

BETHEL GOSPEL CHAPEL HOME BIBLE STUDY GUIDE THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

For the next 19 weeks we will be studying the life and ministry of Jesus as it is recorded in the Gospel of Luke. We will be doing a general survey of the book on Wednesday evenings and on Sunday morning the ministry will highlight a specific part of each chapter. By handling the material in this way it is hoped that any difficulties which you encounter in your personal study will be resolved; that you will gain in knowledge and understanding of the Bible, and, as individuals and as a congregation, we will have a greater appreciation of what the Lord Jesus has done.

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines "historian" as a writer of history, especially one who produces a scholarly synthesis. Luke was such a person. He has provided us with a record of all that Jesus began to do and teach (Acts 1:1). Luke, who was not an eye witness of the events, tells us that he had at his disposal accounts written by others, and the testimonies of people who were eye witnesses and were themselves servants of the Word. After careful research inspired by the Holy Spirit he wrote this Gospel in which he records "the salvation which was first announced by the Lord and was confirmed to us by those who heard him" Hebrews 2:3.

Luke is accurate in the information he gives. After doing research for many years in the region where the events described by Luke (particularly in Acts) were enacted, Ramsey states unambiguously that Luke's history is unsurpassed in respect of its trustworthiness." Summing up he wrote: "Luke is an historian of first rank; not merely are his statements of facts trustworthy, he is possessed of the true historic sense ... In short, this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians." N.I.C. on the Gospel of Luke, pp. 39-40 Harrison, in Acts, The Expanding Church, pp. 21 & 25, states that Luke is accurate in the information he gives. "Geographical notes are accurate, as are the references to Roman officials, who are always called by the title appropriate to their position. For Acts the confirmation of historicity is overwhelming." Luke himself makes this claim for his record of the life of Jesus. He writes "so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." Luke 1:4.

In his essay Christian Apologetics, C.S. Lewis makes a point which we need to keep in mind throughout these studies. He says that "the great difficulty is to get modern audiences to realize that you are preaching Christianity solely and simply because you happen to think it true. . This is the consistent argument of the New Testament. II Peter 1:16 "We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty."

After reading the assigned chapter(s) in Luke and before answering the study questions, record your own observations in regard to the information in the chapter. Also record any questions which this information raises in your mind. After answering the study questions write down any unresolved problems which you have, so that these may be discussed either in your group or by the speaker at the Family Bible Hour. Your study leader will be responsible to see that problems are brought to the attention of the speaker prior to Sunday morning.

Sources used in the preparation of these lessons:

Acts, The Expanding Church by Harrison, Moody Press, 1975.

The Life and Epistles of St. Paul by Conybeare and Howson, Eerdmans, 1950.

New International Commentary of the New Testament, THE GOSPEL OF LUKE, by Geldenhuis, Eerdmans, 1979.

God in the Dock, Essays by C.S. Lewis, Eerdmans, 1970

Expositor's Bible Commentary, Vol. 8, by Liefeld, 1984

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

STUDY 1

READ: Chapters 1 & 2

Observations:

Questions:

1. Where did Luke obtain the information which he presents to us, concerning the life and ministry of Jesus; vs.1-4?
2. Who were Zechariah and Elizabeth; vs. 5-10?
3. List the promises made by Gabriel concerning John: vs. 11-17.
4. List the promises given to Mary concerning her Son, Jesus: vs. 26-33.
5. How is Elizabeth able to identify Mary as the mother of our Lord: vs. 39-45?
6. What do you learn about Mary and Zechariah from Mary's song; vs. 46-55 and Zechariah's prophecy; vs. 67-79?
7. Why does Joseph take Mary, in the last days of her pregnancy, from Nazareth to Bethlehem; Luke 2:1-7? (See a Bible Atlas for the location and distance between these two towns.)
8. For what other reason does Joseph make this journey; vs.11-15? (See also Matthew 2:1-6)
9. What do you learn about the home in which Jesus grew up from vs. 21-24 and 41-42? (If you are not familiar with the rites of circumcision, purification, consecration and the feast of Passover, READ: Genesis 17:1-14, Exodus 13:1-2 (11-16), Leviticus 12:1-8 and Exodus 12:1-20.
10. Luke is the only writer to record anything about Jesus' childhood. What do you learn about Him from vs. 43-52?

