in repentance, knowing he forgives us in Christ. Pray that many more would repent and turn to Jesus while there is still time.

WEEK 3: LUKE 12:13-13:21

DAY 5

Read Luke 13:10-20

1. What are the different responses to Jesus' miracle?
2. Jesus' parable (13:18-20) assumes the kingdom is just starting to grow. If the healing of the woman is just a small sign of the kingdom, what do you think the kingdom will be like (see also Revelation 21:1-4)?
3. If this is what the kingdom will be like, how might it change your goals in life and what you treasure (remember Luke 12:32-34)?

THINKING DEEPER: What should Christians think of the Sabbath? See more here >>



Prayer: Father, thank you that you have given me the Holy Spirit that I might have eyes to see and ears to hear the gospel of salvation. Please help me to know the treasure of what I have in Christ and be willing to lose everything for the sake of having him.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

Optional Weekend Reading

READING WIDER: Read Acts 8-11. The persecution that broke out after Stephen's death might have seemed to be the end of the church. But remember the wise advice of Gamaliel who said "if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men..." (Acts 5:38-39). How did God use persecution to see the gospel spread and what kinds of people does it reach (recall Acts 1:8)? What do we learn about God, his plans, and his salvation?

Prayer: Bring the things you've listed above to God in prayer.

WEEK 4: LUKE 13:22-14:35

DAY 1

Read Luke 13:22-30

1. According to Jesus, are only a few people going to be saved? How is this a warning to us?
2. How do we put together that God has given the kingdom as a gift (10:22) and that we are to make every effort to enter (13:24). How is it both God's work and our work, or God's work in our real effort (see also Philippians 2:13)?
3. How would the words of Jesus in verses 28-30 have been shocking to Jesus' hearers? How does it challenge us and comfort us?

READING WIDER: Read Acts 12:1-25. What do we learn about Jesus? What do we learn about God's sovereignty to achieve his purposes?

Prayer: Ask that God would keep you from an over confident heart but instead that you'd make every effort to please God having been given the kingdom by him.

DAY 2

Read Luke 13:31-35

1. What is significant about the fact that Jesus is heading towards Jerusalem (see Luke 9:51, 13:22; 13:31-33)?
2. What do you learn about Jesus' history with his people Israel? How does Jesus feel about the nation of Israel, and what warning does He give them?
3. Jesus is uniquely the Son of Man, the one appointed as the judge, and the God who has seen all of Israel's rebellion. Yet he is still filled with compassion towards sinners. How might his attitude shape ours?

READING WIDER: Read Psalm 118 and Luke 19:38. Do you think "coming in the name of the LORD" refers to Jesus' first or second coming, or both?

Prayer: Ask that your heart might be filled with compassion for those who currently stand in opposition to God, and pray that God would do a mighty work to bring more people to repentance and salvation.

WEEK 4: LUKE 13:22-14:35

DAY 3

Read Luke 14:1-14

The rejection of Jesus by the Jewish leaders has been ramping up. Jesus has been warning of the coming judgement (12:54-56, 13:6-8), of the fact that many who are confident of their 'right' to God's kingdom will in fact not obtain it (13:28-30), of the ineffectiveness of the Jewish religious system as a means of gaining eternal life (11:37-52) and, in particular, of the need to accept Him as the only means of entering God's kingdom (12:8-9). The big question is whether or not the nation of Israel will listen to the warning, but this third Sabbath scene casts serious doubts on their place before God.

1. Why do you think Jesus was being carefully watched when He went to dinner at the prominent Pharisee's house (see Luke 11:53-54 and 13:17)?
2. What do Jesus' questions expose about:
 - a. The Pharisees and experts in the law?
 - b. What is truly lawful to do on the Sabbath?
 - c. His ability to guide us to read Scripture above these other interpreters?
3. Are there ways in which our keeping good commands to the letter can be done in an ungodly way (see Romans 13:8-10)?

READING WIDER: Read Acts 12:25-13:12. What did the proconsul believe? How does that help us understand the place of miracles and preaching in the place of the Apostles' ministry?

Prayer: Ask God to help you examine your heart and not just your actions. Pray that your life would always be following the law of love (Romans 13:8-10).

DAY 4

Read Luke 14:7-24

1. What's the main point of the two parables? How are they connected?
2. How do you again see Jesus' teaching focusing on the future judgement?
3. In what ways are you more focused on the thoughts of people than on God's final verdict on your life?
4. It's a sobering thought that people who think they will be at the banquet actually won't be there (14:24). How might this stir you to reflect on your heart?

