

# The Gospel of Luke



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## INTRODUCTION

Luke's gospel, written with great accuracy and detail, contains many stories from Christ's life found nowhere else in the Bible. Beginning with the most complete account of Christ's birth, these stories often include women and children, sinners, and those on the margins of society. The gospel of Luke contains sixteen parables not found in any other gospel account including the *Good Samaritan* and the *Prodigal Son*. All of this opens to the reader a more vivid picture of God's amazing love.

Luke, the author of the gospel, was a medical doctor and historian, educated in the Greek culture. With the eyes of a physician he saw and recorded the tender mercies of Christ, who not only touched wounded people and healed the sick, but also brought forgiveness and salvation. The healing work of Jesus continues to transform lives to this day.

**LESSON ONE: LUKE 1:1-25**

OPENING QUESTION: *If you were writing a history of your life, what would be your first sentence?*

**READ LUKE 1:1-25**

Note: *Theophilus*, whose name means “lover of God” was a Roman gentile.

1. How much is your response to a story shaped by respect for the storyteller?
2. What do you know about Luke, the author of this story? (vv. 1-4, see also Colossians 4:14)
3. Why did Luke write this gospel account?
4. What care did Luke take so the unfolding story of Jesus might be trusted?

Note: Herod the Great reigned in Judea from 20-4 BC and the gospel of Luke begins near the end of his rule.

Note: A priest officiated in such a way only once in his life, having been chosen by lot to do so.

5. What evidence from Elizabeth and Zechariah’s life revealed a love for God?
6. What was their sorrow and how did they cope with it? (vv. 7, 13)

Note: To the Jews, childlessness was a sign of God’s disfavor. A man could even divorce his wife if she did not bear him children.

7. Who was Gabriel and why was he sent to Zechariah? (vv. 11, 19)

8. Why was John's birth to cause such rejoicing?

Luke 1:14

Luke 1:15

Luke 1:16

9. How was John to prepare people for the coming of Jesus, the Lord?

Luke 1:16-18

Luke 1:76-77

How do such preparations still draw hearts to Jesus?

10. How did Elizabeth spend the first five months of pregnancy? What do you imagine was accomplished during this time?

11. In what way has solitude helped you or how might it help you, as you endure a period of waiting?

12. Read Psalm 62. From this psalm and Luke 1:1-25, what do you learn of God that helps you wait in hope?

Verse to memorize: "And he will ... make ready a people prepared for the Lord." *Luke 1:17*

Prayer Guide: LORD. Help me prepare my heart.

**LESSON TWO: LUKE 1:26-80**

OPENING QUESTION: *Who taught you to say "thank you"?*

**READ LUKE 1:26-80**

Note: Galilee was a rural area without influence or reputation.

Note: A Jewish *pledge to be married* or *betrothal* was a binding contract breakable only by divorce.

1. Using these verses, how would you describe Mary to a person who had never heard of her before? (vv.26-56)
2. How was Mary's life turned upside down?
3. Compare Mary's question (v.34) with Zechariah's (v.18). Why do you think she was not rebuked?
4. If you had been in Mary's perplexing situation, how might you have been tempted to respond?

How did Mary respond?

Luke 1:38

Luke 1:39-40

Luke 1:46-55

5. What do you feel God is calling you to be and do that is impossible without His help in your life? Where is He challenging you to leave the path of small faith and easy life, just as He challenged Mary?

6. What prophecies were made about Mary's unborn child?

Luke 1:31-35

Luke 1:42-45

2 Samuel 7:8-16

Isaiah 9:6-7

7. How did Elizabeth help Mary following the angel's announcement and who enabled her to do this? (vv.36-45)

8. What do you learn about friendship from Mary and Elizabeth?

9. How might God use you to help strengthen another for the task He wants them to do or how might you seek to be so strengthened?

10. What did you learn about God in

Mary's song (Magnificat) (vv.46-55)

Zechariah's song (Benedictus) (vv.68-79)

11. Combining the words of Mary and Zechariah with your own, write a song of thanks.

Verse to memorize: "For the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is His name." *Luke 1:17*

Prayer Guide: Gracious Savior. Give me a willing spirit.

**LESSON THREE: LUKE 2:1-52**

OPENING QUESTION: *Share a memory of an unusual or disappointing Christmas.*

**READ LUKE 2:1-52**

Note: In order to collect taxes effectively, the Romans required a census to be taken the year Jesus was born.

Note: Bethlehem means “House of Bread” and was the birthplace of Jesus, the “Bread of Life.” (John 6:35)

1. What was the first Christmas really like? As you read this familiar account, reflect on the messiness and discomfort of it. (vv. 1-20)
2. Why was Christ born under such conditions of poverty and homelessness? What is the challenge for you in this today?

2 Corinthians 8:9

Philippians 2:5-8

Luke 9:58

Luke 4:18

Luke 6:20

3. Without Luke’s account of Christ’s birth, how might your celebration of Christmas be different?  
(For the only other birth account read Matthew 1:18-2:12)

4. How were the people’s expectations of the coming Messiah shaped by God’s promises?

Genesis 49:10

Isaiah 7:14

Isaiah 9:2-7

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Micah 5:2

Note: Shepherds were classed with prostitutes and tax collectors. They were considered untrustworthy and forbidden to testify in court.

Note: "The consolation of Israel" means the messianic hope. One of the traditional Jewish prayers remains "May I see the consolation of Israel."

5. What were the responses of the following people to the birth of Christ?

Shepherds: Luke 2:15-20

Mary: Luke 2:19

Simeon: Luke 2:25-32

Anna: Luke 2:36-38

How do these examples challenge your response to Christ?

6. What *peace* did God promise, and how can you enjoy such peace?

Luke 1:78-79

Luke 2:14

John 14:27

Romans 5:1-2

7. How do you know that Jesus was raised in a devout Jewish family?

Which of the law's requirements were met when Jesus' parents took him to the temple in Jerusalem? (See Leviticus 12:2-8, Exodus 13:2, Deuteronomy 16:16)

8. What prediction about personal sorrow had Mary received?  
(vv. 33-35, see also John 19:25-27)
9. How did Jesus produce sorrow in his parents during their Jerusalem trip?  
(vv.41-52)

What do you think they found surprising in this experience?

