



LUKE

A JOURNEY
WITH JESUS

INTRODUCTION

Church family,

I'm excited you're participating in our study, Luke - A Journey with Jesus. My hope, as we read the Gospel of Luke, is that it will be a personal time for us to connect with our Savior.

Each day of our study will begin with a Daily Pause, where we will focus on 1-2 verses from Psalms. Please use the Daily Pause as a reminder each day to take a deep breath, set aside any distractions and invite the Lord into your time with Him.

We are teaching through the first three chapters of Luke in December and early January. Our study will begin with the temptation Jesus faced from the devil in preparation for His remarkable ministry. As we read these stories, try to imagine what it would have been like to be one of the disciples or one of the folks in the crowd. Let's ask the Lord to reveal Himself to us as we read each story.

Luke is the third of the four Gospels. We believe Luke was a Gentile physician (Colossians 4:14) from Antioch. We also believe he traveled with Paul and wrote the Gospel of Luke, along with its sequel, Acts. The Gospel of Luke can be broken into two parts. In the first section, Luke shares Jesus' identity with us through his birth, baptism, genealogy and Galilean ministry. In the second section, Luke follows Jesus' journey to Jerusalem where He was challenged by the religious elite, crucified, rose from the dead and ascended to Heaven.

I pray your experience is memorable and draws you closer to our Heavenly Father. The more I read His word and spend time with Him, the more I realize how great His invitation is to live with Him forever, and it starts right now.

Enjoy the Journey,
Thom

“Take time. Give God time to reveal Himself to you. Give yourself time to be silent and quiet before Him, waiting to receive through The Spirit the assurance of His Presence with you, His power working in you. Take time to read His words as in His Presence; that from it you may know what He asks of you and what He promises you. Let the Word create around you, create within you, a holy heavenly light in which your soul will be refreshed and strengthened for the work of daily life.”

— Andrew Murray

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WEEK ONE

Luke 4-5

DAY ONE

daily pause

psalm 16:1–2

*“Keep me safe, O God, for I have come to you for refuge.
I said to the Lord, “You are my Master! Every good thing I have
comes from you.””*

→ How is the Lord a refuge and a Master for you? Take a minute to invite Him into this time with you.

study guide

luke 4:1–13

→ What was most surprising to you about Jesus’ interaction with the devil?

→ How did Jesus respond to the devil?

→ Which of those temptations are the biggest struggle for you? And which of Jesus’ responses is most meaningful for you? Why?

Prayer — Lord Jesus, help me to turn to You in temptation and to handle temptation like You did. May Your Word come alive for me, and stick with me as I walk through my days.

DAY TWO

daily pause

psalm 16:5-6

“Lord, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing. You guard all that is mine. The land you have given me is a pleasant land. What a wonderful inheritance!”

- How do these verses resonate with you? Take a minute to thank Him for being your inheritance and invite Him into this time with you.

study guide

luke 4:14-37

- Jesus was handed the scroll of Isaiah. He chose to read Isaiah 61:1-2 and then say this has been fulfilled today. Essentially, He is saying, I am the fulfillment of Isaiah 61:1-2.
- Which of these is most impressive to you and why?
- Jesus choosing to read Isaiah 61 and saying He is the fulfillment of these verses, then after being taken to the edge of the cliff with the intent to throw Him off and kill Him, Jesus passes through the crowd.
 - Jesus commanding a demon to come out of a man.

- What’s one significant thing we learn about Jesus from one or both of these stories?

- If you could choose to be present for one of these two stories, which one would you choose?

Prayer — Help me Lord, to remember how powerful You are and to bring the things that I’m most concerned about to You. Help me to know more of You, Your character and nature as I read Your Word.

DAY THREE

daily pause

psalm 16:7

“I will bless the Lord who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me.”

- Take a minute to ask the Lord to guide you and to be aware and responsive today to His leading.

study guide

luke 4:38–5:11 & matthew 8:14–17

- *“Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins!”*
Isaiah 53:4

- Translations also include the word sickness for the word sorrows. It was prophesied over 700 years before Christ was born that He would carry our weaknesses, sorrows and sickness.

- What is most remarkable for you in Luke 4:40-41?

- Explain why Luke 4:42 is significant for us.

- Luke 5:11 is one of my daughter’s favorite verses. How do you think you would have responded to Jesus if you were in the boat with Peter?

Prayer — O Lord, would You guide me, and make it obvious today, so I know You are speaking to me? Help me to have the strength to say yes to You!

DAY FOUR

daily pause

psalm 16:8

*“I know The LORD is always with me.
I will not be shaken, for He is right beside me.”*

- Take a minute to acknowledge who the Lord is, and thank Him for being with you right now. Ask Him to reveal more of Himself to you as you read the passage below.

study guide

luke 5:12-26

- Based on the leper’s request, what can we tell he knows about Jesus?

- Jewish law required a person who recovered from a skin disease to present themselves to a priest, and bring an offering. In this way, Jesus was making sure this man would be restored to his community, and he would be a witness to a miraculous healing.

- Why do you think Jesus first told the paralyzed man (Luke 5:19-20) that his sins were forgiven?

- What does it tell us about Jesus that He was able to heal a lame man and that He knew the Pharisees’ thoughts?

- How did the people respond to Jesus healing the lame man?

Prayer — You healed a leper, and did not get leprosy. You knew the thoughts of the Pharisees, then You spoke and the paralyzed man walked. I believe nothing is beyond Your ability to help, change, restore or redeem. So here’s where I need Your help today...

DAY FIVE

daily pause

psalm 16:11

“You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.”

- Help me understand what it means to walk, live and rest in the Joy of Your Presence today. As I read Your Word, may I experience You today.

study guide

luke 5:27–39

- Jewish men who collected taxes for the Roman government were despised. Tax collectors not only collected taxes for the Roman government, which was very oppressive to the Jewish people, but they also charged more than required and kept the difference. As a result, they did not have many friends.
- Look back at Luke 1:78–79. How does Jesus’ request for Levi (Matthew) to follow Him fulfill this prophecy about who He would be?

- Is Jesus’ response in Luke 5:31–32 significant to you? Why or why not?

- What was Jesus trying to explain when He used the illustration about old and new wine skins?

Prayer — It is meaningful, when I consider that You not only spent time with people the world considered sinners, but You also used them to advance Your Kingdom. Please help me to be willing to be used by You today and not worry about whether or not I’m qualified.

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WEEK TWO

Luke 6-7

DAY ONE

daily pause

psalm 23:1

“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.”

→ What does this verse mean for you? Take a minute to thank the Lord for being your Shepherd.

study guide

luke 6:1–19

→ The law did not say a Jewish person wasn’t allowed to pluck the heads of a grain stalk on the Sabbath, but indicated the Sabbath was supposed to be a day of rest. As a result, the clear intent of the law is that we shouldn’t work on the Sabbath. The Pharisees had taken the law and added additional rules for people to follow.

→ Why would Jesus’ comment in verse 5 have been shocking to the Pharisees?

→ How are these two stories similar and what do they tell us about Jesus?

→ What is most remarkable to you about Jesus in verse 19?