READING WIDER: Read Acts 13:13-52. What do we learn about the gospel, God's plan for the Gentiles (non-Israelites), and the motives for those rejecting the gospel?

Prayer: Father, thank you that you exalt the humble who depend on Christ. Lord, press on me the reality of that final day, standing before you in your splendour and glory, seeing my Saviour step in for me. Father, keep me from focusing on human praise but instead be focused on your final verdict.

WEEK 4: LUKE 13:22-14:35

DAY 5

Read Luke 8:13-14 and 14:25-35

1. What does Jesus teach potential followers about counting the cost?
2. What is the danger of not counting the cost?
3. Is Jesus' expectation for Christian life similar or different to what you think? How so?
4. What in your life threatens your wholehearted devotion to Christ? How might you prioritise your ongoing devotion to Christ and remove things that would hinder it?

READING WIDER: Read Acts 14. What do we learn about the persecution Paul faced (see also 2 Timothy 3:10-12)? How might Paul's encouragement about hardship be an encouragement to you today?

Prayer: Father, you know my heart. There are things in my life that should not be, and there are things that should be in my life that aren't. Give me wisdom and understanding so I might live faithfully as a disciple of Christ. Restore in me a zeal for Jesus so that I would willingly suffer the loss of all things to gain him.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

Optional Weekend Reading

READING WIDER: Read Acts 15-17. Why do you think it was so important to pause Paul's missionary travels in order to confirm the gospel message? What seems to be Paul's goal, and how does his message confirm this?

Prayer: Father, we pray that your word would continue to spread and flourish. Please save and grow your people.

WEEK 5: LUKE 15

DAY 1

Read Luke 15:1-10

1. Who are the different people present, and what is their attitude towards Jesus?
2. What does this parable teach us about God?
3. How is Jesus addressing the sinner present? How is this a comfort to you?
4. How is Jesus addressing the Pharisees and teachers of the law present? How is this a challenge for you?

Prayer: Praise God that in his incredible compassion he came and found you while you were lost and far away, and brought you home to a great celebration in heaven. Pray that you would celebrate with God and the angels as people turn back to him.

DAY 2

Read Luke 15:1-10

1. What is God's heart towards sinners who repent?
2. What happens first: sinners repenting, or God searching? Why does this matter?
3. What brings about God and heaven rejoicing? Does it make you rejoice?

READING WIDER: Read Acts 18. What do we learn about the gospel and people's reactions to it? What encouragement is there to take part in the gospel work?

Prayer: Ask that we'd be like our Father, who searches for sinners and who rejoices in the repentance of sinners. Pray we'd never think of people as too far gone but see all as those whom God can call home.

WEEK 5: LUKE 15

DAY 3

Read Luke 15:1-2 and 15:11-31

1. Who do the different people in the parable represent?
2. What does the parable teach us about sin? About God's love? And about who is really lost?
3. Jesus is making a point to help his people, Israel, see their need to welcome those whom God has welcomed, the Gentiles. How might this shape the way we should welcome and celebrate?

READING WIDER: Read Acts 19. What do we learn about Jesus' name? What encouragement is there about the deep impact of the gospel in Paul's day and ours? If you have questions about the baptism of the Spirit and speaking in tongues, you can read more here >>



Prayer: "He who dined with sinners and saints, Healed the blind the lost and the lame, Even now he is in our midst, Behold him." You can listen or sing along to the whole song here >>



DAY 4

Read Ezekiel 34:1-16

1. What does the LORD promise to do for his sheep?
2. How might this passage relate to the judgment Jesus has been pronouncing and the blessing he promises to those who come to him?
3. What can you draw on for comfort today about God's character?

Prayer: Father, thank you for sending the Great Shepherd to seek and save the lost. Help me not forget that I'm in need of your salvation. Thank you for finding me. Find many more sheep and bring them into your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

Optional Weekend Reading

READING WIDER: Read Acts 20-22. What do we learn about Paul's priorities and trials? How might we follow in his example?

Prayer: Father, help us to number our days so that we might live a life of wisdom and prioritise what will make an eternal difference in people's lives. Give us wisdom to know best how to partner in the work of the gospel.

WEEK 6: LUKE 16

DAY 1

Read Luke 16:1-15

1. What is the manager commended for? In what specific way does Jesus encourage us to be like him?
2. What are Jesus' warnings in this passage? What's at stake?
3. There's a difference between managing your wealth and having wealth as your master. How might you spot the difference in your own life?
4. How can God's view and worldly views be completely opposite? How does this encourage our discernment on the things our culture holds dear? How does it encourage us to know the mind of God through Scripture?