10. How does Luke summarize the childhood growth of Jesus? (vv. 40, 51-52)  
How might these verses help shape your prayer for children in your life?

Verse to memorize: "For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." Luke 2:30-32

Prayer Guide: Dear Jesus. Help me grow in wisdom.

**LESSON FOUR: LUKE 3:1-4:13**

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever had a wilderness experience?*

**READ LUKE 3:1-4:13**

1. Why do you think John the Baptist attracted such crowds?  
(vv.1-20, see also Mark 1:4-8)

2. What was John's God-given work?

Luke 1:16-17

Luke 1:76-77, Luke 3:4-5, Isaiah 40:3-5

John 1:6-8, 29-34

How are you to continue his work? (see 2 Corinthians 5:19-20)

3. Why do you think true repentance demands life change?  
(see also James 1:21-25, 1 Peter 1:13-22)

4. What groups were challenged to make life changes and what were they?

Luke 3:11

Luke 3:12-13

Luke 3:14

What life changes might God challenge you to make?

5. What work did John the Baptist proclaim Jesus would do? Why was it important that He come not just with salvation but with judgment?  
(vv.16-17, see also John 5:22-23, Psalm 9:7-20)

6. Describe the setting of Christ's baptism and reflect on why He, a sinless man, chose to be baptized. (see also Matthew 3:13-15)

7. How was Christ's identity established at His baptism?

Note: Contrary to Matthew's genealogy that began with Abraham and worked forward to Jesus, Luke's genealogy began with Jesus and worked all the way back to Adam and God, indicating that Jesus came not only for the children of Abraham but for all nations of the earth.

8. Why did Jesus go into the desert and what do you think was the purpose of His testing? (Luke 4:1-13, see also Hebrews 2:14-18, 4:14-16)

9. What did Satan offer Jesus and what was the attraction of each?

Luke 4:3-4

Luke 4:5-8

Luke 4:9-12

What lies are usually embedded in Satan's offers and what danger do they pose? (see also John 8:44, Genesis 3:1-5)

10. What scripture did Jesus use to resist Satan and why were these words so powerful?

11. How has Scripture, or how might it, help you overcome temptation?

Romans 12:2

2 Timothy 3:16

Psalms 119:9-11

Verse to memorize: "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance." *Luke 3:8*

Prayer Guide: Gracious God. Strengthen me to recognize and resist temptation.

**LESSON FIVE: LUKE 4:14-44**

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever returned to your hometown and had an unexpected reception?*

**READ LUKE 4:14-44**

Note: Isaiah 61:1-2 was a passage Jews understood as referring to the coming Messiah.

1. How was Jesus prepared for His public ministry? (vv.14, 18)
2. Where did Jesus begin His public ministry and what was the initial response of the people?
3. Read Isaiah 61:1-2. What did Christ declare His purpose to be as He fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy?
4. What was so radical about His announcement?
5. What did Jesus say that provoked the people, and why do you think He did this?

Note: The widow of Zarephath and Naaman were Gentiles and yet they experienced God's saving grace.

6. How did Jesus reveal His authority and power? How did people respond?

**Jesus**

**People**

Luke 4:32

Luke 4:33-37, 41

Luke 4:38-39

Luke 4:40

7. Has Christ's power made a difference in your life? If so, how have you responded?
8. What did the demons know of Jesus? (see also James 2:19, Mark 1:34) Why do you think Jesus silenced them?
9. Read Mark 1:35-38 and Luke 4:42. Where did Jesus go and why?
10. What purpose was clarified in Christ's time apart and, as a result, how did He respond to the expectations of others? (see also Luke 4:18, 43-44)
11. What difference do you see it making for Jesus to have a clear purpose in His life? What is your purpose and how does Christ's example challenge you?

Verse to memorize: "The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed me to preach Good News to the poor." *Luke 4:18*

Prayer Guide: Holy One of God. Guide me to live for you.

**LESSON SIX: LUKE 5:1-6:16**

OPENING QUESTION: *Do you have any memories of a time when reluctant obedience led you to surprise and joy?*

**READ LUKE 5:1-6:16**

1. What did Jesus do to cause change in Peter's life? (Luke 5:1-11)
2. Trace Peter's responses to Jesus.  
What risks were involved in responding as he did?

**Response**

**Risk**

Luke 5:3

Luke 5:5

Luke 5:8 (see also Isaiah 6:5)

Luke 5:11

3. Which of these responses is Jesus seeking from you? Explain.

Note: Leprosy was any skin disease that rendered a person "unclean" and therefore required them to live outside the community.

4. What made life especially difficult for people with diseases in Jesus' day?
5. How was leprosy a picture of the human condition?  
Leviticus 13:45-46  
Isaiah 1:4-6  
Psalm 51:7-12  
What hope for healing did God provide?
6. How was the life of the leper changed by Jesus?

7. Why did Jesus periodically withdraw from the crowds?

Luke 5:16

Luke 6:12-16

Luke 22:39-46

How would you be helped by following His example?

8. How did the friends serve the paralytic and how can you be more like them? (Luke 5:17-20)

9. Why do you think Jesus offered forgiveness before healing?

Note: Tax collectors were disliked because they were Jews who often became rich by stealing from fellow Jews while collecting funds for the Roman government.

Note: Pharisees and Teachers of the Law were viewed as guardians of the Jewish law who interpreted and applied scripture.

10. Who was Levi and how did he respond to Jesus?

11. What was the Sabbath and why had it been given? (Exodus 20:8-11)

12. What troubled the Pharisees about Jesus? What important truths do you learn about Jesus as He responded to them?

**Pharisees' Remarks**

**Christ's Response**

Luke 5:21

Luke 5:30

Luke 5:33

Luke 6:2

13. What does Christ's parable about wineskins say to people unwilling to make changes for God in their lives? (Luke 5:37-39)

Verse to memorize: "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."  
*Luke 5:12*

Prayer Guide: Lord Jesus. Change my heart.