Prayer — Lord, help me to worship You and not worship rules about You. Please show me any place in my life where I’m following a religious idea about You and not just following You.

DAY TWO

daily pause

psalm 23:2-3

“He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.”

- He lets, He leads, He renews and He guides. Take a minute to thank the Lord for how He has led you and invite Him into this time of reading.

study guide

luke 6:20-36

- Luke’s version of the beatitudes focuses more on socioeconomic conditions than spiritual conditions, as seen in Matthew’s account of the beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10).
- Looking at verses 20-21, which of these best describes the condition of your heart? Why?

- What are some practical ways you could love your enemy, or someone you struggle to get along with, today?

- If you have a person in your life who is difficult to get along with (maybe they are from work, school, a neighbor or family member), take a minute to think of 2-3 things you could pray for them. Write those things down and pray for them right now.

Prayer — O Lord, please open my heart and help me to release to You any hurt or offense I am holding on to currently. Teach me how to love those who have hurt or offended me.

DAY THREE

daily pause

psalm 23:4

“Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.”

- Take a minute to thank the Lord for His protection and presence in your life. If you haven’t ever experienced His protection and presence, ask the Lord to reveal Himself to you in this way.

study guide

luke 6:37–7:10

- Jesus seems harsh or severe in verses 39-42. Look back at verses 37-38 and explain how the wisdom in those verses prepares us to be a good example for others.

- Share an example, either positive or negative, of someone you know whose words gave a clear indication of their heart.

- *“And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.” Hebrews 11:6*

- What impressed Jesus about the Roman centurion? What does this tell you about Jesus?

Prayer — O Lord, I see from Your words in Luke 6 that the condition of my heart matters to You. Please show me anything in my heart that is offensive to You, and help me live in a way that honors You, so my words and actions are pleasing to You.

DAY FOUR

daily pause

psalm 23:5

“You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.”

- Write down a few ways you would say your cup overflows with blessings. Take a minute to thank the Lord about each of those things.

study guide

luke 7:11-35

- In Jesus’ day, a woman’s provision came through her father, her husband or her sons. In this account, we hear about the widow at Nain. Nain is 20 miles southwest of Capernaum. As a widow, losing her son would have put her in a very desperate situation. Her only hope for provision would have been from the charity of her community.
- What about Jesus is most remarkable to you in this story about the widow at Nain?

- Look at John 1:29-34. Earlier in Jesus’ ministry, John the Baptist baptized Jesus and witnessed God the Father’s affirmation of Jesus, then testified to others that Jesus was the Messiah. Why do you think John the Baptist is now looking for further confirmation that Jesus is the Messiah?

- How did Jesus respond to him? Why do you think Jesus responded to John the Baptist this way?

Prayer — Lord, please help me to remember all the things I have read about You, heard about You and seen You do in my life. In Your mercy and grace, please keep revealing Yourself to me, and when I see You in a new way, help me to share it with those around me.

DAY FIVE

daily pause

psalm 23:6

“Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.”

- Imagine for a moment what it means to live in the house of the Lord, in His presence forever. Ask Him to reveal something new about Himself to you today.

study guide

luke 7:36–50

- In Luke’s Gospel, the story of a woman anointing Jesus with perfume happened in the house of a Pharisee. Matthew and Mark’s accounts of a woman anointing Jesus with perfume indicate this story took place in Simon, the leper’s house. This event may have happened twice or might be remembered differently by Luke, Matthew and Mark.
- The woman is referred to as “an immoral woman,” and the Pharisee says of her, “what kind of woman she is.” These comments seem to indicate she was a prostitute. How does Jesus treat her in this story, and what does this tell you about Jesus?

- Is it shocking to you that Jesus was sharing dinner with a Pharisee? Why or why not?

- Why did Jesus forgive her sins?

Prayer — Lord, thank You that our standing with You is not based on what we have done, but we can confidently stand on what You have done for us.

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WEEK THREE

Luke 8-9

DAY ONE

daily pause

psalm 27:1

“The Lord is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?”

→ Is there anything you are currently worried or anxious about? Take a minute to ask for His help in your situation.

study guide

luke 8:1–21

→ Jesus did not follow the cultural norms. Jerusalem and the Roman Empire were both very patriarchal societies. For example, rabbis in Jesus’ day only had male disciples. Jesus, on the other hand, included many women in His ministry.

→ How were women involved in the ministry of Christ?

→ Which soil would you say most accurately describes the condition of your heart? Why did you choose that soil to describe yourself?

→ Look at 2 Corinthians 4:6-7. What are some ways we can let the Light of Jesus shine through our lives?

Prayer — O Lord, I ask that You would continue to soften my heart, so Your Word would transform my heart and mind. May Your Light shine through me and on those around me today.

DAY TWO

daily pause

psalm 27:4

“The one thing I ask of the Lord— the thing I seek most— is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord’s perfections and meditating in his Temple.”

→ Consider for a minute all of Creation from the most beautiful places you have been to or those you have seen pictures of that grabbed your attention. Imagine how magnificent the throne of God is. What do you think it would be like to experience Psalm 27:4; to delight in His perfections and actually meditate in His Temple?

study guide

luke 8:22–56

→ Through these four stories, Jesus displays His power over what forces?

→ In these four stories, who did Jesus heal, help or bring back from the dead?

→ What does this tell you about the character and nature of Jesus?

Prayer — Lord, You have power! Your power is greater than nature, demons and even greater than death. Help me to trust You with my burdens, worries and fears. I know You can truly do all things.

DAY THREE

daily pause

psalm 27:8

*“My heart has heard you say, “Come and talk with me.”
And my heart responds, “Lord, I am coming.””*

- Does it surprise you that the God of all Creation actually wants to meet with you? He does! Ask Him today, to meet with you as you read the passage listed below in Luke.

study guide

luke 9:1-17

- Luke tells just one story about Jesus feeding a multitude of people. Matthew and Mark have two accounts, one of Jesus feeding 5,000 and another of Jesus feeding 4,000 at another location. The disciples had just been sent out, to tell others the Good News about Jesus and the coming Kingdom of God. In addition, they were given the power to pray for men and women to be healed. Based on their recent experiences, do you think it's reasonable that in verse 13, Jesus told the disciples to feed over 5,000 people?

- Take a look at the verbs in verses 14-16. What did Jesus do with the five loaves and two fish?

- What about what Jesus did with those loaves and fish is relevant for you and me?

Prayer — Lord Jesus, help me to take all my situations to You and trust You with them. Help me to begin with myself - to give You myself, and then give You everything and everyone I am concerned about. Thank You for Your help!

DAY FOUR

daily pause

psalm 27:11

*“Teach me how to live, O Lord.
Lead me along the right path, for my enemies are waiting for me.”*

- If you’re willing, take a minute to confess to God that He is your Lord and ask Him to guide you along His path for your life.

study guide

luke 9:18–43a

- Verses 18-20 take place in Caesarea Philippi. Look at Matthew 16:16-18. In Matthew’s account, we see Jesus say He will build His church upon “this rock” and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. The cave and spring where Jesus was most likely standing in Caesarea Philippi used to have a temple to the Greek god Pan, who was believed to travel back and forth to Hades (hell). This location was known by the residents of Caesarea Philippi as the gates of hell. Today, the Church of Jesus Christ is worldwide, powerful and growing and those Greek and Roman temples lie in ruins.
- As soon as Peter declares Jesus to be the Messiah, Jesus predicts that He will die. Why do you think it was important to Jesus for His disciples to know this?

