



## Luke 11 - 13

5 Studies For Individuals, Groups and 1:1



## **Welcome to Luke!**

This collection of Bible study guides accompanies the teaching series in Luke's gospel account at Trinity Mount Barker in 2019. This is the third instalment of Luke, which we started in 2017.

Bible Study Group leaders, why not suggest that each member of your group recaps on the story of Luke so far by watching the Bible Project video for chapters 1 - 9?  
<http://mytmb.me/rsl1-9>

You can also watch the video on Luke 10 - 24 from The Bible Project at <https://thebibleproject.com/videos/luke-10-24/>

If you want to do some further reading, the IVP New Testament Commentary is available free online!  
<http://mytmb.me/ivpluke>

These studies are intended for groups, individuals, and 1:1. More Bible study guides are available for free at [www.tcmb.church](http://www.tcmb.church)

## **Luke 11:29 - 32**

## **Jonah and the Sign**

- 1.** If you're very distracted, what does it take to get your attention?
- 2.** What's the most memorable sign you can picture in your mind?
- 3.** Can you recall any the details from the story of Jonah in the Old Testament?

## **Read Luke 11:29 - 32**

- 4.** Quickly look back over chapters 9 – 11 of Luke's gospel, and maybe watch one of the Bible Project videos noted on the previous page.  
What has been the shape of Jesus' ministry so far?
- 5.** How is Jesus' response to the increasing crowds surprising or unexpected?
- 6.** What does Jesus' response tell us about his assessment and understanding of people?

## **Read Jonah 1:17 & 3:1 - 10**

**7.** What is “the sign of Jonah” that Jesus refers to in Luke 11:29?

*See the parallel passage in Matthew’s gospel account for more information, Matthew 12:39 - 42*

**8.** What did the “Queen of the South” and the people of Ninevah have, or do, in common?

**9.** How is Jonah a sign for the people to whom Jesus is speaking?

**10.** How is Jesus’ resurrection after 3 days a sign to us today?

**11.** What does this “sign” tell us about Jesus?

**12.** What will the response to these signs look like?

**13.** What gets in the way of genuine repentance that comes from hearing God's good news?

**14.** What might be the warning signs or evidence that someone is like the crowds in Luke 11 – interested in Jesus but not wanting to be a true follower?

**15.** Can you think of signs or demonstrations that people we know might imagine would be enough to call them to faith in Jesus?

**16.** What is the danger is waiting for these kinds of signs?

## **Luke 11:33 - 36**

## **Light & Darkness**

**1.** What is the darkest place you have ever been? Cave? Tunnel? Night?

**2.** Can you recall ever making a silly mistake and only realising later that you'd done so?

**3.** If you were forced to choose, would you rather lose your eyesight or your hearing?

## **Read Luke 11:33 - 36**

**4.** What's the point of the light in Jesus' little illustration in verse 33?

**5.** If light is to be seen, and be open and public, what is Jesus implying about his teaching and the good news he brings?

**6.** In what ways can followers of Jesus receive his message and put it to use openly and publicly?

**7.** How is Jesus statement in verse 33 a rebuke to the crowds in Luke 11?

**8.** From verse 34 Jesus changes the “light” imagery to picture how a person takes in spiritual truth. What are the two alternatives that he describes?

**9.** How are these realities played out in the life of someone who either receives or rejects spiritual truth?

**10.** How does someone receive spiritual truth?

**11.** What do you think it looks like to take in the light that Jesus offers?

**12.** Again, how is Jesus’ teaching here intended to impact the crowds who gather around Jesus in this chapter?

**13.** In verse 35 Jesus indicates that it's possible for us to confuse darkness for light. What does this look like? And how do we guard against it?

**14.** What is the promise in this section for those who would receive the light that Jesus offers?

**15.** What will it look like when a Christian shines as brightly "as when a lamp shines its light on you" (v 36)?

## **Luke 11:37 - 54**

## **Woe is You!**

- 1.** Which cleaning up task do you dislike the most?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2.** Think of a time when you came face to face with hypocrisy. How did you respond?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3.** Are there any religious “rules” that you once thought very important, but you no longer do?

## **Read Luke 11:37 - 54**

- 4.** Why is the Pharisee surprised at Jesus' actions?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5.** How does this interaction in verses 37 – 38 set the scene for what Jesus says in the rest of the section?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6.** How does this section flow out of what Jesus said in verses 33 – 36?