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

STUDY 2

READ: Chapters 3 & 4

Observations:

Questions:

1. What moves John to begin his prophetic ministry; v.2?
2. Read this passage, vs.4-6, in its original context in Isaiah 40:1-11. What is the good news that John has for Zion?
3. Why did John's preaching consist primarily of a call for a baptism of repentance?
4. There is an appropriate action for each group of people identified in vs.10-14. Are there parallels to these that are appropriate today? List them.
5. Are actions such as John's rebuke to Herod (vs.19&20) appropriate today? Explain.

Regarding the differences between the genealogies recorded in Matthew and in Luke 3:23-38, they have been explained in part by one or more of the following assumptions:

- (1) Joseph's lineage is given in Matthew, Mary's in Luke;*
- (2) the legal line is traced in Matthew, the actual line of descent in Luke; and*
- (3) there was a levirate marriage at one or more points in the line. Expositor's Bible Commentary, Vol. 8, p. 861.*

The Bible study leader has a more detailed explanation to deal with this difficulty.

6. What do you think is the most significant factor in the temptation of Jesus; Luke 4:1-12?
7. Read the quotation from Isaiah, vs. 17-19, in its original context, Isaiah 61:1-3. Suggest why Jesus stopped reading where He did.
8. Jesus' original reception was favourable. Why does it change to one of hostility; vs. 22-30?

9. What characterizes Jesus' teaching and actions; vs. 31-37?

10. Come prepared to discuss driving out evil spirits why we have so many accounts of Jesus and healing people.

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE STUDY 3

READ: Luke Chapter 5

Observations:

Questions:

1. List the things which you learn about Jesus' first disciples from vs. 1-11.
2. Read John 1:35-42. What other information about these men do you learn from these verses.
3. Explain in a short paragraph the process by which these men became the followers (disciples) of Jesus.
4. What do you learn about Jesus from vs. 12-16?
5. How have the friends of the paralytic demonstrated their faith vs. 17-20?
6. Why do the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law take exception to what Jesus says; vs. 20-21?
7. How does Jesus prove that he is more than an ordinary man; vs. 23-26?

8. What point is Jesus making in this record of Levi's call and his response; vs. 27-32?
9. What are the implications of these actions and words of Jesus for us today?
10. Why are the Pharisees and teachers of the Law offended by the behaviour of Jesus' disciples; vs. 33-36?
11. Explain the parable which Jesus told in response to their criticism; vs. 36-38.
12. Has this parable an application to us today? Explain.

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE STUDY 4

Read Chapter 6

Observations:

Questions:

1. Why do the Pharisees object to what the disciples are doing; vs. 1-2?
2. What is the point of Jesus' illustration from the Old Testament; vs. 3-5?
3. Why does Jesus deliberately challenge the authorities in regard to the Sabbath; vs. 6-10?
4. This is the third time that Luke specifically mentions that Jesus withdrew from public scrutiny; see Luke 4:42, 5:16. What are the implications of Jesus' actions for you?
5. From the crowd of disciples Jesus now chooses 12 to be apostles; vs. 12- 16. Why? (See Mark 3:14-16 and Acts 1:21-22)

6. Check a Bible Atlas to determine the size of the area for which the people described in vs. 17-19 came.
7. Why is the perspective of Jesus in vs. 20-26 so different from ours?
8. What are we to do with the instructions which Jesus gives in vs. 27-36?
9. Explain the meaning of vs. 37-41.
10. By what test can it be established whether we are good or evil; vs. 43-45?
11. a) According to Jesus, what is the source of good and evil behaviour; v.45?
11. b) What are the implications of this fact for us?
12. What identifies a true disciple of Jesus; vs. 46-49?

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE STUDY 5

READ: Chapter 7

Observations:

Questions:

1. What insight to the character of Jesus does the centurion have that enables him to act as he does; vs. 1-10?
2. What do you learn about Jesus from vs. 11-17?

If you are not familiar with the role of John the Baptist and his prophetic ministry please read Luke 3:4-9, John 1:19-28, John 3:22-35, Luke 3:19-20 before answering the next question.