- What does it look like for you to give up your life for Jesus’ sake?

- God, the Father, affirms Jesus on a mountain as His Son during the Transfiguration. Why do you think Jesus had these disciples witness this?

Prayer — Lord, help me to be focused on Your Kingdom and Your priorities. May Your will be done on earth and in me, as it is in Heaven.

DAY FIVE

daily pause

psalm 27:13-14

“Yet I am confident I will see the Lord’s goodness while I am here in the land of the living. Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord.”

→ Ask the Lord to show you His goodness today. Also, take a minute to ask for His help, so that you will be brave, courageous and will wait on Him.

study guide

luke 9:43b-62

→ Who did Jesus say was the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven? Why did He say that?

→ James and John were called the Sons of Thunder (Mark 3:17). Do you think Jesus called them this playfully or as a means of correcting them?

→ Verses 57-62 are titled “The Cost of Following Jesus.” What would you say is your cost of following Him?

Prayer — Lord, following You has cost me and will continue to cost me something. Help me to trust You, regardless of the cost, because I know the reward of being with You forever is far greater!

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WEEK FOUR

Luke 10–11

DAY ONE

daily pause

psalm 25:1-3

“O Lord, I give my life to you. I trust in you, my God! Do not let me be disgraced, or let my enemies rejoice in my defeat. No one who trusts in you will ever be disgraced, but disgrace comes to those who try to deceive others.”

→ Take a minute to commit yourself and your life to the Lord. Ask Him to strengthen your trust in Him.

study guide

luke 10:1-20

→ Jesus sent out 72 other followers of His to proclaim The Kingdom of God was near. They were given the ability to heal. Of the instructions Jesus gives to these followers, which one is most surprising to you? Why?

→ The comparison between the towns mentioned is a reference to their beliefs. Sodom, Tyre and Sidon were pagan towns. Yet, Jesus uses them as a warning to the towns of Capernaum, Korazin and Bethsaida by saying the pagan towns would have been more responsive to His message and miracles. Why do you think the towns that claimed to believe in God refused to respond to Jesus?

→ What did Jesus say He saw happened to Satan? Does this bolster your faith in Jesus? Why or why not?

Prayer — Lord, help me to respond to You when I see You moving in my life. Help me to see what you are doing around me and help me to say yes to whatever You want to do in my life today.

DAY TWO

daily pause

psalm 25:4-5

“Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.”

- Take a minute to pray these two verses to the Lord, repeating the last line, “all day long, I put my hope in You.”

study guide

luke 10:21-37

- In looking at verses 21-24, what seems to be the most important characteristic of those who follow Jesus?

- Verse 27 is known to Jewish people as the Shema. It is a famous, daily prayer. Look at Deuteronomy 6:4-5. All Israelites have repeated this prayer throughout their days.

- What does it look like for you to love God with all your heart, all your mind and all your strength?

- How did Jesus answer the man’s question about who his neighbor is? What does this tell you about Jesus?

Prayer — O Lord, help my heart to be soft toward others, all others. May You use my actions and words to love my neighbor today for Your sake.

DAY THREE

daily pause

psalm 25:7

“Do not remember the rebellious sins of my youth. Remember me in the light of your unfailing love, for you are merciful, O Lord.”

- Take a minute to confess your sins to the Lord. Then, thank Him for His mercy and grace.

study guide

luke 10:38–11:13

- According to Jesus’ words to Martha, what is the one thing that we should be most concerned about?

- Luke 11:1-4 is a parallel passage to Matthew 6:8-13. What additional information about prayer do we learn from Jesus in the Matthew 6 passage?

- Looking at Luke 11:1-13, write down what quality in prayer seems to be most important to the Lord.

Prayer — O Lord, help me to be both persistent in my prayers to You and trusting. I know You know my thoughts and desires and care about all the details of my life. My hope is in You alone.

DAY FOUR

daily pause

psalm 25:8-9

“The Lord is good and does what is right; he shows the proper path to those who go astray. He leads the humble in doing right, teaching them his way.”

- Take a minute to praise God that He is in fact good and He always does what is right. Thank Him that when we come to Him, He will teach us His way.

study guide

luke 11:14-36

- What do you think of Jesus’ response to the crowd after their challenge of Him in verse 15? Is there any specific verse or bit of wisdom that jumps out to you in this passage?

- According to verses 27-28, where do we find the greatest blessing? Have you experienced this? If so, how?

- Read Matthew 12:38-42. Jesus is using examples, very familiar to His audience, of pagan people who have responded to the Lord’s miraculous work in Jonah’s life and of the heavenly wisdom given to Solomon. His message is clear; The Lord expects us to respond to Him!

- Who is the one greater than Jonah, and how should we respond to Him?

Prayer — Lord, help me to walk with You, to always be soft-hearted toward You and to be open to all You are doing around me. Lead me in Your way today.

DAY FIVE

daily pause

psalm 25:14

“The Lord is a friend to those who fear him. He teaches them his covenant.”

- Wow! The One who spoke and the world began is not only willing, but also wants to be friends with us. Take a minute to thank the Lord, and ask Him how you can be a good friend to Him today.

study guide

luke 11:37–54

- While Jesus has no patience for religious rules, He loves the people and seeks what is best for them. In this story, we find Him sitting down to share a meal and an evening with some of the Pharisees who have been trying to trap Him out of jealousy.
- What does this tell you about Jesus?

- The ceremonial washing was a result of man’s rules being added to God’s law. The Jewish leaders came to have such a reverence for their rules about this ceremonial washing that they considered breaking this practice equivalent with fornication. They missed God’s idea that purity comes from within.

- How does Jesus respond to their amazement that He sat down without performing the hand washing ceremony?

- In Jesus’ criticism of the Pharisees, what seems to be most troubling to Him? Why?

Prayer — O Lord, religion is measurable, and in that way it is easier to feel like I am being good or worthy of Your love. But Your word tells me that You desire a broken and contrite heart. Please help me to maintain a softness toward You, to confess my sins and to be a humble servant of Yours.

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WEEK FIVE

Luke 12–13

DAY ONE

daily pause

psalm 84:1-2

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of Heaven’s Armies. I long, yes, I faint with longing to enter the courts of the Lord. With my whole being, body and soul, I will shout joyfully to the living God.”

- Take a minute to consider the privilege given to those who trust in Christ, and are welcome in the Presence of the Lord, then thank Him for this incredible gift.

study guide

luke 12:1-21

- Verses 4-5 are very direct and a little terrifying. But, note that Jesus follows those verses up with verses 6-7. What would you say is the overall message of these verses?

- How can we acknowledge Jesus well in our everyday lives?

- In verses 16-21, what does Jesus seem to be saying to us about trusting in our wealth and accomplishments?

Prayer — Lord, help me to have a healthy respect and awe for who You are, the Lord God Almighty! And help me also to trust what Jesus said about me, that I have great value to You.

DAY TWO

daily pause

psalm 84:4

“What joy for those who can live in your house, always singing your praises.”

- We find joy in the presence of the Lord. Take a minute to thank the Lord for His joy and His concern that we would experience His joy.

study guide

luke 12:22–34

- What are two reasons Jesus gives us for not worrying?

- Look again at verses 31-32. What are we to seek above all else? Why? And, how does this make you feel about Jesus?

- Share a personal experience where you have seen the truth of verse 34 in your life - ‘wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.’

Prayer — I trust You with my life. I give everyone and everything to You. May Your Kingdom come on earth, and within me, as it is in Heaven.

DAY THREE

daily pause

psalm 84:5-7

“What joy for those whose strength comes from the Lord, who have set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. When they walk through the Valley of Weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs. The autumn rains will clothe it with blessings. They will continue to grow stronger, and each of them will appear before God in Jerusalem.”

- When we set our minds on following Jesus, and count on His strength to see us through trials and tribulations, we experience His joy and we grow stronger in the process. And - one day we will see Him face to face! Take a minute to thank Him for the miracle of this journey.

study guide

luke 12:35-59

- Jesus teaches us to live in expectation of His return. How can we do this well?

- The angels announced that Jesus would bring Peace on Earth and in the last part of this passage, He is talking about the division He will cause. Take a look at 1 Peter 2:6-8.

- Jesus causes each person to make a choice. In choosing Him, we find Peace with God and our souls can rest in Him (Romans 5:1-2). If someone asked you to explain why Jesus brings division, based on verses 49-53 in our reading today, what would you say to them?

- Verses 57-59 seem to be the final part of the answer to the question someone asked Jesus in verse 13 of this chapter. Based on His reply, how is Jesus teaching His followers to handle earthly possessions?

Prayer — O Lord, show me how to live in peace with You, to rest in You and trust You with my worldly possessions. May nothing come between us, Lord, in my journey with You.

DAY FOUR

daily pause

psalm 84:10

“A single day in your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else! I would rather be a gatekeeper in the house of my God than live the good life in the homes of the wicked.”

- Take a minute to consider what it might actually be like to be a gatekeeper in God’s House. Ask the Lord to show you all the things He is doing around you, as though you were serving as His gatekeeper today.

study guide

luke 13:1–17

- The story of the Galileans who Pilate had murdered, and the story of 18 who died when the tower of Siloam fell on them are the only accounts of these two stories in Scripture. He uses both of these stories to stress a great point.
- What is that point and how should we respond?

- Verses 6-8 relate to Matthew 21:18-19 and Mark 11:12-14. What do you think the lesson of the fig tree is for us?

- Why did Jesus choose to heal this woman on the Sabbath?

Prayer — Lord, help me to recognize and take advantage of any opportunity I have to share with others what You have done in my life, whether it be by action or word. Thank You for entrusting me with the role of being Your ambassador here on earth.

DAY FIVE

daily pause

psalm 84:11-12

“For the Lord God is our sun and our shield. He gives us grace and glory. The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right. O Lord of Heaven’s Armies, what joy for those who trust in you.”

- How good is it to have a Heavenly Father who withholds no good thing from us? Take a minute to thank Him for His unfailing love and provision.

study guide

luke 13:18-35

- How is your journey with the Lord similar to a mustard seed or a small amount of yeast worked into a batch of dough?

- Verses 22-30 are alarming. There is tension in the red letters, isn’t there? When I read these verses, I hold them in tension with other words Jesus spoke in John 3:16-17 and Luke 12:32. The Lord loves us and wants to give us His Kingdom, but we have to confess our sins and trust in His forgiveness. We have to make a choice to surrender our lives to Him. When we do, we experience the truth of 2 Corinthians 5:21 - He becomes the offering for our sin through His death on the cross, and we are made right with God.

- Have you surrendered your life to Him? If not, will you consider this today?

- If you have, take a minute to thank Him for what He has done for you and affirm your trust in Him.

- What is Jesus’ desire for Jerusalem and what prevents Him from doing as He desires?

Prayer — More than anything else, I am grateful to be connected to You forever, Lord Jesus. Remind me through promises in Your Word that this is true because of what You have done for me. My hope is in You alone.

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WEEK SIX

Luke 14–15

DAY ONE

daily pause

psalm 112:1–2

“Praise the Lord! How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying his commands. Their children will be successful everywhere; an entire generation of godly people will be blessed.”

- Take a minute to consider the many blessings of following Jesus. Thank God for some of those blessings.

study guide

luke 14:1–14

- In Luke’s Gospel, this is Jesus’ third meal with a Pharisee and one of several times He chose to heal on the Sabbath.
- What does this tell you about Jesus?

- Jesus’ teaching in this passage is very practical and urges us to be humble. How can you apply this to your everyday life?

- *“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.”*
Philippians 2:3–5

- Why do you think Jesus is concerned with how we treat the poor, the lame and the blind?

Prayer — O Lord, help me to truly consider others better than myself. Grant me Your great love for all of those who are around me.

DAY TWO

daily pause

psalm 112:4

“Light shines in the darkness for the godly. They are generous, compassionate, and righteous.”

- Take a minute to consider how a little light shining into a dark situation can completely change our perspective. Thank the Lord for His Light in our lives.

study guide

luke 14:15–35

- How are we sometimes like those who made excuses in Jesus’ story (verses 15-20)?

- What do you think Jesus means in verse 26?

- *“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.” — Jim Elliot*

- Jim Elliot was a missionary who attempted with four other friends to share the love of Christ with a tribe in Ecuador that had never welcomed any outsiders. Jim and his friends lost their lives, but ultimately the tribe came to faith in Christ through the efforts of a couple of their wives, after their deaths. You can watch their remarkable story in the movie, “End of the Spear.”

- Share what you consider to be your personal cost of following Jesus. What would it look like for you to give up everything for Him?

Prayer — Help me Lord to not forget how incredible the gift is that You are offering me. And help me to be faithful to You, even willing to give up my life for Your sake.

DAY THREE

daily pause

psalm 112:7

“They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them.”

- Take a minute to list any specific issues or people that are top of mind concerns for you right now. Then, offer each of those to the Lord and ask Him to help you to confidently trust Him in each situation.

study guide

luke 15:1–10

- In the preceding chapters, we have heard a great deal from Jesus about what it looks like to follow Him. Some of His comments are hard to hear. But, we have to hold those truths in tension with chapters like Luke 15, where we hear Jesus tell us how valuable each of us is to our Heavenly Father.
- Why did Jesus tell these stories to the Pharisees and teachers of religious law?

- Have you ever lost something valuable, like a prized possession or maybe even a child for a short period of time? How did you feel when you found your prized possession?

- What do these stories tell you about the Lord and His love for you?

Prayer — Thank You Lord that Heaven rejoices each time one of us turns to You. Thank You that You deeply love and prize each one of us.

DAY FOUR

daily pause

psalm 112:8–9

“They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly. They share freely and give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will be remembered forever. They will have influence and honor.”