**7.** In what ways are the Pharisees clean on the outside but dirty on the inside?

**8.** What are some ways in which we might focus on outward “obedience” and cleanliness and ignore inward holiness?

*In stating that generosity to the poor will lead to cleanliness, Jesus is obviously not teaching that outward acts make us holy. But if the attention, diligence and care that is given to that kind of work is applied to every aspect of life, a right way of living will follow!*

**9.** What areas of our lives might benefit from the deliberate decision and care Jesus speaks of here?

**10.** How does the first “woe” in verse 42 warn us against majoring on minor religious issues or commands?

**11.** “The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing” is often attributed to Stephen Covey. How can we as Christians ensure we keep the primary concerns of God in the centre and not get distracted by minor issues?

**12.** In what ways does pride and the desire for status and recognition creep into our Christian life?

**13.** How should we think about and respond to any status or recognition that our roles and ministry bring?

*A Jewish person couldn't come into contact with a grave because through touching a body they would become ritually impure. "unmarked graves" (v 44) were a particular problem because a person would be defiled without knowing it or being able to avoid it.*

**14.** How is the Pharisees' teaching leading people into impurity and death?

**15.** What particular danger in false teaching is Jesus highlighting?

**16.** How do we see Jesus' concern for those under the influence of false teachers?

**17.** Do you feel that sometimes we place burdens on people that Jesus never intended his followers to carry?

**18.** How do we find the balance between urging each other on in the discipline and obedience of following Jesus, and not placing burdens on people?

**19.** How should we respond to those who deny the message of the apostles and Old Testament prophets?

**20.** Can you think of other ways in which we're at risk of the kind of hypocrisy demonstrated by the Pharisees and the Scribes?

## **Luke 12:1 - 12**

## **Fear and Confidence**

**1.** Do you find that you're better at keeping secrets, or telling them?

**2.** What things have you been afraid of at different times in your life?

**3.** Why do you think we tend to react to hypocrisy in such a strong way?

### **Read Luke 12:1 - 12**

**4.** In what ways is hypocrisy like yeast?

**5.** What have we seen of the Pharisees so far in Luke's gospel that helps us understand Jesus' meaning in verse 2?

**6.** Do you think it's right to fear God?

**7.** Should we tell people who don't know Jesus to fear God?

**8.** What does Jesus say here about fearing God?

**9.** Why does Jesus say that it's impossible to be forgiven if we blaspheme against the Holy Spirit?

*See Mark 3:22 - 30, where the Pharisees attribute the work of God to Satan, to help understand what Jesus is saying here.*

**10.** How can a Christian person be sure that we haven't blasphemed against the Holy Spirit?

**11.** What seems to be the difference between what Jesus says in verse 9 and verse 10?

**12.** How does the fact that Jesus is speaking specifically "to his disciples" (v 1) help us understand the meaning of verses 11 & 12?

**13.** How does this promise from Jesus help us understand the rest of the New Testament?

**14.** What do you think it looks like to publicly acknowledge Jesus (v 8) today?

**15.** What gets in the way of us doing that?

**16.** How does the fact that God sees everything serve as a warning to us?

**17.** How is the certainty of God seeing everything an encouragement to you?

## **Luke 12:13 - 21**

## **Don't be rich and foolish!**

- 1.** Have you ever inherited anything, big or small?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2.** What is the most successful crop, vegetable, or plant, that you've ever grown?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3.** Was there ever something you really wanted that you had to wait a long time to purchase or receive?  
How did you feel when you finally got it?

## **Read Luke 12:13 - 21**

- 4.** Why is greed something that requires guarding against?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5.** Notice that Jesus speaks of "all kinds of greed" (v 15)?  
Why do you think Jesus uses this language?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6.** What do you notice in how Jesus tells this parable?

**7.** What was the fundamental flaw in the rich man's thinking according to Jesus?

**8.** Are there any ways in which you are like, or have been like, the rich man in the parable?

**9.** How is God's assessment of the man in the parable different to the way he would be assessed by our world?

**10.** Why do we so often think that life *is* about accumulating possessions?

**11.** What makes it hard for us to hear Jesus' words in verse 15 and put them into practice?

**12.** What are the likely alternatives to being "rich toward God" (v 21) in which we might find ourselves?

**13.** In what ways is someone storing up “things for themselves” the opposite of being “rich toward God” (v 21)?

**14.** What does it look like for a Christian person to be “rich toward God” (v 21) today?

**15.** How would you finish this sentence?  
“The right use of material possessions is ... “



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