3. Why do you think that John wants confirmation of Jesus' identity at this point in his life; vs. 18-20?

4. Why are the activities of Jesus given as proof of his identity; vs. 21-23? (See also Isaiah 40:1-11, Isaiah 42:1-9, Isaiah 61:1-2)

5. In his testimony concerning John, how did Jesus identify John's ministry; vs. 24-28?

6. The Pharisees and experts in the Law refused to believe either John or Jesus, why; vs. 29-35?

7. Explain the meaning of the statement: "Wisdom is proved right by all her children."

8. What do you learn from vs. 36-50 about:

Simon:

Jesus:

The Woman:

9. What is the point of the story that Jesus tells Simon; vs. 40-43?

10. What does it mean to be forgiven?

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

STUDY 6

READ: Chapter 8

Observations:

Questions:

1. What do you learn about the ministry of Jesus from vs. 1-4?
2. In the parable of the sower the seed sown is identified as the Word of God; v. 11. List the four possible results that follow its proclamation; vs. 11-15.
3. Explain the process by which the seed comes to maturity and produces a good crop.
4. What, in your opinion, would be the signs by which a good crop could be identified?
5. What is the Lord teaching his disciples in vs. 16-18?
6. Why is the alarm of the disciples in vs. 22-25 regarded by Jesus as a lack of faith?
7. What do you learn about demons from vs. 26-37?
8. Why do you think the people were afraid; vs. 35-37?
9. What do you learn about Jesus on his way to the house of Janus; vs. 40-48?
10. What do you learn about Janus from vs. 40-56?
11. Why is the advice in vs. 38-39 so different from that in v. 56?

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

STUDY 7

READ: Luke 9

Observations:

Questions:

1. How would you explain the disciples' actions as recorded in v.6?
2. Do you think Jesus' disciples have the same power and authority today? Explain.
3. What do you learn about Jesus and the apostles from vs. 10-17?
4. Explain the meaning of v. 23.
5. What did the transfiguration do for the disciples? (see also II Peter 1:16-19)
6. What do you learn about Jesus and the disciples from vs. 37 -43?
7. Why do you think that the disciples failed to understand Jesus' teaching regarding his future; v. 22, vs. 44-45?
8. What is the point Jesus is making in vs. 46-48?
9. a) Why did the Samaritans not welcome Jesus?
b) What was wrong with the response of James and John vs. 51-55?
10. How do you explain the severity of Jesus' reply to those who wanted to follow him in vs. 57-62?

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

STUDY 8

READ: Chapters 10 & 11

Observations:

Questions:

1. List the things which you learn about Jesus' ministry from vs. 1-16.
2. Explain the difference between the joy the disciples had and that which Jesus wanted them to have; vs. 17-20.
3. What point is being made in the parable of the Good Samaritan; vs. 25-37?
4. Why is Martha rebuked and Mary commended; vs. 38-42?
5. What is the meaning of the illustration which Jesus uses in regard to prayer; 11:5-13?
6. How does Jesus explain to the people that he is not an agent of the Devil; vs. 14-23?
7. Explain the meaning of vs. 24-28.
8. Why did Jesus refuse to do a miraculous sign in vs. 29-32?
9. Explain the meaning of Jesus' teaching in vs. 33-36.
10. Why are the Pharisees and the experts in the Law criticized by Jesus; vs. 37-52?
11. Why is there such a violent reaction against Jesus; vs. 53-54?
12. What are the lessons in vs. 37-54 for us?

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

STUDY 9

READ: Chapter 12

Observations:

Questions:

1. Why should our words and behaviour be consistent? vs. 1-3
2. What do you learn from vs. 4-7?
3. a) According to the context what is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?

b) Can you suggest a reason why blasphemers against the Holy Spirit cannot be forgiven; vs. 8-10?
4. Why does Jesus tell the parable of the Rich Man; vs. 13-21?
5. Jesus makes an immediate application of this parable to his disciples. What are the three main points which he makes; vs. 22-34?
6. What is your response to Jesus' point of view?
7. What reason does Jesus give for adopting this way of living; vs.35-40?
8. Explain the meaning of the Lord's answer to Peter's question: *"Are you telling this parable to us or to everyone?"*; vs. 41-48.
9. Why do the divisions mentioned in vs. 49-53 occur?
10. For what reason does Jesus rebuke the crowd; vs. 54-59?

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

STUDY 10

READ: Chapters 13-14

Observations:

Questions:

1. What is the point of the parable Jesus tells in response to the crowd's opinion of accidental death; vs. 1-8?
2. Why does Jesus oppose the rulers' opinion regarding the Sabbath; vs. 10-17?
3. In what way is the Kingdom of God like a mustard seed and yeast; vs. 18-20?
4. Why are some people who expect to be in the Kingdom of God going to be excluded; vs. 22-29?
5. What do you learn about Jesus from vs. 31-35?
6. Why do the Pharisees refuse to answer the question: "*is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath day?*"; chapter 14:1-6?
7. What is the point of the parable which Jesus tells during the meal in vs. 7-14?
8. How should we respond to the viewpoint on entertaining which Jesus gives here; vs. 12-14?
9. What do you learn about the Kingdom of God from vs. 15-23?
10. What is the meaning of verses 27 and 33?