- Take a minute to consider how knowledge of God’s love for you gives you strength and courage. Thank Him for His unfailing, unmatched and undefeated love.

study guide

luke 15:11–24

- The wonder of the Prodigal Son is that Jesus told this story to a group of religious elite who had questioned why He was hanging out with known sinners. They were trying to question Jesus’ righteousness and purity, and He was trying to help them see the beauty and wonder of God’s unfailing love and His limitless grace.
- What is most remarkable to you in this story; the father or the son? Why?

- Have you ever gone your own way, come to the end of your rope and turned back to the Lord to repent? If so, what caused you to turn back to your Heavenly Father?

- What do verses 20 and 23 tell you about this father (and our Heavenly Father)?

Prayer — Wow! How can I ever thank You for not giving up on me, for being patient with me and for welcoming me home. I am so grateful for how You love me, Lord!

DAY FIVE

daily pause

psalm 112:6–9

“Such people will not be overcome by evil. Those who are righteous will be long remembered. They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them. They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly. They share freely and give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will be remembered forever. They will have influence and honor.”

→ As you look back over these four verses, take a minute to thank God for the work He does in our lives as we trust in Him.

study guide

luke 15:25–32

→ How did the older brother refer to his younger brother?

→ Why is the older brother upset?

→ Do you understand or relate to his frustration? Why or why not?

→ What would be the right perspective for the older brother?

Prayer — O Lord, help me to care about the things You care about and help me to love those that You love. Help me to put others' interests before my own interests.

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WEEK SEVEN

Luke 16–17

DAY ONE

daily pause

psalm 31:1–3

“O Lord, I have come to you for protection; don’t let me be disgraced. Save me, for you do what is right. Turn your ear to listen to me; rescue me quickly. Be my rock of protection, a fortress where I will be safe. You are my rock and my fortress. For the honor of your name, lead me out of this danger.”

- Take a minute to confess to the Lord that He is your refuge. Your hope in Him is well placed; His Presence is steady and sure.

study guide

luke 16:1–18

- Does it surprise you that Jesus speaks favorably about the shrewd manager? Why or why not?

- Explain what you think Jesus means in verse 9.

- How does verse 13 apply to your life?

Prayer — O Lord, help me to hold my earthly possessions loosely. Help me to use the things You have blessed me with, for Your sake and for Your glory!

DAY TWO

daily pause

psalm 31:5

“I entrust my spirit into your hand. Rescue me, Lord, for you are a faithful God.”

- I love this verse. Take a minute to pray this verse to the Lord. Remind Him today that you are trusting Him with your life.

study guide

luke 16:19–31

- Lazarus is the only character whose name Jesus uses in His parables. His name means ‘God helps.’ This Lazarus is fictional; he is not Mary and Martha’s brother who Jesus raised from the dead.
- What can we learn about heaven, hell and eternal life in this story?

- Why did Abraham say that the rich man couldn’t come get water from where he and Lazarus were standing?

- How can we keep from becoming hard-hearted, like the rich man and his brothers?

Prayer — Lord, please grant me a soft heart for You, Your word and Your purposes. I ask that You would give me a willing and responsive spirit toward You.

DAY THREE

daily pause

psalm 31:7

“I will be glad and rejoice in your unfailing love, for you have seen my troubles, and you care about the anguish of my soul.”

- Though the Lord is big, strong and mighty, His love for us never fails. He sees our troubles and cares about the anguish of our souls. Take a minute to thank the Lord for His wonderful, unfailing love.

study guide

luke 17:1–10

- In this passage, Jesus expresses great concern that His more mature followers would care for newer or less mature followers.
- How should we treat those who come after us in the faith?

- When we read verses 3-4, it seems to be a test of our faith to try to forgive like the Lord forgives us. However, when we consider how many times we have turned away from the Lord, does it become easier to give others the same grace God has given us? Why or why not?

- According to verses 7-10, what does it look like to be a servant of God?

Prayer — Lord, thank You that by Your mercy I have not received what I deserve for my sins. And thank You Lord that by Your grace I have been given so much more than I deserve. You are so good to me.

DAY FOUR

daily pause

psalm 31:14–15

“But I am trusting you, O Lord, saying, “You are my God!” My future is in your hands. Rescue me from those who hunt me down relentlessly.”

- Consider what it means when we tell the Lord we are trusting Him and He is our God. Our future really is in His hands. Take a minute to pray these two verses to the Lord.

study guide

luke 17:11-19

- The Jewish law required people infected with leprosy or other skin diseases to be isolated until they were healed and cleared by the priest. Not only were they suffering from a disease without much hope of getting better, they also suffered in isolation from family and friends.
- How did Jesus heal the 10 lepers?

- Who did Luke say returned to thank Jesus? Why is this detail significant?

- Is there any specific prayer the Lord has answered for you, but you haven't taken time to thank Him, yet? If so, take a few minutes to thank Him for how He responded to you and took care of you.

Prayer — Lord we are all overwhelmed by life and cry out to You at different times. When our circumstances change, we rarely look back and recognize Your hand in our lives. Please forgive us. We are so grateful for all You have done in our lives, for each and every answered prayer. Thank You!

DAY FIVE

daily pause

psalm 31:19–20

“How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world. You hide them in the shelter of your presence, safe from those who conspire against them. You shelter them in your presence, far from accusing tongues.”

- These verses remind me of John 1:16, where John tells us that we have received from Christ one gracious blessing after another (NIV—grace upon grace). Take a minute to thank God for His abundant grace.

study guide

luke 17:20–37

- The Pharisees were looking for the Messiah to be a political and military leader who would overthrow the Roman rule of their land.
- What are some signs Jesus gives us in these verses that will signify the coming of His Kingdom?

- The Pharisees asked Jesus when and where His Kingdom would come. Did Jesus give a specific time when this will happen? Why do you think Jesus responded to their questions like He did?

- How should this information cause us to live?

Prayer — O Lord grant me a humble spirit as I consider what is to come. Help me to live in a way that honors You and causes others to be interested in You.

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WEEK EIGHT

Luke 18–19

DAY ONE

daily pause

psalm 32:1–2

“Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!”

- Take a minute to consider all of your sin being put out of sight and having your record cleared so that you can live before the Lord in complete honesty. This is what Jesus has done for us! Let’s thank Him for His unbelievable mercy.

study guide

luke 18:1–17

- This story is similar to Jesus’ teaching in Luke 11:5-13. What is Jesus teaching us through the verses in Luke 11 and in this story?

- Tax collectors in Jesus’ day were Jewish people who collected taxes for the Roman government. They used their authority to collect more money than necessary, and they kept the difference for themselves. As a result, tax collectors were wealthy and despised.

- Why does Jesus say that the tax collector was justified before God?

- How can we receive the Kingdom of God like a little child?

Prayer — O Lord, I bow before You to acknowledge that You alone are the Lord and to acknowledge my great need for You. Please remind me throughout this day what a great privilege it is to be Your child.

DAY TWO

daily pause

psalm 32:5

“Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, “I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.” And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.”