**LESSON SEVEN: LUKE 6:12-49**

OPENING QUESTION: *Describe a time last week when you felt blessed.*

**READ LUKE 6:12-49**

Note: A disciple was a learner and apprentice who followed a teacher. Jesus had many disciples but only twelve handpicked apostles who were especially commissioned by Him.

1. What are the things that usually cause people to feel blessed?
2. Imagine yourself in the crowd around Jesus and describe the scene, noting carefully the people around you. (Luke 6:17-19)
3. Who received the words of blessing and what was promised?

Luke 6:20, Matthew 5:3

Luke 21a, Matthew 5:6

Luke 21b, Matthew 5:4

Luke 6:22-23, Matthew 5:10-12

4. Who received the words of “woe” and why? (vv.24-26)
5. How are you personally comforted or challenged by Jesus’ teaching?
6. How does God love? (vv.35-36, see also 1 John 4:7-21)
7. How do you prepare your heart and life to love as Jesus commands?

Luke 6:40

Luke 6:41-42

Luke 6:43-45

Luke 6:46-49

Which of these practices might increase your ability to love?

8. How does Christ summarize the call to love?  
(Luke 6:31, see also Leviticus 19:18)  
How does His teaching promote a godly and healthy love?
  
9. What are the very human responses to enemies and how are they usually treated?
  
10. What reversals are called forth from Jesus in the treatment of enemies?  
  
Luke 6:27  
  
Luke 6:28a  
  
Luke 6:28b  
  
Luke 6:29a  
  
Luke 6:29b  
  
Luke 6:30
  
11. Who are you tempted to treat as an enemy and how do these words speak to you?
  
12. Are there times when it is appropriate to stand against injustice perpetrated by enemies? (see also John 18:22-23, Acts 16:35-40)
  
13. As you reflect on the radical call to love in this lesson, where do you most need God's power to love as He requires?

Verse to memorize: "He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."  
*Luke 6:35b-36*

Prayer Guide: Merciful God. Empower me to love as you love.

**LESSON EIGHT: LUKE 7:1-8:3**

OPENING QUESTION: *Share a time when someone's forgiveness has freed you to love.*

**READ LUKE 7:1-8:3**

Note: A *centurion* in the Roman army commanded one hundred soldiers.

1. What is your view of God when you approach Him?
2. Describe the centurion's character and comment on his display of faith.
3. What did the centurion receive from Jesus? (see also Psalm 107:20)

Note: A woman without a husband or son to provide for her would have no means of economic support.

Note: Old Testament prophets received messages directly from God. The Spirit of God gave them great insight and at times also equipped them to do miracles. John the Baptist was a prophet in the Old Testament tradition, as was Jesus, who was also the unique Son of God.

4. What steps did Jesus take to comfort the grieving widow? (Luke 7:11-17)
5. Read 1 Kings 17:9, 17-24 and Luke 7:16. How did Jesus' act resemble Elijah's and why do you think the people called Him a prophet?
6. Where was John the Baptist and what might have caused him to doubt Jesus' identity? (Matthew 11:2, Mark 6:17-20, Luke 4:18)
7. What evidence revealed that Jesus was the Messiah? What did He admonish John to do with this evidence? (Luke 7:21-23)
8. How did Jesus commend John and how were his listeners divided in their response? (Luke 7:24-30)

9. What fault did the religious leaders find with John? With Jesus?  
(Luke 7:31-35)

Are there faults you find with Jesus that keep you from Him?

10. Why do you think the Pharisees invited Jesus to dinner and how did they treat Him? (Luke 7:36-50)

11. Why did the woman come to the dinner and what did it “cost” her to love Jesus as she did? How does her example challenge you?

Note: One denarius was worth a day’s wages.

12. Contrast how the woman’s love was viewed by Simon and by Jesus.

13. Who was Mary Magdalene?

Luke 8:1-3

Luke 23:44-56

Luke 24:9-22

14. As you reflect back over all the passages of this lesson, what insights do you receive about Jesus’ treatment of women?

15. Who is this Jesus for you personally?  
(1 Corinthians 15:51-58, Hebrews 2:14-15, Ephesians 2:1-10)

Verse to memorize: “Blessed is anyone who does not fall away on account of Me.”  
*Luke 7:23*

Prayer Guide: Faithful Lord. Increase my faith.

**REVIEW LESSON**

1. What verses have been most significant to you?
2. Whose encounter with Jesus most touched you and why?
3. Which of Jesus' words especially challenged you and began a change in you?
4. How has Jesus' teaching and example helped you in your own prayer life?
5. In what way has the Luke account of Christ's birth provided fresh insight for your celebration of Christmas this year?
6. What have you learned about true giving to help you this Christmas?
7. How has Christ's compassion for the outcasts impacted your life?
8. What words of thanksgiving can you offer?

**LESSON NINE: LUKE 8:4-56**

OPENING QUESTION: *Do you remember when you first heard about Jesus and how you responded?*

**READ LUKE 8:4-56**

Note: Ancient methods of sowing included scattering seeds widely before the ground was plowed.

1. What helps you to listen well and really hear?  
  
Luke 8:8  
  
Luke 8:15  
  
Luke 8:18  
  
Luke 8:21  
  
Luke 8:10, Isaiah 6:9-10
3. What are the obstacles to good listening and where do you struggle with these?  
  
Luke 8:13  
  
Luke 8:14
4. What crops (fruit) are produced by those with a listening heart?  
(Luke 8:8, 15, see also Colossians 1:10, Galatians 5:22-23, Hebrews 13:15)

Note: The Sea of Galilee, where Jesus and His disciples sailed, is about 700 feet below sea level. Cold winds often sweep down from the nearby mountains and whip up sudden storms.

5. Describe the scene that created such fear in the disciples. (Luke 8:22-25)
6. What was Christ's question and why do you think He asked it?
7. What did the disciples learn about Jesus and what do you learn?  
(Luke 8:25b, see also Psalm 89:8-9, 148:7-8)

8. How do these verses equip you to go through storms?

Joshua 1:9

Psalm 56:3

Isaiah 12:2

Note: *Pigs* were considered unclean and forbidden as food for Jews.

Note: The *Gerasesenes* lived in the Decapolis, a largely gentile region.

9. Contrast the demon-possessed man's life before and after his encounter with Jesus. (Luke 8:26-39)

10. What were the responses to Jesus' display of power on the sea and with the demons?

Luke 8:25

Luke 8:28

Luke 8:34-37

Luke 8:38-39

What is your response to displays of God's power in your life?  
(see also Luke 5:8-11, Daniel 2:20-23)

Note: Bleeding made a person ceremonially unclean and barred them from worship and community (Leviticus 15:25-27).

11. How had the lives of the two "daughters" in this passage been different during the past twelve years?

How was the situation hopeless for each without Jesus? (Luke 8:40-56)

12. Why did Jesus insist that the bleeding woman go public with her story?

13. How is faith strengthened and how do you live in faith when healing doesn't come? (Psalm 143:1-12)

Verse to memorize: "Consider carefully how you listen." *Luke 8:18a*

Prayer Guide: LORD Jesus. Help me to listen.

**LESSON TEN: LUKE 9:1-62**

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever made a journey that significantly shaped your life?*

**READ LUKE 9:1-62**

1. How did Jesus equip the twelve apostles and what were they sent out to accomplish? (Luke 9:1-6, Matthew 10:5-6)
2. What authenticated their ministry? (see also 2 Corinthians 12:12)
3. How is a person's ministry authenticated today? (see also 1 John 4:13-21)
4. What two questions did Jesus ask about His identity? (Luke 9:18-20)
5. How did the disciples answer these questions?  
How do you answer these questions?
6. How does your understanding of Jesus' identity shape your faith?  
(Colossians 1:15-23, 2:6-10)
7. How was Christ's treatment of the crowd different from that of His disciples?  
(Luke 9:10-17, see also Mark 6:30-36)
8. What do you learn about serving and giving when you are empty and weary?
9. What do you imagine the disciples might have said to each other after the feeding? (see also Exodus 16:4-5, 2 Kings 4:42-44)

10. How did Jesus prepare His disciples for His departure and what was their response?

Luke 9:22

Luke 9:30-31

Luke 9:44-45

Luke 9:51-56

11. What did God reveal on the mountain? (Luke 9:28-36)

12. What did the disciples fail to grasp and why do you think this was so?

Luke 9:32-33

Luke 9:27

Daniel 7:13-14

John 1:14

13. Reflect on the commitments Christ requires of his followers. What encourages you to follow Christ more closely?

**Costs**

**Benefits** (*where listed*)

Luke 9:23-27

Luke 9:46-48

Luke 9:57-62

14. What obstacles did Jesus have to overcome to heal the boy with the evil spirit and with what final result? (Luke 9:37-45)

Verse to memorize: "This is my Son whom I have chosen; listen to Him." *Luke 9:35*

Prayer Guide: Savior. Help me to follow you more closely.

**LESSON ELEVEN: LUKE 10:1-42**

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you had any experience lately that reminded you of what is really important in life?*

**READ LUKE 10:1-42**

1. Why do you think Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs?  
(See also Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

Note: Tyre and Sidon, Phoenician commercial cities, had been judged because they ignored God's prophets. Rebuilt by the time of Christ, They remained outside the territory witnessing the signs of the Kingdom of God.

2. As Jesus sent out the disciples,

Where were they sent? (v.1)

Why were they sent? (vv.2, 9)

How were they sent? (vv. 1, 3, 5-12)

3. Contrast their mission at this time with the mission of Christ's disciples today.

Matthew 28:19-20

Luke 24:46-49

4. What difference did it make for them to go with the authority of Christ and what difference does it make for Christ's followers today?

Luke 10:16

Luke 10:19

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Note: The Greek word "written" (v.20) means "to inscribe formally and solemnly" as one would in the signing of a will, a marriage document, or a peace treaty.

5. How did the disciples experience success? (vv. 17-24)

6. What did Jesus tell them to value more than the displays of power that had accompanied their success? What did this mean?

Luke 10:18-20

Luke 10:21-24, 1 Cor. 1:26-29

7. What questions did the law expert ask Jesus and what did his questions reveal about him? (vv.25-29)

8. What is eternal life and how does one gain it?

John 3:16-17

John 5:39-40

John 6:29, 40

9. How did Jesus answer the man's question using the law of God? (Luke 10:27, Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

10. What was the man's heart condition as revealed by his response to God's law?

11. What response do you think Christ wanted from the law expert as He told the story of the Good Samaritan? (see also Micah 6:8)

12. Why is mercy so important and how, with God's help, might you extend it this week?

13. Who owned the house that provided Jesus with hospitality? What extra burdens have you found come with opening your home to others? (vv.38-42)

14. How did Martha's relationship with Jesus grow following this encounter? (John 11:17-37)

15. How can your relationship with Jesus grow as you seek to balance listening and serving Him?

Verse to memorize: "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see." *Luke 10:23*

Prayer Guide: Lord of the Harvest. Use me.

**LESSON TWELVE: LUKE 11:1-13**

OPENING QUESTION: *Were there any prayers you learned as a child?*

**READ LUKE 11:1-13**

1. What have you learned about prayer from people in your life who pray?
2. What had the disciples observed about prayer?

Luke 11:1

Luke 3:21

Luke 5:16

Luke 6:12-13

Luke 9:28-29

3. Why do you think they asked Jesus to teach them to pray?

Note: "Hallowing" God's name means to keep it holy.

4. What do each of these petitions in the Lord's Prayer mean and how do they shape your life?

*Father* (v.2, see also Romans 8:14-17)

*Hallowed be Your name* (v. 2, see also Psalm 103:1, Psalm 111:9)

*Your Kingdom come* (v.2, see also 1 Corinthians 15:20-28)

*Give us each day our daily bread* (v.3, see also Exodus 16:15-21)

*Forgive us our sins* (v. 4, see also Luke 18:13-14)

*For we also forgive everyone who sins against us* (v.4, see also Matthew 18:21-35)

*And lead us not into temptation* (v. 4, see also James 1:13-15)

5. What are the temptations or dangers that come with model prayers?
6. Why do you think this prayer is in the plural form? How does that challenge you as you pray alone?
7. What reasons are given for persevering in prayer? How does this encourage you when you feel like giving up?  
(vv.5-13, see also Colossians 4:12-18)
8. What can you be assured that God will give those who ask? What difference does this make when you don't receive what you want?
9. How do Christ's words encourage you to pray?
10. Using the Lord's Prayer as a model, write a prayer in your own words.

Verse to memorize: "Everyone who asks receives; everyone who seeks finds; and everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." *Luke 11:10*

Prayer Guide: Father. Teach me to pray.

**LESSON THIRTEEN: LUKE 11:14-12:3**

OPENING QUESTION: *How does a hidden mess impact you?*

**READ LUKE 11:14-12:3**

Note: Beelzebub was the name Jews often used for Satan and it was also a title for the Canaanite god Baal.

1. What display of supernatural power by Jesus caused debate? (v. 14)
2. What responses prevented people from accepting Christ's power as from God? (vv.15-16)
3. What did Jesus teach about Satan and the things that make people vulnerable to his power?

4. What did Jesus clarify about His power and His Kingdom?

Luke 11:20

Luke 11:22

Colossians 2:15

1 John 3:8

Why are these things so important to remember?

5. What responses did Jesus desire as he reminded people of Jonah (vv. 29-32, Jonah 1:1-3, 3:1-10)

Queen of the South (v. 31, 1 Kings 10:1-9)

Light (vv.33-36, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6)

6. What incident precipitated Christ's strong words to Pharisees and scribes?  
(vv. 37-38, 45)
  
7. What is hypocrisy and why do you think it is so easy to fall into it?  
(Luke 12:1-3, Hebrews 4:13, Isaiah 29:13)
  
8. What hypocrisy did Jesus condemn in spiritual leaders in His list of  
"woes"? (Luke 11:39-12:3)
  
9. What pride did He condemn?
  
10. Why do you think Jesus spoke so publicly and harshly to the spiritual  
leaders?
  
11. As you search your own heart, where are the areas of pride and hypocrisy  
in your life?

How might God release you?

Psalm 139:23-24

Psalm 51:6-12

1 Peter 2:1-3

Verse to memorize: "See to it that the light within you is not darkness." *Luke 11:35*

Prayer Guide: Light of the World. Dispel my darkness.

**LESSON FOURTEEN: LUKE 12:1-48**

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever learned a lesson through hoarding something?*

**READ LUKE 12:1-48**

1. Describe the scene as Jesus began His teaching. For whom were His words especially meant? (vv. 1-4)
  
2. Why is God to be honored and feared more than any human being?  
Luke 12:2-7, 1 Corinthians 4:5  
Luke 12:8-10  
Luke 12:35-40, 47-48
  
3. How deeply does God care for you? What difference does this make as you fear Him?  
Luke 12:6-7  
Luke 12:11-12  
Luke 12:24-34
  
4. How is the Holy Spirit part of God's care for you?  
(vv. 11-12, John 16:5-16)
  

Note: Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit attributes to Satan what Christ has done through the Holy Spirit.

5. Why did Jesus tell the parable about the rich man? (vv.13-21)
  
6. According to the parable, what made the man a fool?
  
7. What are the perils of prosperity?  
(see also Proverbs 30:7-9, Luke 8:14, 1 Timothy 6:6-10)

8. How do these verses warn against greed?  
(see also Ephesians 5:3, Colossians 3:5)
  
9. What tempts you to hoard and be greedy?
  
10. Why do you think Jesus moved from His story about greed to words for His disciples about worry? How are the two connected?
  
11. Why does Christ say it is futile to worry?  
  
Luke 12:24  
  
Luke 12:25  
  
Luke 12:27  
  
Luke 12:28
  
12. What can you do to live beyond worry in a pressured and materialistic world?  
  
Luke 12:29  
  
Luke 12:31-32  
  
Luke 12:33-34  
  
Luke 12:35-44  
  
Jeremiah 17:5-8  
  
Philippians 4:4-6
  
13. Where is your *treasure* and how might your *riches toward God* increase?  
(v.34)

Verse to memorize: "Seek His Kingdom and these things will be given to you as well." *Luke 12:31*

Prayer Guide: Strong Savior. Free me from worry and greed.

**LESSON FIFTEEN: LUKE 12:49-14:6**

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever ignored the signs of an oncoming thunderstorm and suffered the consequences?*

**READ LUKE 12:49-14:6**

1. Why do you think spiritual differences between people often divide them so deeply?

2. How does Christ divide people?

Luke 12:49-53

Luke 13:17

Luke 13:31

1 Corinthians 1:23-24

Jeremiah 23:29

3. How does Christ bring peace?

Luke 1:79

Luke 2:14

Romans 5:1-2

4. Why is it important to interpret the times you live in?  
(Luke 12:54-59, see also 2 Corinthians 6:1-2)

Note: When Pilate killed people in the act of worship, he contributed to his reputation of cruelty.

5. How can you be sidetracked by tragedy? (Luke 13:1-5)  
What did Jesus not want people to miss when they faced tragedy?

6. Why do you think true justice requires judgment?

7. What hard words about the coming judgment did Jesus speak and what is your response to these words?

Luke 13:1-9

Luke 13:22-30

Luke 13:34-35

8. What is God's yearning for His people? (Luke 13:8-9, Isaiah 5:1-7)

Note: While the fig tree in Scripture is a common symbol for the Jewish nation, it can also be a picture of individuals.

9. What makes it possible to face Christ the judge without fear?

Luke 13:5

Luke 13:24

Romans 10:9-13

2 Corinthians 13:5

10. **Read Luke 6:1-11, Luke 13:14-17, Luke 14:1-6.**

What were the religious leaders unwilling to change their minds about?

What did this reveal about their hearts?

11. How does Jesus reveal His sovereignty in the face of the Pharisees' warnings? (Luke 13:31-33)

Note: A mustard seed was the smallest seed used by Jewish farmers, yet the plant could reach ten feet in height.

Note: In the Bible, yeast usually symbolizes evil or impurity. Here, however, it symbolizes growth.

12. How do Christ's teachings about His kingdom provide you with hope? (Luke 13:18-21, Ephesians 1:18-23)

Verse to memorize: "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door."  
*Luke 13:24*

Prayer Guide: Lord Jesus. Your Kingdom come.

**LESSON SIXTEEN: LUKE 14:1-35**

OPENING QUESTION: *What's the most creative excuse you've heard for not accepting a dinner-party invitation?*

**READ LUKE 14:1-35**

Note: *Hydrops*, formerly called *dropsy* is an abnormal accumulation of watery fluid in body tissue.

1. Describe as fully as you can the meal at the Pharisee's home, noting especially the attitudes of the other guests. What made this a challenging setting for Jesus? (vv.1-14)
2. What did Jesus teach the dinner guests about humility? (vv. 8-10, see also Proverbs 25:6-7)
3. What did Jesus promise to those who lived out true humility? (vv. 10-11)
4. What are the obstacles in your life that keep you from practicing the true humility and hospitality Christ requires?

Note: Guests in Christ's day received an initial invitation in advance of a dinner party which did not give an exact time. They received another invitation when the meal was ready.

5. What was the initial comment of a dinner guest that led to the parable of the great banquet? Why do you think the man offered such a comment? (Luke 14:15-23)
6. What did the excuses of the dinner guests reveal about them? What do your excuses reveal about you?
7. Who does the host in the story represent and what is important to Him?
8. Who comes to the banquet, gaining a place in Christ's kingdom, and how do they get there? (see also Isaiah 55:1-7)

9. What happens to those who reject the invitation?  
(Luke 14:24, see also Proverbs 1:14-33)

Note: *Disciples* attached themselves to teachers in order to learn by *watching* and *doing*. The word *disciple* was the most common name for a follower of Jesus Christ.

10. Why do you think Jesus emphasized the cost of discipleship at this time?  
(Luke 14:25-35)

Note: The word “hate” is a hyperbole which means that Jesus is to be loved more than even the immediate family.

11. What costly demands does Jesus make on His disciples?

Luke 14:26

Luke 14:27

Luke 14:28-30

Luke 14:31-33

Luke 14:34-35, Matthew 5:13

12. What priorities need to be reshaped in your life in order to be such a disciple?

Verse to memorize: “Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that My house will be full.”  
*Luke 14:23*

Prayer Guide: Master. Help me reshape my priorities.

**LESSON SEVENTEEN: LUKE 15:1-32**

OPENING QUESTION: *Recall a time when you found a precious item that you had lost.*

**READ LUKE 15:1-32**

1. Who gathered around to hear Jesus and what comment led Him to tell these parables? (vv.1-3)
2. Read Luke 18:9-14. Contrast the attitudes of the two groups that gathered around Jesus.
3. What work was involved in searching for the lost sheep and the lost coin? (vv. 1-10)

sheep:

coin:

What happened when the lost items were found?

4. What do these two parables reveal about God's heart for lost people and what happens when they are found?  
(vv. 7, 10, see also Ezekiel 33:11, Luke 19:10, 2 Peter 3:9)

How are you challenged to share God's heart?

Note: On the death of a father, the estate would be divided so that the older son received two thirds of it and the younger son one third.

Note: It was considered undignified for the head of the family to run when greeting someone.

Note: The robe and ring signified distinction and authority. Sandals pointed to the status of a free man rather than a slave.

5. How did the father respond to his younger son's request for his inheritance? How did his older son benefit? (vv.12, 31)
6. Describe the younger son's journey away from his father, reflecting especially on his attitudes. (vv.11-16)
7. What causes you to wander from your heavenly Father?

8. What turned the younger son's heart toward home and what steps did he take?

9. What turns your heart home to the Father?

Psalm 107:10-15

2 Corinthians 7:10

Romans 2:4

Proverbs 28:13

Isaiah 30:15

1 John 1:9

10. Describe the father's welcome of his younger son. How might he have been expected to treat such a son? (see also Deuteronomy 21:18-21)

11. What was the older son's response to the father's welcome of his brother? What did he reveal about his heart? (vv.25-30)

12. How did the father extend grace to his older son? What message did this send to the Pharisees?

13. How does this parable enlarge your picture of God the Father? (See also Ephesians 2:1-10, Psalm 103:10-14)

What thanksgiving can you offer Him?

Verse to memorize: "We had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."  
*Luke 15:32*

Prayer Guide: Merciful Father. Bring me home.

**LESSON EIGHTEEN: LUKE 16:1-31**

OPENING QUESTION: *What did your parents teach you to do with your money?*

**READ LUKE 16:1-31**

1. Why is it so easy to be preoccupied with money and what happens when you are?
2. Why was the manager of the rich man in trouble and what solution did he come up with? (vv.1-7)
3. What was expected from managers then and now? (see also 1 Corinthians 4:2)
4. What lessons about the wise use of money did Jesus teach in this story?

Luke 16:8b-9

Luke 16:10-12

Luke 16:13

5. How do these lessons challenge your attitudes and practices with money?
6. What was the response of the Pharisees to Christ's teaching and why? (vv.14-15)
7. What did Jesus challenge the Pharisees to value as He pointed out their compromise with the Law? (vv.14-18)

8. Contrast the earthly lives of Lazarus and the rich man.
  
9. Contrast their lives after death.
  
10. What warnings and instructions are contained in this story?
  
11. What warnings and instructions were taught by Moses and the prophets?  
Deuteronomy 30:11-20  
Isaiah 10:1-3, 32:6-7  
Isaiah 58:6-12  
Jeremiah 5:26-31  
Malachi 3:5  
Micah 2:1-2  
Which of these speak to your heart and why?
  
12. What would have enabled the rich man to end up with Abraham? (vv.29, 31)
  
13. What change is God nudging you to make?

Verse to memorize: “If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth who will trust you with true riches?” *Luke 16:11*

Prayer Guide: Master. Keep me faithful.

**LESSON NINETEEN: LUKE 17:1-18:17**

**OPENING QUESTION:** *Share a time when a difficult act of service brought joy because of the attitude with which it was performed.*

**READ LUKE 17:1-18:17**

Note: "Little ones" are either young in the faith or young in age. (NIV)

1. What commands did Jesus give to help people live in healthy community? What motivates obedience?

Luke 17:1-3a

Luke 17:3b

Luke 17:3-4

Luke 18:13-14

See also:

Colossians 2:12-14

Romans 14:13, 19

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

2. What makes this so difficult for you to live out and where do you especially need God's help?
3. Why do you think the disciples requested more faith following these words of Jesus? What was Christ's response to them?  
Luke 17:6 (see also Hebrews 11:1-6)

Note: The mulberry tree has a deep root system.

4. What attitude does Jesus warn against in serving Him and what enables faithful service?

Luke 17:7-10

Luke 15:28-29

Romans 12:1

5. How does He honor faithful service? (see also Luke 12:37, Matthew 25:31-46)

Note: One who had been ill or afflicted with a skin disease did not go to a priest until healing had occurred.

6. Where did Jesus encounter the lepers? (Luke 17:11-19)
7. Describe fully the one man who returned to Jesus.
8. What questions did Jesus ask the man? With what answers and excuses do you think the other nine might have responded?
9. Are you a person who remembers to thank God when He answers your prayers?
10. How do these verses encourage gratitude?

Romans 1:21

Psalm 40:1-5

Psalm 105:1-5

Hebrews 13:15-16

Colossians 2:6-7

Note: The Pharisees failed to see that the kingdom of God had arrived with Christ.

11. What did Jesus reveal about the future and what warnings were contained in His words? (Luke 17:20-18:8)
12. How are people to live wisely in the meantime?  
Luke 17:22-18:8  
Acts 1:6-11  
Philippians 3:12-4:1
13. What attitudes and practices in your own life are challenged in this lesson?

Verse to memorize: “Will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones, who cry out to Him day and night?” *Luke 18:7*

Prayer Guide: Jesus. Give me Your attitude.

**LESSON TWENTY: LUKE 18:18-20:19**

OPENING QUESTION: *How do you prepare for difficult events?*

**READ LUKE 18:18-20:19**

Note: The Jews reserved the word “good” for God alone. (Psalm 25:8, 34:8)

1. **Read Luke 18:18-25; 18:35-43; 19:1-10.** Contrast the encounters of the three men with Jesus.

- How did each man address Jesus?
- What drew each man to Jesus?
- What did each one receive from Jesus?
- What did each man do as a result of his encounter with Jesus?

**Rich Ruler**

**Blind Beggar**

**Zacchaeus**

2. What do these encounters teach you about spiritual blindness and true sight?
3. How did Jesus equip His disciples and woo His opponents as He approached Jerusalem?

Luke 18:31-34

Luke 19:11

Luke 19:41-44, Matthew 23:37, John 1:11

Luke 19:47-48

What responses did He evoke?

Note: A mina was about three months wages.

4. Read the final parables Jesus taught before He went to the cross.  
**Luke 19:11-27 and Luke 20:9-19.**  
Who did each person in the parable represent and what happened to them?

**Ten Minas**

Nobleman  
Subjects  
Good Servants  
Wicked Servants

**Tenants**

Man  
Tenants  
Servants  
Son

5. What important messages were contained in these parables?

6. Who is the “stone” and what place does it have in your life?

Luke 20:17-18 , Psalm 118:2

Acts 4:11-12

1 Peter 2:4-9

Note: The Jews viewed donkeys as animals fit for a king. The laying of garments was part of traditional Jewish reception for royalty.

7. What role did the disciples play in Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem?

Luke 19:30-35

Luke 19:37-38

8. If you had been one of the disciples, what would you have anticipated and why?

9. Why did Jesus enter Jerusalem with such public demonstration at this point in time?

Zechariah 9:9

John 17:1-5

10. As you reflect over the entire passage, what insights do you gain about *what you must do* and *what God is able to do for you*?

Verse to memorize: “The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”  
*Luke 19:10*

Prayer Guide: LORD. I come.

**LESSON TWENTY-ONE: LUKE 20:20-22:38**

OPENING QUESTION: *What is important for you to include in a goodbye to someone you love?*

READ LUKE 20:20-22:38

1. What do you think tempts people to betray others?
2. How did these people betray Jesus and why?

**Judas:** Luke 22:1-6, John 13:2, 27

Luke 22:47-48

John 6:64, 12:6

**Disciples:** Luke 22:24

Luke 22:45-46

**Peter:** Luke 22:31-34

Luke 22:54-62

3. What do you learn from these passages to help you resist temptation so that you won't betray Jesus? (see also Luke 22:46, Mark 14:38)
4. What lessons about authority did Jesus teach and of what significance are they today?

Luke 20:25

Luke 20:46-47

Luke 22:24-30

Note: Jesus is the Son of David but also LORD. If David showed such respect to the promised King, Jewish leaders should also.

Note: *Sadducees* accepted only the first five Books of Moses and did not believe in angels, spirits or the resurrection of the dead.

5. What have you been taught to believe happens to your body after you die?
6. What happens after death according to Jesus' teaching? (Luke 20:34-38)

(See also 1 Corinthians 15:35-36, Job 19:25-27, 1 John 3:2)

7. What difference does it make in life to have such a view of what happens after death?

Note: Luke is the only gospel writer who deals with Christ's prediction of the fall of Jerusalem which occurred in AD 70. (Luke 21:20-24) The rest of Christ's discourse relates to the events in the entire present age as well as the last days before His return.

Note: In view of Luke 21:16, the phrase "not a hair of your head will perish" cannot refer to physical safety.

8. What did Jesus want his discourse about the future to prompt in His disciples?

Luke 21:8

Luke 21:9

Luke 21:12-15

Luke 21:16-19

Luke 21:28-31

Luke 21:34-36

Note: The *Passover* commemorated God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt. While the angel of death killed every firstborn in Egypt, he "passed over" all Israelites who put the blood of a lamb on the doorframe of their houses.

9. Why do you think Jesus eagerly desired to eat the Passover meal with His disciples?

10. What new meaning did Jesus give to the Passover meal?

Luke 22:19, John 6:33-35

Luke 22:20

11. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-28. How are believers to continue the practice of this meal and why?

12. Of what significance is the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion for you?

Verse to memorize: "When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads because your redemption is drawing near."  
*Luke 21:28*

Prayer Guide: Come LORD Jesus.

**LESSON TWENTY-TWO: LUKE 22:39-23:56**

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever been helped because of someone's sacrifice on your behalf?*

READ LUKE 22:39-23:56

1. Of what value is it to you to remember Christ's suffering?
2. How did Jesus pray in His hour of darkness? (Luke 22:39-46)
3. What do you learn from Him to help you pray through your darkness?
4. Imagine yourself as the servant whose ear was cut off. How might you tell the story of Jesus and the night of His arrest in years to come? (Luke 22:47-65, see also John 18:10-11)

Note: The council of elders (Luke 22:66) or the Sanhedrin included both Pharisees and Sadducees.

Note: Only Rome had authority to execute a prisoner; therefore a charge against Jesus had to be found that prompted Rome's condemnation.

5. Examine carefully the responses of people to Jesus on His way to the cross. How did the following people increase His suffering?

Luke 22:52-53

Luke 22:63-65

Luke 22:66-23:1, 5

Luke 23:8-12

Luke 23:13-25

Luke 23:18-20

Luke 23:35

Luke 23:36

Luke 23:39

6. What was the response of the women to Jesus? (Luke 23:27, 49; see also Matthew 27:55-56)

7. How did Jesus reach out to the women and why do you think He did this?  
(Luke 23:28-31, see also John 19:25-27)
  
8. What led Peter to weep bitterly? How did his tears open the way for healing?  
(Luke 22:54-62, Luke 22:31-32, Psalm 51:17)
  
9. If all you knew of Jesus was what you saw on the last hours of His life, who would you understand Him to be? (Luke 22:39-23:49)

How do you choose to respond to Him?

10. What Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled through Christ's suffering and death?

Isaiah 50:6, Psalm 22:6-8, Luke 22:63-65

Psalm 69:21, Luke 23:36

Isaiah 53:7-9, Luke 23:50-56

Note: The *curtain of the temple* separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place (Exodus 26:31-33). The tearing of the curtain symbolized Christ opening the way directly to God.

11. What did Christ's death accomplish?

1 Peter 2:22-25

Hebrews 9:25-28

Hebrews 10:19-22

12. What does the cross mean to you?

Verse to memorize: Jesus said, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." *Luke 23:34*

Prayer Guide: THANK YOU LORD JESUS!

**WEEK TWENTY-THREE: LUKE 24:1-53**

OPENING QUESTION: *Why is it so compelling to share good news?*

READ LUKE 24:1-53

1. What question did the angels ask of the women? Why does this remain such a probing question? (v.5)
2. What was the response of the others to the witness of the women and why do you think it was so?
3. Describe the men on the road to Emmaus.
4. Trace the way Jesus befriended them.
5. What enabled the men to receive from Jesus?

What enables you to receive from Jesus?

6. What reminders did the disciples receive about the centrality of Christ in the Scriptures and the fact that His death was part of God's plan?

Luke 24:6-8

Luke 24:25-27

Luke 24:44-47

7. What attempts were made to discredit the resurrection then and why do you think such efforts continue today? (see also Matthew 27:62-66, 28:11-15)
8. What resurrection appearances did Jesus make?

John 20:10-18

Matthew 28:8-9

Luke 24:13-31

Luke 24:34

Luke 24:36-43

John 20:26-29

John 21:1-23

Matthew 28:16-20

1 Corinthians 15:6

1 Corinthians 15:7

Luke 24:44-51, Acts 1:3-9

9. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-20.** Why is Christ's resurrection so important?

10. What is affirmed by the resurrection?

Romans 1:3-4

Romans 4:24-25

Romans 6:4

Acts 17:29-31

Ephesians 1:17-23

11. What purpose and plan did Jesus provide for His disciples before He left them?

12. What did He promise would equip them for the work ahead?  
(Luke 24:49, see also Acts 1:1-9, Hebrews 13:20-21)

13. What do you think was the cause of the great joy that the disciples experienced even though Jesus had left them? (see also 1 John 1:1-4)

14. What do you know about Jesus that causes you joy?

Verse to memorize: "Why do you look for the living among the dead?  
He is not here; HE HAS RISEN!" *Luke 24:5-6*

Prayer Guide: Risen LORD. Reign in my life.

## **REVIEW LESSON**

1. What verses do you most want to remember from the study?
2. What words would you use to describe Jesus as you have come to see Him in this study?
3. Which of the sixteen parables in Luke most impacted you?
4. What has moved you about Christ's example of love and deepened your love for Him?
5. What have you learned about forgiveness?
6. Which of Christ's warnings have you taken to heart?
7. How has the study of Luke increased your understanding of the gospel?
8. Share a significant insight you have gained from this study.
9. For what are you thankful?