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

STUDY 11

READ: Chapters 15 & 16

Observations:

Questions:

1. What prompts the parables recorded in chapter 15:3-31?
2. What do they have in common?
3. What do you learn about God from these parables?
4. Why do you think we are given so many details in the third parable; vs. 11-31?
5. Keeping in mind the audience to whom Jesus told these parables, explain their purpose.
6. What lesson is being taught to the disciples in Luke 16:1-12?
7. On what basis are true riches committed to us; vs. 10-12?
8. Why do the Pharisee's reject the value system which Jesus proclaimed; vs. 13-15?
9. Why is the statement of Jesus on divorce hard to accept; vs.18? (See also Matt.5:31-32; Mark 10:1-12; Deut. 24:1-3)
10. What do you learn about the account of the Rich Man and Lazarus; vs. 19-31?
11. Jesus makes the Law and the prophets, v.16, and Moses and the prophets, v.29, a crucial part of his argument and story. Why?

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

STUDY 12

READ: Chapter 17

Observations:

Questions:

1. What is being taught by Jesus to his disciples in vs. 1-2?
2. What action are we to take toward those who sin against us; vs.3-4?
3. The apostles ask to have their faith increased. Why; v.5?
4. Why does Jesus tell this story to his disciples; vs. 7-10?
5. What point is being made in the account of the ten lepers; vs. 11-19?
6. Why is thanksgiving an appropriate response to the goodness of God?
7. Explain the difference between the kingdom of God as the Pharisees saw it and as Jesus saw it; vs. 20-21?
8. Against what did Jesus caution his disciples in vs. 22-25?
9. What should our conclusions be about the revelation of the Son of Man, based on the two illustrations Jesus uses; vs. 26-29?
10. What lesson is Jesus teaching his disciples in vs. 30-37?

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

STUDY 13

READ: Chapter 18

Observations:

Questions:

1. Explain the meaning of this parable which the disciples were told in regard to prayer; vs. 1-8.
2. Why does Jesus tell this parable?
3. What do you learn about God from the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector; vs. 9-14?
4. In what sense must we become like little children to enter into the Kingdom of God; vs. 15-17?
5. List the commandments missing from the list given in vs. 20. (see Exodus 20:1-7)
6. Why do you think that these commandments were not included in the list given in v. 20?
7. What do you learn about the ruler from his response to Jesus instructions; vs. 22-25?
8. What does vs. 29-30 mean?
9. Why did the disciples not understand the meaning of what Jesus told them about his death; vs. 31- 34?
10. What lessons are to be learned from vs. 35-43?

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

STUDY 14

READ: Chapter 19

Observations:

Questions:

1. Based on the information given in vs. 1-10, what do you learn about:

The crowd

Zacchaeus

Jesus

2. Why does Jesus tell the parable in vs. 11-26?

3. What information does it provide about the Kingdom of God?

4. On what basis are each of the participants judged?

5. Why do you think the disciples behave as they do in vs. 35-38?

6. Why do the Pharisees object; vs.39?

7. Why does Jesus have this reaction to the sight of Jerusalem at this time; vs. 41-42?

8. What prophecy does Jesus make about the city and why; vs. 43-44?

9. What lesson is there for us in the actions and words of Jesus in vs. 45-46?

10. Why do you think the leaders had decided that Jesus should be killed; vs. 47-48?

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

STUDY 15

READ: Luke 20

Observations:

Questions:

1. When challenged as to the source of his authority to teach, how did Jesus defend himself; vs. 1-3?
2. Why did the leaders refuse to answer Jesus' question in vs. 4-8?
3. List the main points of the parable in vs. 9-16.
4. In response to their objections, Jesus quoted from the Old Testament; Psalm 118:22. Read this verse in its original context, Psalm 118:1-29. What does this Psalm teach you about God?
5. What did Jesus mean when he said: "*Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed*"; v. 18?
6. Why was the question in verse 22 a particularly dangerous one to answer?
7. Why do the Sadducees tell Jesus the story in vs. 27-33?
8. What is the Sadducees' reason for telling Jesus this story; vs. 27-33?
9. By what means does Jesus prove the validity of belief in the resurrection; vs. 34-39?
10. What is the point of Jesus' argument in vs. 41-44?
11. What lesson is to be learned from Jesus' warning to his disciples regarding the teachers of the law; vs. 45-47?