- Take a minute to consider any area of your life where you are not willing to give up your own will or desire, then confess any rebellion to the Lord. The wonder of confession with Him is He is always faithful to forgive us and take away our guilt.

study guide

luke 18:18–34

- In response to the religious leader’s question, Jesus refers to 5 of the 10 commandments. In doing so, He is referring to all the commandments and saying, in essence, follow the law and then do one more thing. What was the one thing the religious leader had not yet done?

- Why was this so hard for the religious leader? Can you relate to him? Why or why not?

- Look again at verses 31-34. What does Jesus tell the disciples is about to happen to Him?

Prayer — I see that You knew You were going to die, but You went to Jerusalem anyway. I am so thankful that You were willing to suffer and die for my sake. Thank You, Lord Jesus!

DAY THREE

daily pause

psalm 32:7

“For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory.”

→ Take a minute to think about how Jesus is your hiding place. How has the Lord protected you?

study guide

luke 18:35–19:10

→ A blind man ignores the warnings of the crowd and repeatedly cries out to Jesus. Jesus hears him, and He gives the man his sight. What does this tell us about how Jesus responds to prayer?

→ How did the crowd react to Jesus when He said He was going to Zacchaeus’ house for dinner?

→ How did Zacchaeus respond? What about Zacchaeus is most striking to you?

Prayer — Lord, help us to join You in Your mission to seek and save those who are lost.

DAY FOUR

daily pause

psalm 32:8

“The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.””

- How great is it that the One who made all things wants to and will direct our steps? He has the best pathway for our lives. Take a minute to thank Him and ask for His direction as you go through this day.

study guide

luke 19:11–27

- The people had the same expectation as the Jewish leaders, that the Messiah would overthrow the Roman government and install His Kingdom. However, in this parable, Jesus is helping them understand that His Kingdom will not fully come until His Second Coming.
- How does Jesus expect us to manage the gifts that He has given to us?

- Is the king’s treatment of the 3rd servant shocking to you? Why or why not?

- Think for a minute about blessings the Lord has given to you (children, a job, a house, influence, friendships). How can you best steward what the Lord has given to you?

Prayer — Lord, help me to look at all I have with a proper perspective. Grant me the wisdom and discipline to steward each of these gifts in a way that honors You.

DAY FIVE

daily pause

psalm 32:10

“Many sorrows come to the wicked, but unfailing love surrounds those who trust the Lord.”

- Picture the unfailing love of the Lord surrounding every part of your life. Take a minute to thank Him that His unfailing love surrounds you.

study guide

luke 19:28–48

- This first scene, Jesus riding a donkey into Jerusalem, is the fulfillment of a prophecy from 500 years before (Zechariah 9:9). By riding this donkey into Jerusalem, Jesus is signifying that He is a King who comes to the people of Jerusalem in peace.
- What does the fulfillment of this prophecy tell you about Jesus?

- The response of the crowd must have been overwhelming. The crowd is quoting Psalm 118:26. Take a look at Psalm 118:22-26. This clearly indicates that the crowd is believing, or at the very least, hoping Jesus is the Messiah. However, in verses 41-42, we see Jesus weep over Jerusalem. Why is He upset?

- How did Jesus respond to those who were selling animals for sacrifice in the Temple? Why?

Prayer — Lord, above all else, You desire that we love You wholeheartedly. Please help me to let go of anything I am holding on to that keeps me from loving You wholeheartedly.

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WEEK NINE

Luke 20–21

DAY ONE

daily pause

psalm 33:4-5

“For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does. He loves whatever is just and good; the unfailing love of the Lord fills the earth.”

- Which of the characteristics of God highlighted in these two verses are most important to you? Take a minute to tell the Lord and thank Him for those qualities.

study guide

luke 20:1-19

- Why wouldn't the religious leaders answer Jesus' question?

- Share how the evil tenant farmers' treatment of the vineyard owner's son is similar to the way Jesus was treated by the religious elite.

- *“For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.” Colossians 1:19-22*

- Jesus is the cornerstone. Either we stumble over Him, are broken and confess our sins or we are crushed by turning away from Him. We have to be reconciled to the Son of Man. What do verses 17-18 mean to you?

Prayer — Lord, help me to fully receive Your mercy and grace, knowing that there's nothing I can do to be reconciled to You other than accepting Your gift. Thank You Lord!

DAY TWO

daily pause

psalm 33:6-8

“The Lord merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born. He assigned the sea its boundaries and locked the oceans in vast reservoirs. Let the whole world fear the Lord, and let everyone stand in awe of him.”

- Have you ever considered how incredible the power of God is that He could not only imagine Creation, but merely speak it to be? Take a minute to tell the Lord how awesome you think He is.

study guide

luke 20:20-40

- There was a lot of concern among Jewish people that they had to pay a tax to the Roman government, beginning around 6 AD. The Jewish leaders were trying to trap Jesus, so they could tell the Roman authorities that He was leading a rebellion against Rome. Remember, according to what we just read in Luke 19:47, they were trying to find a way to kill Jesus.

- In light of all this, how is Jesus' reply absolutely brilliant?

- According to Jesus, will we be married in Heaven?

- Take a look at Exodus 3:6. How did Jesus say both God and Moses proved there was resurrection from the dead?

Prayer — Lord, thank You that You have made us, mere mortals, eternal creatures and by trusting in You we can live in Your Presence forever.

DAY THREE

daily pause

psalm 33:11

“But the Lord’s plans stand firm forever; his intentions can never be shaken.”

- Take a minute to thank the Lord that He is Sovereign over every ruler in heaven and on earth. He always accomplishes what He intends to accomplish and we can trust Him.

study guide

luke 20:41–21:4

- Jewish people would recognize the quote in verses 42-43 as coming from Psalm 110, a psalm of David. They knew this psalm was written by David, about the Messiah.
- How could David’s descendent also be his Lord?

- In this passage, what is most troubling to Jesus about the teachers of religious law?

- Why is Jesus impressed with the widow’s gift? What does it tell us about Him?

Prayer — Lord, help me to be like this widow, and be very generous with my time and resources for Your purposes.

DAY FOUR

daily pause

psalm 33:16–17

“The best-equipped army cannot save a king, nor is great strength enough to save a warrior. Don’t count on your warhorse to give you victory—for all its strength, it cannot save you.”

- Take a minute to think about what in your life you would consider to be your “warhorse.” Then, ask the Lord to help you allow Him to become your strength, as you depend on Him more and more each day.

study guide

luke 21:5–28

- As the disciples talk about the beauty of the Temple, Jesus begins to warn them about everything that will happen to the Temple. Matthew 24:1-31 and Mark 13:1-27 are parallel passages. By looking at these parallel passages we can see that Jesus was talking about both the destruction of Jerusalem (which happened in 70 AD) and the end of the age which would lead to His glorious return.
- Why do you think Jesus warns us about what is to come?

- What are some signs Jesus said would happen before the end of our time?

- How were they to know when it would be time for Jerusalem to be destroyed?

Prayer — Lord, help me not to panic or to follow any false teaching but to consider everything in light of what You have taught us in Your word. Above all else, Lord, help me to put my hope in You alone.

DAY FIVE

daily pause

psalm 33:18–22

“But the Lord watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his unfailing love. He rescues them from death and keeps them alive in times of famine. We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.”

- There are several promises in these verses. Which ones are most important to you? Take a minute to thank the Lord for these promises.

study guide

luke 21:29–38

- How did Jesus compare the budding of a fig tree to how we're to look for future events?

- Explain how carousing, drunkenness and worries for this life dull our hearts.

- What does it look like for you to stay alert, and be strong in your faith in this current culture?

Prayer — Lord, remind me that my days are numbered and eternity will last forever and ever. Please strengthen me, that I might be faithful until the end of my days and so my life brings You honor and glory.

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WEEK TEN

Luke 22

DAY ONE

daily pause

psalm 103:1

“Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.”

- Consider what it looks like to pursue God with your whole heart. Take a minute to thank Him for His wholehearted devotion to each of us.

study guide

luke 22:1–13

- It was Passover in Jerusalem. As a result, the streets were full of Jewish pilgrims who had traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. Many of those Jewish people had heard about Jesus possibly being the Messiah and they were anxious to see Him.
- Passover is the day the Jewish people remember how God rescued them from being slaves in Egypt. By sacrificing a lamb, and placing the lamb’s blood over their doorposts, they were saved from death. Now, Jesus is in Jerusalem, about to become the Lamb of God, who was sacrificed to save us from death and slavery to sin.

- As the religious leaders were planning to kill Jesus, where were their concerns?

- Why do you think Judas wanted to betray Jesus?

- What about this passage of Scripture would lead you to believe that Jesus knew what was about to happen to Him?

Prayer —Lord, help me to trust You the same way Peter and John did, even when I am sure what will happen. Thank You that You are sovereign and in control of all that happens in the world, and in my life.

DAY TWO

daily pause

psalm 103:2-5

“Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle’s!”

→ Take a minute to think about, then thank God for the good things God has done, and is doing for you.

study guide

luke 22:14-30

→ In this passage, we see the first instance of what we now refer to as Communion or The Lord’s Supper. What does Jesus want us to remember often about Him through this?

→ How would you describe the new covenant (v.20)?

→ Who does Jesus say will be most important in the Kingdom of Heaven? Why do you think that is who will be most important?

Prayer — Lord Jesus, help me to remember often what You did for me, and to celebrate it with my family and friends. Thank You for giving Your life so that I could be made right with our Father in Heaven.

DAY THREE

daily pause

psalm 103:8–10

“The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.”

- Consider the qualities of God that you see in these verses. Take a minute to thank Him for how well He loves us.

study guide

luke 22:31–38

- On the heels of the disciples asking who would be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus warns Peter. Why did Jesus warn Peter?

- What does this warning Jesus shares with Peter tell us about what is going on in the spiritual world and in the heavenly realms?

- In verses 35-38, Jesus warns the disciples. They had previously gone out (Luke 10:1-17) and were instructed not to take anything with them. Now, though, Jesus tells them they will need provision and protection. What do you think is the most significant difference between the first time He sent them out and their future?

Prayer — Lord, just like the disciples faced new challenges, it seems our world is increasing in hostility toward one another. Help me not to worry, but to love You faithfully and love those I meet today in a way that honors You. Help me to trust You with all of my interactions today.

DAY FOUR

daily pause

psalm 103:11–13

“For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.”

- Take a minute to thank the Lord for His complete and total forgiveness for all of our sins. Ask Him to help you experience today what it means to be loved by our perfect Heavenly Father.

study guide

luke 22:39–53

- In verse 41, Jesus asks His Father if there is another way, other than crucifixion, to save us from our sins. Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

- Read Matthew 26:45–54 & John 18:3–9.

- How did Jesus respond to Judas and the mob that came to get Him?

- What do you think Jesus meant in verse 53?

Prayer — O Lord, help me to never forget what betrayal, arrest and accusation must have felt like for You, the One who came to set us free. Thank You Lord, for all You endured for me.

DAY FIVE

daily pause

psalm 103:17-18

“But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children— with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.”

- *“There was never a time when He did not love you - His mercy is from everlasting, nor a time when He will love you less—it is to everlasting.”*
Great Verses Through the Bible, F. B. Meyer

I used the NIV translation for these two verses, so it would tie in with Meyer’s quote. It is one of my favorite quotes about how the Lord faithfully loves us. Take a minute to share with the Lord how His love affects you.

study guide

luke 22:54-71

- Peter had spent so much time with Jesus, seeing Him calm storms and heal all kinds of people. He had walked on water with the Lord and even seen Him call people back from the dead.
- Why do you think Peter crumbled at the accusation of a servant girl?

- Verse 61 must have been crushing for Peter. Read John 21:7-19. How did Jesus restore Peter?

- What accusation did the high council try to bring against Jesus? Was it true?

Prayer — O Lord we see so much of ourselves in the high council. Help us not to trust what we have done, or what we do, but to put our trust in what You have done for us. Thank You that Your sacrifice has made us right with You.

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WEEK ELEVEN

Luke 23

DAY ONE

daily pause

psalm 34:3-5

“Come, let us tell of the Lord’s greatness; let us exalt his name together. I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces.”

- After reading these verses, why would you say, ‘The Lord is great?’ Take a few minutes to tell Him how He has revealed His greatness to you and in your life.

study guide

luke 23:1-12

- The Sanhedrin was the highest council in the Jewish community, responsible for taking care of Jewish affairs in Roman controlled Palestine. They had a voice in the local government, but they did not have the authority to execute a criminal. So, the entire council brought Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor.

- Are their accusations of Jesus true?

- What did Pilate do, in response to the Sanhedrin’s accusations of Jesus?

- How did Herod respond to the opportunity to see Jesus at first, and then what was Herod’s response to Jesus after he interviewed Him? What does this tell us about Herod?

Prayer — Lord, there is no more important response for us than how we respond to You. Help us to always respond with open arms and an open heart to Your Presence.

DAY TWO

daily pause

psalm 34:8

*“Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!”*

- This is what this devotional is all about; to encourage us to experience Jesus! Ask the Lord for an encounter with Him today, as you read His Word.

study guide

luke 23:13–25

- Pilate does not see that Jesus is guilty of the charges. He appears to be trying to find a way to satisfy the crowd and also release Jesus. However, (v16) flogging is not a light punishment. When someone was flogged, they were whipped 39 times with a whip that had many leather straps. Each of those straps had sharp pieces of bone and metal attached to the end of the strap. Often criminals died before the flogging was complete.
- Pilate finds Jesus innocent. Why, if he found Him innocent, would he be willing to have Jesus flogged?

- Read Matthew 27:15-18. Barabbas was a rebel, who had murdered others and led a failed insurrection against Rome. He was a true criminal.

- How did the crowd respond to Pilate? What is the most shocking thing they said?

- Why do you think Pilate surrendered to the will of people and had Jesus crucified?

Prayer — O Lord, help me to always be a faithful follower of Yours, who stands up for the truth, no matter the consequences. May my thoughts, words and actions be pleasing to You, Lord.

DAY THREE

daily pause

psalm 34:9-10

“Fear the Lord, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need. Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the Lord will lack no good thing.”