READING WIDER: Read Acts 23. What do we learn about Paul, his message, and the opposition he faced?

Prayer: Father, keep me from being mastered by wealth. Help me to use the resources and the time you've given me to serve you alone. Help me see the ways in which detestable worldly thinking has influenced me.

DAY 2

Read Luke 16:16-18

1. Given Jesus' interactions with the experts of the law, how might people misunderstand Jesus' view on the law? What does Jesus teach about the law here?
2. Go back to page 15 (distinctions in law) – how might this be helpful in understanding what Jesus is teaching about the endurance of the law?
3. What is Jesus' teaching on adultery? What does this mean for the nature of his welcoming of sinners?

READING WIDER: Read Acts 24. What do you learn about Paul and his message? What mixed messages do we read about Felix? What might be Luke's point of talking about Felix this way?

Prayer: Ask that God would help you see the central place of Jesus and submit to his perfect law.

WEEK 6: LUKE 16

DAY 3

Read Luke 16:19-31

1. What seems to be Jesus' main message in this story?
2. According to the Old Testament law (see Exodus 22:25-27; 23:11; Leviticus 23:22; and Deuteronomy 15:7, 11), what should the rich man have done for the poor man, and what does this show about the rich man's relationship with God?
3. How does it urge us to act and pray for those currently outside the kingdom?
4. In what ways is comfort prioritised in your life? How does this passage speak to that?

THINKING DEEPER: For more on Jesus' teaching on hell, see here >>



Prayer: Ask God for his kindness to save those living for comfort now without regard for God and without regard for their eternal state. Pray that we would live differently knowing our comfort is in the future kingdom, not in this world.

WEEK 6: LUKE 16

DAY 5

Read Luke 16:1-31

1. What do most people think about the following topics, and how does Jesus think about them?
 - a. The best use of money?
 - b. Wealth?
 - c. Comfort?
 - d. Eternity?

2. Where might your actions or beliefs show that you are more like most people than Jesus?

READING WIDER: Read Acts 25:1-22. What do we learn about Paul? Why do you think Luke records these details? How does this section move us towards Rome (see Acts 1:8)?

Prayer: Bring these things to God in prayer and ask that he would help you see the way our world impacts how we think and live. Pray for a soft heart willing to submit to Jesus' teaching and to live in line with him.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

Optional Weekend Reading

READING WIDER: Read Acts 25:23-27:44. What do we learn about Paul and his message? What threats emerge about God's plan to spread the gospel through Paul? How does God's unstoppable plan encourage you today?

Prayer: Bring these things to God in prayer and ask that he would help you see the way our world impacts how we think and live. Pray for a soft heart willing to submit to Jesus' teaching and to live in line with him.

WEEK 7: LUKE 17

DAY 1

Read Luke 17:1-6

1. What do these verses teach about the seriousness of sin's consequences?
2. Why is it fitting for Christians to be marked by radical forgiveness (see also Luke 7:41-47)?
3. Why might the disciples ask for faith after hearing this teaching, and what does Jesus say about faith?
4. How might God want to see his forgiveness of you transform the way you forgive others?

READING WIDER: Read Acts 28. How does Acts end, and why do you think it ends this way?

Prayer: Father, give me a deep sense of the forgiveness you have brought in Christ. Give me strength to forgive and live mercifully. Thank you that even a little faith is enough because it is in your Son who is able.

DAY 2

Read Luke 17:7-10

1. What is Jesus illustrating in the story about the servant?
2. What does this teach us about how we should view our obedience to Jesus?
Is this your attitude?
3. What dangerous attitudes can develop in us during times of obedience?

READING WIDER: Over the rest of this term, we have added the option to read the book of Joshua alongside Luke 9-18 for those wanting to read the whole Bible in three years. The book of Joshua is about God's people Israel coming into the promised land. God had saved his people from slavery in Egypt under Moses (Exodus) and had been leading them through a long journey in the wilderness (Numbers). Moses had prepared them for coming into the land (Deuteronomy). Now that Moses has died, Joshua leads the people into the land of promise. You can read more of an introduction, or listen to a podcast on Joshua here >>



Prayer: Pray that times of obedience would not cause you to think that Jesus owes you something. Pray that you would recognise that it is a privilege to be a servant of Jesus.

WEEK 7: LUKE 17

DAY 3

Read Luke 17:5-19

1. What is Jesus teaching about humility and service in verses 7-10?
In what ways do you find this difficult?

2. How is the Samaritan another example of the unexpected people who respond rightly to Jesus?

3. Faith is key to ongoing life as disciples. What does today's passage teach us about what faith looks like and what it doesn't look like?

READING WIDER: Read Joshua 3-4. What does God want the people to learn and remember from the crossing of the Jordan River? What did these events mean for Joshua, and what is the connection with Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River (Luke 4:21-22)?

Prayer: Father, help me be humble in service and rich in my praise of Christ.

DAY 4

Read Luke 17:20-37, Genesis 19:15-17, and 19:23-26

1. What does Jesus teach about the kingdom and the day of the Son of Man? How are they different? (Note: the language of the Son of Man comes especially from Daniel 7:13-14.)
2. What might Jesus mean by, “the kingdom of God is in your midst” (see also Luke 10:9, 10:11, 11:20)? Why might Jesus’ teaching have been a shock to those looking for a new political kingdom that overthrew Roman rule?
3. Jesus doesn’t provide a detailed account of his return but he gives us the big picture – what is it? What’s the warning he gives?
4. What are the things you find yourself clinging to that will be destroyed with t his world?

READING WIDER: Read Joshua 5:1-12. How do you see God working to raise up a new generation in place of the older? What reason does the passage give for this raising up? What does Joshua’s generation enjoy that the older generation missed out on? For more on Joshua – you might consider purchasing a Study Bible (see recommended books on page 5) or *The New Bible Commentary*. There is also a free commentary here >>



Prayer: Ask God to keep you vigilant, always ready to be taken home to the Son of Man. Pray that he would help you not be caught up in the things of this world (1 Corinthians 7:31).

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

Optional Weekend Reading

READING WIDER: Read Joshua 5:13-8:34. What can we learn from the highs and lows of Israel's covenant with God? What do we learn about sin and how we should think of it as those in covenant with God? If you have questions about the violence in the Old Testament, there are some helpful resources here >>



Prayer: Father, thank you that Jesus has nailed my debt to the cross so that I can be forgiven. There is no charge against me. Help me to live in light of this great salvation and to live with my eyes fixed on Jesus, who is coming back to bring me home.

WEEK 8: LUKE 18

DAY 1

Read Luke 18:1-8 and Luke 11:2-4

1. According to 18:1, what is the point of the parable Jesus is about to tell?
2. What are you currently praying for without giving up?
3. How does Jesus' parable and teaching give you confidence to pray?
4. Remembering what we saw last week about the Son of Man's return, what might be the connection between the prayer for justice and the return of Jesus? Can you see how both are in the Lord's prayer in Luke 11?

Prayer: Give thanks that the Lord is gracious, compassionate, just and quick to answer the prayers of his chosen people. Pray for justice in our world. Ask the Lord to make you someone who prays without giving up. Pray for the Lord's return and pray that many would repent before he comes.

DAY 2

Read Luke 18:9-14, Romans 4:5, and Galatians 2:16

1. What does it mean to be confident of your own righteousness, and what might cause someone to be like this? Do you feel this temptation and what causes it for you?
2. How do those who are confident of their own righteousness tend to think of others? Do you find yourself thinking like this and what do you think is the cure?
3. How might you grow in humility before God? And before others?
4. Justification versus self-justification is a significant theme in Luke's gospel. Read and reflect on Luke 10:29; 15:1-10; 16:14-15 and 18:9. How might a sense of self-justification be evident in your life?

READING WIDER: Read Joshua 10. If Joshua is a deliverer that helps us understand Jesus, how might this chapter help us understand Jesus' victory over sin and over his enemies?

Prayer: Father, show me my pride so that with your help I might kill it. Help me to see where my confidence comes from my works and not from Christ. Help me to notice when I think little of others and think too highly of myself. Please give me the humility that comes from knowing my complete dependence on your mercy.

WEEK 8: LUKE 18

DAY 3

Read Luke 18:9-17 and 1 Corinthians 14:20

1. What's similar between the tax collector and children? How do we need to become like children?

2. Jesus has taught a lot about the ways he expects those in the kingdom to live. How does this passage help us see the way to receive the kingdom? How might this help us think about what Jesus thinks about the place of faith and works?

3. Jesus welcomes people whom others count as unworthy or unimportant. How might Jesus' teaching shape the way you view and act towards all people?

READING WIDER: Read Joshua 11-12. What do we learn about God's sovereignty over Israel's conquest? See Genesis 15:16, for how long God has had this plan. See also Acts 4:27-28, for God's sovereign plan. If this raises questions for you that you want to consider further, see some helpful resources here >>



Prayer: Father, thank you for receiving those who know their need. Thank you for showing me my need and for sending a saviour. Please give me more of your grace to treat others like you have treated me.

DAY 4

Read Luke 18:18-30 and Exodus 20:1-19

1. What do you learn about the rich ruler from this passage? What seems to be his problem?
2. The Ten Commandments were given on two stone tablets. The first tablet of commands is about our love for God, the second is about our love for our neighbour. Of course these go hand in hand. Jesus doesn't list the commands about loving and worshipping God in this passage, instead he says, "sell everything, give to the poor, follow me". How is Jesus exposing the rich man's fault? What is Jesus revealing about himself and proper worship of God?
3. According to Jesus, how is it possible that anyone is saved?
4. What did the rich young man miss out on? How does this motivate you to live worshipping Christ despite the cost that may come?

READING WIDER: Read Joshua 13. What has been fulfilled and what has not yet been fulfilled for the Israelites at this point? What is similar about our situation today between the cross and the second coming of Jesus?

Prayer: Pray that the Lord would convict the people of Australia of their sin and need of salvation. Pray that you'd live a life of wholehearted devotion to Christ, counting the cost, and remembering with joy the blessing of following him.

WEEK 8: LUKE 18

DAY 5

Read Luke 18:1-30

1. What connections can you see across this passage? What connections can you see with other parts of Luke?
2. Luke records a lot about Jesus' view of earthly possessions – you might want to review it today – 6:24, 8:14, 12:18-21, 16:11, 16:19-26 . Why do you think this topic matters to Jesus?
3. How might Jesus' teaching on the true kingdom and earthly treasure be a correction to our culture? How might Jesus' words urge you into a wholehearted life following him?

READING WIDER: Read Joshua 14-15. Why might this allotting of land be so critical? See Hosea 5:10 for how seriously God takes the land of each tribe? Why might this be? And how might it relate to the New Testament (see Luke 17:1-2).

Prayer: Thank God for Jesus, his incredible life and teaching, and his death and resurrection that saves sinners like us. Pray that God might bring many more people to salvation. Ask God that his word would sink deeply into our hearts and bring wonderful transformation for his glory.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

Optional Weekend Reading

READING WIDER: Read Joshua 16-19. What problems arise in the allotting of the land? Why do you think they occur? (See similarities with the previous generation who did not enter the land, Numbers 13:26-33.)

Prayer: Praise God for the inheritance he has allotted to us through the work of Jesus, to have the hope of his kingdom.

WEEK 9: LUKE 19

As we head towards Easter this week, read the rest of Luke to help you reflect and prepare for the events we remember at Easter.

DAY 1

Read Luke 19

1. What do we learn about Jesus?
2. What do we learn about following Jesus?
3. How might this passage help us to reflect well this Easter on who Jesus is and what he has done for us?

READING WIDER: Read Joshua 20. What was the purpose of the cities of refuge? See 2 Samuel 22:3, in what ways are these cities a helpful picture of the refuge we have in Christ?

Prayer: Bring your reflections to God in prayer.

DAY 2

Read Luke 20-21

1. What do we learn about Jesus?
2. What do we learn about following Jesus?
3. How might this passage help us to reflect well this Easter on who Jesus is and what he has done for us?

READING WIDER: Read Joshua 21. After all the land is allotted, what is the language of the gift God has given to Israel (see 21:43-45). How does this relate to the promise of rest for us (see Hebrews 4:1-11)?

Prayer: Bring your reflections to God in prayer.

WEEK 9: LUKE 19

DAY 5

Read Luke 24

1. What do we learn about Jesus?
2. What do we learn about following Jesus?
3. How might this passage help us to reflect well this Easter on who Jesus is and what he has done for us?

READING WIDER: Read Joshua 24. What encouragement can we draw from God's commitment to his promise? What is similar and what is different between Joshua's audience and us?

Prayer: Bring your reflections to God in prayer. You might like to use this song, 'Jerusalem' as a prayer of thanksgiving to God >>



PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

that is how God clothes the grass of the day and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, a clothe you - you of little faith!

...time approached

...said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the Kingdom of God."

...not one of those who were invited

...will get a taste of my banquet

...the day

...must suffer many things

...rejected by this generation

...ON AHEAD, WHO WENT

...VELLAGE TO GET THINGS

CHAPTER 10

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

...was the same in the

...and building, but the

...rained down

...them

...day

...let sodomy

...heaven and

...chapter

...you that

...went

...for all those w