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

STUDY 16

READ: Luke 21

Observations:

Questions:

1. What do you learn about Jesus from vs. 1-4
2. Some of the disciples were impressed by the appearance of the temple. Jesus however was not. Why? (vs. 5-6)?
3. Why are the disciples warned to be watchful; vs. 7-9?
4. List the events which are to occur before the end; vs. 10-11.
5. What is going to be the disciples' immediate experience; vs. 12-17?
6. Jesus predicts what future for the city of Jerusalem; vs. 20-24? (See also Luke 19:41-44)
7. How does Jesus describe conditions on earth prior to the coming of the Son of Man; vs. 25-28?
8. What is Jesus teaching in the parable in vs. 29-31?
9. This is now the year _____ and the Son of Man has not yet come. Why should we still expect him; vs. 32-33?
10. In this chapter Jesus identifies for his disciples the two reactions which people can experience regarding prophecy. What are they; vs. 8-9 and 34-36?
11. Come prepared to discuss ways in which we can avoid these two errors.

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

STUDY 17

READ: Luke 22

Observations:

Questions:

1. What reasons are given for Judas' behaviour; vs. 1-6?
2. If you are not familiar with the Passover ceremony please read Exodus 12:1-50 before proceeding with the next questions. Why was this Passover supper of importance to Jesus; vs. 14-17?
3. The bread and the cup are identified as having special significance by Jesus. Why; vs. 19-20? (See also 1 Cor. 11:23-26)
4. Why are the disciples wrong to be arguing about who was to be the greatest; vs. 24-27?
5. What do you learn about Jesus from vs. 37-45?
6. Why did Jesus submit to those who came to arrest him; vs. 47-54?
7. Peter said: *"Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."* Why do you think he now denies knowing Him; vs. 53-60?
8. Why is Peter able to recover from this sin; vs. 61-62, also v. 31?
9. What lesson is there for us in Peter's experience?
10. On what basis does the council of elders condemn Jesus; vs. 66-71?

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

STUDY 18

READ: Luke 23

Observations:

Questions:

If you do not know the political conditions in Palestine at this time, refer to a Bible Dictionary under "PILATE".

1. List the charges which are made by the council against Jesus; vs.1-2.
2. Why do they hide their real motive for bringing Jesus before Pilate behind a charge of subversion; vs. 2, 5, 10, 14, 22? (See also Luke 22:66-71)
3. In the opinion of Herod and his soldiers, Jesus is an object of ridicule; vs. 11. Why?
4. Although Pilate states three times that the charges against Jesus cannot be substantiated, vs. 4, 13-15, 22, he eventually surrenders Jesus to them. Why? (See John 19:12).
5. On his way to be crucified what warning did Jesus give to the women who mourned for Him; vs. 28-29?
6. Explain the meaning of vs. 31.
7. What do you learn about each of the people and groups that are involved in the crucifixion from vs. 32-43?
8. Why do you think the two signs of vs. 44-45 are remembered as occurring in connection with Jesus' death?
9. What do you learn about Jesus from v. 46?
10. What important information is given to us in vs. 50-56?

Problems:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

STUDY 19

READ: Luke 24

Observations:

Questions:

1. What are the women reminded of by the messengers who announce the resurrection; vs. 1-8?
2. Why do the apostles fail to believe the women; vs. 9-12?
3. Why were the two disciples on the road to Emmaus discouraged; vs.13-24?
4. How does Jesus go about the task of changing the way they feel; vs. 25-27?
5. What was their experience as Jesus opened to them the Scriptures?
6. Share with your study group, if you care to, any experience like this which you may have had.
7. Why do you think special mention is made of the Lord's appearance to Simon; v. 34?
8. What do you learn about the disciples and about Jesus from vs. 36-42?
9. How does Jesus establish that he is in fact the Christ; vs. 44-45?
10. List the facts which Jesus states that the Old Testament teaches about Him and His ministry; vs. 46-47.

NOTE: Verses 46 & 47 are obviously both a summary and an interpretation of the Old Testament Scriptures. The writers of the New Testament consistently interpret the Old Testament as Jesus did and it is the basis on which the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation has been preached from that time until now.

11. What does it mean to "*preach in His Name*"; vs. 47?

12. How did they, and how do we do this today; vs. 48 & 49?

Problems: