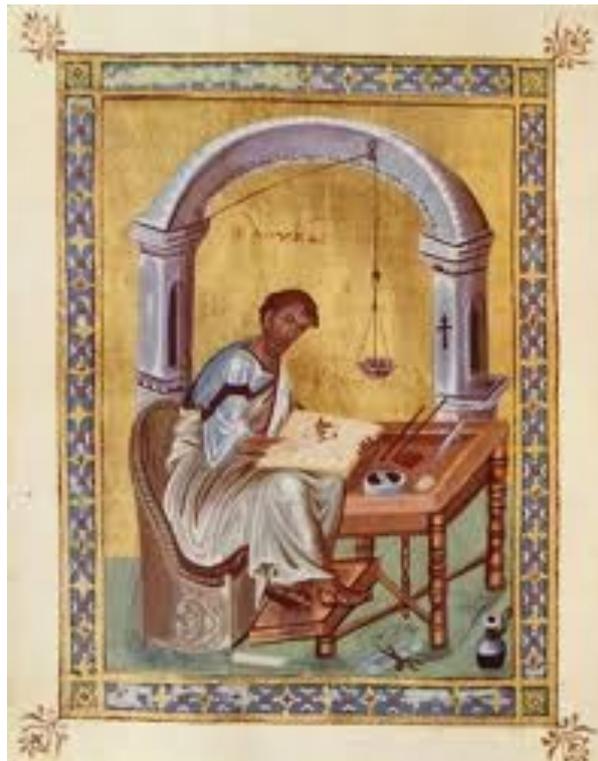




12 Bible studies on Luke's Gospel

'through Gentile eyes'



'getting a handle on Luke'

Like all 4 Gospel accounts of Jesus in the New Testament, Luke gives us a unique look at Jesus—nothing contradictory, but a different perspective.

As we saw last year, **Matthew** very much has a Jewish audience in mind with lots of Jewish culture imbedded into his account and how Jesus fulfills the Jewish hope of a Messiah, particularly as laid out by the Old Testament prophets. **John** is a very personal, extended look at Jesus as the Apostle relates many first hand encounters of people with Jesus. **Mark** is more about just getting the essential facts out there as quickly as possible.

But **Luke** is looking at Jesus through non-Jewish or 'Gentile' eyes. He goes out of his way to explain a lot of the unavoidable Jewish cultural aspects to Jesus' life. He includes a lot of Gentile interactions with Jesus. He was a Gentile physician who had come to faith in Jesus, who wrote to his Gentile friend Theophilus, drawing together the reliable available evidence to help his friend "*know the certainty*" of what he had been taught about Jesus (1:1-4).

It's a big book—24 fairly long, detailed chapters. But we won't get so lost if we see 4 main parts to it... **first 4 chapters**—Luke showing us something massive was really about to happen with the coming of Jesus, **next 5 chapters**—Jesus demonstrating the reality of that in reaching out to lost, ordinary people with miraculous power and words, **climaxing in chapter 9** with Peter realizing Jesus is the one to save us. Luke then takes us on Jesus' long journey to Jerusalem, **9:51-19:44**, where Jesus imparts so much that helps us for our journey in life, before the climactic last week in the **last 4 chapters**, when Jesus *secures for us this life with God he had shown was incredibly possible*.

Luke goes onto compile a sequel—the book of Acts, showing how Jesus continues God's rescue plan for the planet through the lives of his followers in the power of the Holy Spirit, having returned to Heaven, seated at the right hand of God. But let's see how he shows Jesus is the one who can bring us back to an eternal life with our God, being about His plans and Kingdom.

Hints for these studies – with each question, sometimes there's a follow up question or two included at the same number. This is to just help draw it out a bit more. You may get it with the first one so don't panic if you end up saying the same thing in thinking about the follow up question—just move on. Also, don't panic if you can't quite see what a question might be driving at. These questions are not the Bible. Feel free to move onto the next one. The questions are just an attempt to help us get into the passage/issue. Let the passage drive things at the end of the day. The questions are of course still hoped to be helpful in leading in to what God is saying. So at least think about it before moving on—it might then become more obvious. ABOVE ALL, PRAY FOR GOD TO SPEAK TO US!

1

'movement at the station'

Let's get the ball rolling...



Why do you think there are 4 Gospels? What comes to mind for you when you think of Luke's Gospel? (if you've read some of it before)

read Luke 1:1-4



1. What kind of material was Luke drawing on to help his friend get it with Jesus?

investigate



think & apply

2. What could you say to someone who says Jesus is just another religious myth?

read Luke 1:5-25



3. What kind of people were Zechariah and Elizabeth? (v5-7)

investigate

4. Why were they to rejoice in the amazing birth of their son? (v8-17) *See Isaiah 40:1-5.*

5. Does Zechariah remind you of anyone with his reaction in v18? *See Genesis 15:15-22.*

6. What does Elizabeth mean when she rejoiced how the Lord had *"shown favour and taken away (her) disgrace"*?



think & apply

7. Why has Luke felt it important to include this incident? Think about how God in the Old Testament signalled when His plans were significantly progressing.

8. What is our disgrace that needs redressing?

Scan the rest of Luke 1-3 (helps to have done this before home group!)



9. How does John grow up to fulfil the prophecy? (chapter 3)

investigate



think & apply

10. How does knowing God is actually working in this world help us to be patient as we go about the ups and downs of our daily lives?

Pray in response to this...

*** that we would wait patiently for God's plans to be worked out in our world and our lives**



**through wk
Luke 4:1-9:17-
i.d. evidence to
back up Jesus'
compassion**



prayer
points

* * * Ordinary people following an extraordinary God * * *

2

'Jesus' battlers'

Let's get the ball rolling...



Why do you think Jesus tended to seek the less socially sophisticated rather than the 'beautiful people'? *See Luke 4:17-21.*

read Luke 5:1-11



1. What changes Simon's tune in this incident? (compare his reactions in v5 and 8)

investigate



think & apply

2. How encouraging is it for you that Jesus' sought out ordinary 'working class' sinners like Simon?

read Luke 7:36-50



investigate

3. What's a Pharisee? Where did they sit in the pecking order? *The elements of this story give some clues, confirming what the rabbinic literature of the day conveys.*

4. What's Luke indicating to us by referring to this woman as someone who had "*lived a sinful life*"? (v37) Aren't we all sinners?

5. Why would her actions have really messed with the mind of the Pharisee? Can you see this Pharisee's logic? (v39)

6. How did Jesus give this Pharisee every opportunity to understand what was really going on? (v40-48). Although, is it problematic where the logic ends? (think about last 2 verses)



think & apply

7. What do modern day Pharisee's look like? What do they/we need to see?

Scan the rest of Luke 4:1-9:17 (again, helps to have done this before hand)



investigate

9. Note the other instances in this section where Jesus has singled out the battlers (eg 5:12-16, 8:26-39, where Jesus shows amazing compassion for the downcast).



think & apply

10. Share what you find particularly encouraging from these incidents, why it is indeed "*good news to the poor.*" (Luke 4:18)

Pray in response to this...

*** that we would see ourselves as battlers in need of Jesus' forgiveness**



through wk Luke 4:1-9:17, i.d. evidence to back up Jesus' divine power



prayer points

* * * Ordinary people following an extraordinary God * * *

3

'the right stuff'

Let's get the ball rolling...



What happens to a Church and its impact when it believes and acts like Jesus isn't for real?

read Luke 7:11-17



investigate

1. Why is it not surprising by now that another large crowd is following Jesus?
2. Did they get more than they bargained for when Jesus helped another battler?



think & apply

3. What makes this miracle stand out from many of the others, and not just Jesus' miracles given there was back then, like now, many able to look the part?

read Luke 8:22-25



investigate

4. Think back to what the bread and butter for some of these disciples was before they went with Jesus on this mission. What does this tell us about the magnitude of the storm?

5. What did they want Jesus to do? Did they get more than they bargained for?



think & apply

6. Was Jesus a bit harsh with them after he had calmed the storm? (v25) Think about what's at stake.

7. When are we likely to forget who's in the boat with us?

8. Why does true faith in the end have to be greater than physical sight in this life? *See 2 Corinthians 5:1-10.*

Scan Luke 4:1-9:17 once more, this time...



investigate

9. Note the other instances in this section where Jesus shows he is made of the right stuff (eg 8:40-56, 9:10-17 where Jesus shows clearly divine power, creating life out of nothing).



think & apply

10. Why do so many not even bother to check out these amazing things Jesus has done?

Pray in response to this...

*** that we would firmly understand exactly who Jesus is and just trust him**



**through wk
Luke 4:1-9:17,
i.d. evidence to
back up Jesus'
wisdom**



prayer
points

* * * Ordinary people following an extraordinary God * * *

4

'the right words'

Let's get the ball rolling...



Why does Jesus' take on life receive so little weight in our society today?

read Luke 5:27-32



investigate

1. Why was this 'battler' so in awe of Jesus, whilst the champions of the 'political correctness' of the day were *"complaining"*? (v27-30)
2. How did Jesus' answer explain what was really going on? (v31-32)



think & apply

read Luke 5:33-39



investigate

4. What was worrying the Pharisees about Jesus' disciples/those leaning from him? (v33) Important to think about what fasting is meant to be. *See Isaiah 58, particularly v4-7.*
5. How does Jesus' answer get to the whole point of fasting? Factor in who the Bridegroom is in Old Testament terms - *see Isaiah 54:5*, why Jesus was such a *"new"* break through.



think & apply

6. How can good practices in themselves miss the point, both personally and when we meet with other Christians like at Church or Home Group?
7. Why is a personal relationship with Jesus so much better? *See Jeremiah 31:31-34.*
8. What's going on when we put other things ahead of getting to know Jesus better? What kind of *"bursting"* does it inevitably lead to?

Scan Luke 4-9:17 once more, this time...



investigate

9. Note the other instances in this section where Jesus shows he has the right words (eg 6:1-11, 7:18-35, where he cuts through so well to the heart of the matter).
10. Can you see Luke's picture of Jesus starting to come together given his aim at the start?



think & apply

Pray in response to this...

*** that we would let Jesus inform our thinking about what matters in life**



**through wk
Luke 9:18-50**



prayer points

* * * Ordinary people following an extraordinary God * * *

5

'a servant king?'

Let's get the ball rolling...



The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians... *"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."* Why?

read Luke 9:18-27



investigate

1. What's behind the various guesses at the time about who Jesus was? (v18) These opinions were quite prevalent—*compare v7-8*.
2. Did Peter hit the jackpot? (v20) Think about what "Christ" means, remembering the overall Bible story/plan of salvation from *Genesis 3:15* through to *Genesis 12:3*, *Deuteronomy 18:15*, *2 Samuel 7:12*, *Isaiah 11:1-3*.

3. How was Jesus' response surprising and confronting? (v21-27)



think & apply

4. What are the opinions about Jesus that regularly do the rounds today?
5. The popular Christian song 'In Christ Alone' has the key words... *'till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied'*. Would it be a problem to change the wrath bit for... 'the love of God was magnified'?

read Luke 9:28-36



investigate

6. How did Peter react to the excursion up the mountain?

7. *Compare Isaiah 42:1-4 with v35 here*. How does this confirm Jesus will be a servant king?



think & apply

8. This side trip would have been reassuring for the disciples. What reassures you today?

Scan the rest of this section, Luke 9:37-50



investigate

9. Note how this contrast between absolute power and the setting aside of such power continues to be front and centre in Luke's developing picture of Jesus.



think & apply

10. Why are people "afraid" (v45) of facing up to Jesus dying in our place for our sins?



prayer points

Pray in response to this...

*** that we would more than gladly accept Jesus taking our place on the cross**



through wk start working through Luke 9:51-19:44

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6

'on the road again'

Let's get the ball rolling...



What do you think of this idea... *'preach the Gospel—use words if you must'*?

read Luke 9:51-62



investigate

1. Who's in charge of Jesus' travel plans? (v51) *9:22, 44 are good reminders.*

2. How did he immediately confirm this 'resoluteness'? (v52-56)



think & apply

3. What kinds of things can get in the way of our journey with Jesus? (v57-62)

read Luke 10:25-37



investigate

4. What's the motivation behind the questioner in v25-29? It's important to understand this so we don't miss why Jesus then told this famous 'road' parable.

5. Would this man and his contemporaries have expected the first and second man in the story to stop and help their wounded fellow Jew? (v30-32, revisiting v27-28)

6. Why is it amazing what the Samaritan man in the story did? (v33-35) *Remember 9:52-56.*



think & apply

7. Can you see what Jesus was helping this *"expert in the law"* to understand about himself? Think about how we really go at being neighbours.

8. How do we test Jesus today? Do we sometimes think we're better than we really are?

read James 2:14-26



investigate

9. The reformation called Christians to 'faith alone' for salvation. Can you see why Martin Luther wondered whether James was an authentic part of the Bible? (especially v24)

10. How do faith and deeds authentically work together—think about how the expert in the law struggled to see his biggest problem? What are the perils if we get this confused?



think & apply

Pray in response to this...

*** that we would see our need for Jesus who we sets us on the right path**



through wk work through more of Luke 9:51-19:44



prayer points

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Let's get the ball rolling...

Why do you pray?

read Luke 11:1-13

investigate

1. Was Jesus passing on a set prayer or more of what prayer should be about? (v1-2)
2. What's the starting point for prayer? (v2)
3. How is relationship with God embedded into the prayer? (v3-4)
4. Has Luke forgotten some things? *Compare Matthew 6:9-13. and the traditional extra bits we often say referred to in most Bible footnotes.*
5. How is Jesus using negative contrasts to amplify how we can confidently bring our requests to God? (v5-13)
6. Is Jesus giving a 'blank cheque' with prayer? Can we just 'name it and claim it'?
7. How does God answer our prayers? What do the "good gifts" from God look like? Give some examples.
8. What kind of things do you talk to God in prayer about? Who's kingdom counts?



think & apply

read Luke 18:1-8

investigate

9. How does this parable towards the end of Jesus road trip to Jerusalem tie in with his teaching about prayer near the start of the journey? Is it another negative contrast?
10. What does it mean to "pray without ceasing" (1 Timothy) and yet we don't need to badger God either? The Lord's prayer itself is quite brief, as *Matthew 6:7-8* also teaches.



think & apply

Pray in response to this...

*** that we would trust in the gracious goodness of our Heavenly Father, for his kingdom to come**



through wk work through more of Luke 9:51-19:44



prayer points

* * * Ordinary people following an extraordinary God * * *

Let's get the ball rolling...

Why do you think we so easily get worried?

read Luke 12:22-34

investigate

1. What led to Jesus' teaching in this section? *Check the preceding paragraph (v13-21)*
2. How does Jesus' approach differ to the rich fool in the lead up story/parable? (v21-23)
3. How does the illustration of *"the ravens"* help us get the point? (v24-26)
4. What about *"the lilies of the field"*? (v27-28)
5. What should dominate our thinking? (v29-34)



think & apply

6. What's really going on when we worry?
7. Is there a difference between concern and worry?
8. Share if you can something that makes you want to worry? How does Jesus help us deal with that?

read Philippians 4:10-13

investigate

9. How is the Apostle Paul a good example of putting into practice Jesus' teaching here in Luke 12?



think & apply

10. How can our example in not worrying (not *"running after the same things as the pagans"*) help point people to Jesus?



prayer points

Pray in response to this...

*** that we would not let the worries of this world overtake our security in God**



through wk work through more of Luke 9:51-19:44

* * * Ordinary people following an extraordinary God * * *

9

'no exceptions'

Let's get the ball rolling...



Why do human beings like to think they're better than they really are?

read Luke 13:1-9



investigate

1. What would Pilate (the Roman Governor) have done to cause *"the blood of the Galileans"* to be *"mixed with the sacrifices"* (v1)
2. What common thinking was Jesus challenging as to why these Galileans had suffered? (v2)
3. How is Jesus' thinking so different? (v3)
4. What about with the different situation with the terrible accident referred to in v4?
5. How does the parable of the fig tree bring urgency to get the thinking about sin right? (v5-9)



think & apply

6. Does our society reflect the same sort of thinking Jesus was correcting? Think about how people tend to react when 'nice people' suffer—probably more from a reverse angle, but is the same false premise nevertheless?
7. What kind of suffering is a direct result of our sin?
8. Many complain why God hasn't put an end to suffering already. What do they fail to realise will happen to them if they haven't sorted out their sin with Jesus?

read Job 4:1-9



investigate

9. How does Eliphaz with his words to his suffering friend Job reflect the problem Jesus was addressing in Luke 13?



think & apply

10. How can we be a good friend to those going through hard times?

Pray in response to this...