- Take a minute to thank the Lord for the many ways He has taken care of you. Thank Him for His provision and presence in your life.

study guide

luke 23:26-43

- Jesus has suffered the beating at the home of the High Priest, and then flogging by the Roman soldiers. Typically, someone being crucified had the crossbeam of the cross, which weighed 75-125 lbs, tied to their arms. This is what they carried to the site of their crucifixion. Simon, the Cyrene, carried this crossbeam for Christ.
- In spite of all of this, Jesus tells His followers not to weep for Him. Instead, who does He say they should weep for?

- What does Jesus pray for the crowd watching and rejoicing in His execution?

- One of the criminals who was crucified with Jesus mocks Him, but what does the other criminal ask of Jesus? How does Jesus respond?

- What does this tell us about Jesus?

Prayer — O Lord, I cannot get past the idea that though You were abandoned, beaten, whipped and in the process of being crucified, You asked Your Father to forgive the very ones who were killing You. Thank You for Your great forgiveness, kindness and unfailing love.

DAY FOUR

daily pause

psalm 34:17-19

“The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed. The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.”

- Take a minute to thank the Lord for the many times He has come to your rescue.

study guide

luke 23:44-49

- It was noon in Jerusalem, and darkness fell across the whole land. Jesus breathes His last breath, cries out to His Father and the Temple curtain separating the Holy Place and The Most Holy Place is torn from top to bottom.
- Read Hebrews 9:1-8 and Hebrews 10:19-22.
- Why was it significant that the curtain was torn at the moment Christ gave up His life?

- How did the Roman officer respond to Jesus' death?

- Look again at verse 48. Why do you think those who were rejoicing that Jesus was being crucified went home in deep sorrow?

Prayer — O Lord, this is one of the most powerful moments in history, because You chose to do this to set us free from sin and death. Lord, we love You and we thank You for Your sacrifice.

DAY FIVE

daily pause

psalm 34:22

“But the Lord will redeem those who serve him. No one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.”

→ Wow—what a promise! No one who takes refuge in the Lord will be condemned. Take a minute to thank the Lord for His promise to us.

study guide

luke 23:50–56

→ Who was Joseph of Arimathea, and what is significant about his request of Pilate?

→ How was Jesus buried?

→ What kept the women from anointing Jesus with the spices and ointments they had prepared?

Prayer — Lord, as we consider the distress of Your followers and the quiet that followed Your death, help us to appreciate that all of this is what it took to pay for our sins. Thank You Lord for being willing to die for me.

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WEEK TWELVE

Luke 24

DAY ONE

daily pause

psalm 145:1-3

“I will exalt you, my God and King, and praise your name forever and ever. I will praise you every day; yes, I will praise you forever. Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness.”

→ In your personal experience, why might you say that the Lord is great? Take a minute to praise Him for His greatness to you.

study guide

luke 24:1-12

→ Also look at Matthew 28:1-4 and Mark 16:1-5. There are several differences in these Gospel accounts. For example, Matthew and Mark say there is one angel at the tomb and Luke mentions two angels being at Jesus’ tomb. What would you say are the most important consistencies in these three accounts?

→ Joseph of Arimathea’s tomb, like many others in Jesus’ day, was likely cut out of the rock. A large circular stone would fit in a stone groove to seal the tomb and it would require at least two men to move the stone out of the way. A body prepared for burial would have been covered in a linen sheet, then had spices and ointments placed over the top of the body. After a couple of years, the body would fully decay, and the bones would be placed in a box, then stored in the tomb with other family members who had died.

→ What did the angels remind the women that Jesus had said?

→ Who heard the women’s story, then got up to go look for himself?

→ What is your reaction when you read the story of Jesus’ resurrection?

Prayer — Lord, this is the greatest moment in history! We no longer have to be afraid of sin and death, but we can trust You and know all of Your promises will come true. Thank You Lord!

DAY TWO

daily pause

psalm 145:8–9

“The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation.”

- Consider which of the four qualities of the Lord mentioned in verse 8 is most meaningful to you? Take a minute to thank the Lord for this quality.

study guide

luke 24:13–24

- These followers of Jesus, on their way to Emmaus, were both distraught and amazed by all that had happened. What would you have been thinking if you were in their shoes?

- Jesus hides His identity, and is somehow not recognizable to them, though we know Mary recognized resurrected Jesus by His voice (John 20:16). Why was sadness written across their faces? Who were they hoping Jesus would be?

- What was the amazing report they had heard?

- Given the news of this amazing report, why do you think they were still sad?

Prayer — O Lord, give us eyes to see You moving in our lives and around us in the lives of others. Help us to encourage each other with the reports of those moments when we see You moving.

DAY THREE

daily pause

psalm 145:13

“For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations. The Lord always keeps his promises; he is gracious in all he does.”

→ Take a minute to consider who the Lord is to you. Then, thank Him for His Presence in your life.

study guide

luke 24:25–34

→ Can you even imagine how incredible it would have been to have Jesus explain all the Scriptures concerning Himself, beginning with Moses, as he did for the two on the way to Emmaus? What would you want to hear Him say to you?

→ Look at verse 32. Has your heart ever burned as you uncovered a truth about Jesus? If so, take a minute to write it down.

→ What did they learn from the others when they traveled back to Jerusalem?

Prayer — Lord, may an experience with You be a regular part of our daily walk with You. Please reveal more of Yourself to us through Your Word and Your Spirit.

DAY FOUR

daily pause

psalm 145:14–16

*“The Lord helps the fallen and lifts those bent beneath their loads.
The eyes of all look to you in hope; you give them their food as
they need it. When you open your hand, you satisfy the hunger and
thirst of every living thing.”*

- I can water my yard every day or every other day, but my yard responds with much greater growth from one shower from the Lord. In the same way, responses from the Lord truly satisfy the deepest part of my heart and mind. Take a minute to ask the Lord for help with a concern or worry and trust He will respond.

study guide

luke 24:35–49

- Why do you think Jesus greets His disciples with, “Peace be with you,” before He says anything else to them?

- Read John 20:26–27. What about Jesus’ physical presence would be convincing to them? Would you have struggled to believe it was Him?

- What instruction does Jesus give to the disciples?

Prayer — O Lord, how incredible that You not only died for us, but You rose from the dead! You have canceled the record of our sins and given us the right to live forever with You. Thank You!

DAY FIVE

daily pause

psalm 145:17-18

“The Lord is righteous in everything he does; he is filled with kindness. The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth.”

- Take a minute to thank the Lord that He is right in all He does and that He is filled with kindness. Then, ask Him to draw near to you today, as you draw near to Him.

study guide

luke 24:50-53

- Read also John 14:15-17, 26. What did Jesus tell the disciples the Holy Spirit would do in the verses from John 14?

- In Luke 24:49, the last recorded words of Jesus in Luke’s Gospel, what does He say the Spirit will do?

- Look at Romans 8:34, along with Luke 24:51. Where do these verses tell us Jesus is right now?

- After reading Luke, what is your favorite story about Jesus? Why is it your favorite?

- What does it say about Jesus and what does it say about you?

Prayer — Lord, thank You for how faithful, personable and perfect Your love is for each and every one of us. Help us to love You like You love us. Thank You for meeting me in Your Word.



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