*** that we would see how we all need forgiveness in Jesus**



through wk work through more of Luke 9:51-19:44



prayer points

* * * Ordinary people following an extraordinary God * * *

10

'making friends for life'

Let's get the ball rolling...



What makes a really good friend? (building on from last wk)

read Luke 16:1-15



investigate

1. What's the manager's predicament in the story/parable Jesus tells here? (v1-2)
2. How was the manager smart in dealing with this? (v3-8a) Think about how everyone loves a discount.
3. The stories/parables Jesus told were always about making 1 main point. What is Jesus pointing to here? (v8b-9)
4. How does Jesus expand on this in terms of stewardship? (v10-13)
5. Why were the Pharisees hardly appreciating Jesus' point? (v14-15) What were they valuing the most?



think & apply

6. What do you actively pursue in your life?
7. How can we go about making friends for life, friendships of eternal significance?
8. What gets in the way of this Godly priority?

read Philippians 2:12-18



investigate

9. How does the Apostle Paul helpfully apply Jesus' point from Luke 16 to the Philippian Church?



think & apply

10. Share practical ways that God "*works in (us)*" to "*shine like stars*" and "*hold out the word of life*" in our various relationships?

Pray in response to this...

*** that we would be good friends and care about the eternal destiny of our mates/family**



**through wk
Luke 19:28-44**



prayer points

* * * Ordinary people following an extraordinary God * * *

11

'don't miss the boat'

Let's get the ball rolling...



What leads you to sometimes missing out on something important?

read Luke 19:28-44



investigate

1. The journey to Jerusalem begun back in 9:51 is now at an end with Jesus on the outskirts of the city. Do you think it strange his request upon arrival? (v28-34) *See Zechariah 9:9, Numbers 19:2, 1 Samuel 6:7, 1 Kings 1:33.*
2. What's going on with the cloaks? (v35-36) Remind you of anyone? (*remember Luke 2:14*)
3. What about the reaction of the whole crowd of disciples? (v37-38)
4. Why did Jesus seem to lap up this praise, whilst the Pharisees didn't like it all? (v39-40) *See Habakkuk 2:11.*
5. What an emotional contrast when Jesus paused at the entrance to the city. (v41-44) Why such a drastic change?



think & apply

6. What's got to happen in order for the Lord to be near/visit us?
7. We know the crowds who praised Jesus in days would change their tune as saddened Jesus here. They would indeed *"not recognise the time of God's coming"* (v44, compare *Luke 23:23*). What causes people to reject Jesus today? Think about what they want Jesus to do compared to what they need Jesus to do.
8. When are we tempted as Christians to 'sugar coat' the Gospel?

read 2 Peter 3:8-14



investigate



think & apply

9. How does the Apostle Peter help us to not miss out with God?
10. If God takes no pleasure in people missing out, how urgent should we be in helping others to not miss out?

Pray in response to this...

*** that we would cherish our relationship with God, helping others to also not miss out**



**through wk
that last wk
Luke
19:45-24:53**



prayer
points

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12

'more than a carpenter'

Let's get the ball rolling...



What makes Jesus so different to every other religious figure throughout all history?

read Luke 22:39-53



investigate

1. Any leads as to why the Mount of Olives was important to Jesus? *See Zechariah 14:1-9 and this apocalyptic vision of how God will prevail in the end.*

2. How does Jesus show here how different he really is to us, and yet how he's also one of us?



think & apply

3. How can the battle Jesus was about to engage in help us to prevail in the end?

read Luke 23:26-49



investigate

4. How is the utter sinfulness of humanity revealed in so many of the reactions to Jesus on this last day? (v26-39) Jesus' words in v31 are very telling.

5. What about the contrasting reactions from those you'd least expect to see it in? (v40-49)



think & apply

6. What is the key to getting it right with God?

read Luke 24:36-52



investigate

7. Why were they all so "startled", "frightened" and "troubled"?

8. How did Jesus help them to understand what was wonderfully going on?



think & apply

9. What is the essence of what Christians and Churches need to be on about? What gets in the way of this?

10. Those who witnessed the resurrection worshiped both God and Jesus. What does this tell us about Jesus and the need to hold onto this truth? *See Philippians 2:6-11.*



Pray in response to this...

*** that we would worship Jesus as our Lord and Saviour**



through wk go over a part of Luke that's particularly spoken to you

* * * Ordinary people following an extraordinary God * * *