



Luke 11- 13

For Individuals, Groups and 1:1
(Part 2)

Welcome to Luke!

This collection of Bible study guides accompanies the teaching series in Luke's gospel account at Trinity Church 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/rs11-9>

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

Luke 12:22 – 34

Eternal kingdom, eternal treasure

- 1.** When purchasing clothing or appliances, do you ever consider how long-they'll last or buy them because they look good?
- 2.** How often, when dining out, do you have difficulty finding something on the menu that you like?
- 3.** How do you react when your garden or lawn gets messed up by birds digging for worms?

Read Luke 12:22 – 34

- 1.** Where does the action take place?
- 2.** Who are the people involved?

In verses 24 to 28 we catch a glimpse of aspects of God's amazing creation in the way that bird life has unique food sources and even relatively short-lived plant life is adorned by distinctive beauty.

- 3.** What is the 'big picture' that Jesus is providing here about God's care for us?

4. What does Jesus tell us is the solution to our worries about 'fitting in' with our materialistic society's way of thinking about food, drink and fashion?

5. How does Jesus describe what our attitude should be towards managing our earthly possessions?

6. What are Jesus' disciples to seek in place of worldly possessions? (v. 31)

7. How would not having 'citizenship' in the kingdom of God pose a problem for someone trying to 'store' eternal treasure described in vv. 32-33?

Read Matthew 6:19-34

This same message about commitment to God's kingdom is set out in Matthew's Gospel along with many other examples of Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount.

8. Compare this with Luke's account of this obviously important teaching. What kind of personal problems are being addressed (as indicated by the link word "therefore..." in both passages)?

Read Matthew 25:34 - 46

There's a saying "You can't take it with you but you can send it on ahead."

9. What common intent does this have with Jesus' instructions in Luke 12: 33 and also with the more practical pastoral care concerns outlined in Matthew 25: 34 - 46?

10. What does it mean to me that I can have treasure in heaven?

11. In what ways could changing our attitude towards our possessions enable us to help someone come to know Jesus for themselves?

Luke 12:35 - 48

Be Prepared

- 1.** Do you tend to over- or under-pack in preparation for a holiday? What are the consequences?
- 2.** Would your friends say you're habitually very early, just on time or mostly late for appointments?
- 3.** Have you ever mistakenly missed an important appointment, birthday or anniversary?
- 4.** Can you recall an occasion in your life when time seemed to be really dragging along and almost standing still? What eventually turned things back to normal?

Read Luke 12:35 - 48

- 5.** Where does this event take place?
- 6.** Who are the people involved?
- 7.** How does Jesus use the picture of the attitudes and resulting actions of servants awaiting their absent master's homecoming to teach us to live in such a way as to honour him and be ready for his promised return?

8. What unusual 'treasure' does the master of the house arrange for those servants ready and waiting for his knock on the door, even at an unexpected time?

9. How does the illustration of the surprise factor of burglary (verse 39) reinforce the importance of being ready for the master's return?

In verses 35 - 40 the disciples begin to realise that Jesus' command to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man implies that he is telling them that soon he will no longer be physically present, leaving them to carry on his work and without giving a specific time for his return? (See also Luke 21:25-27)

10. What concerns might the disciples be having as Jesus tells them this?

11. What does Peter's question (verse 41) on behalf of the other disciples indicate about Peter's emerging role as spokesman for Jesus' followers?

Jesus answers Peter's question with another question about personal accountability for making either good or bad choices impacting on the wellbeing of other "... servants, both men and women".

12. Does the punishment of the unfaithful servant in verse 46 and verses 47, 48 imply that certain “servants” may also stand to forfeit their salvation? (See also Hebrews 6:4-8)

Read 2 Peter 3:1-18

This is Peter’s message about Jesus returning, as promised, at the end of the age.

13. In view of the passage of time that is already passing before Jesus’ return to this world in physical form, what does this message help us to understand about being “...ready for service” as followers of Jesus today?

14. How does the promise of 1 Thessalonians 1: 14-18, relating to both the deceased and the living, in this present era, provide encouragement and assurance for believing ‘servants’ of Christ?

Footnote:

Job Description of a Servant in the ‘Mastership’ of Jesus

And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commands us. The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: we know it by the Spirit he gave us.

1 John 3: 23-24

Luke 12:49 - 59

Division and Judgement

- 1.** What matters of conversation do members of your family always avoid?
- 2.** What was the most difficult decision that you or a close friend had to make?
- 3.** When was the worst storm you ever weathered and how prepared were you for it?
- 4.** What decision did you ever make hastily and later regret?

Read Luke 12:49 - 53

- 5.** Where does the action take place?
- 6.** Who are the people involved in these events?
- 7.** In verse 49 Jesus describes his mission as bringing fire on the earth. How does John the Baptist's description in Luke 3: 15 - 19 about what to expect from the coming Messiah provide an insight into Jesus' identity and God's judgement on those who choose not to repent?

If we down-play 'sin' and elevate 'God's love' in our outreach evangelism, we may be in danger of removing the most powerful evidence of the extent of his love in paying the price for our sin.

8. What aspect of his life is Jesus speaking of in verse 50? (See also Mark 8: 31, Luke 9: 22, John 3: 14, Romans 5: 8 and Philippians 2: 8.)

9. How do verses 49 – 53 challenge commonly held ideas of what the gospel is all about?

10. Being a believer can sometimes be very lonely. Does this passage suggest a role for us as Christians in supporting those who are cut off from all or some of their close family and extended family relationships through their decision to commit to Christ?

Read Luke 12:54 - 59

11. What was Jesus hoping to challenge these people about?

12. How relevant do you think are the warnings from Jesus in verses 54-59 for us today in a society living nearly 2000 years after these words were spoken?

13. What do we learn in this passage about Jesus and his mission?

14. How do the two passages; verses 49 - 53 and 54 - 59, fit into the on-going narrative that Luke is presenting to us?

15. What do the central themes of these passages mean to me?

Luke 13:1 - 9

Repentance

- 1.** Are there ever times when you have heard of someone dying, that you may then find yourself thinking that "...they got their just rewards" or alternately "...they didn't deserve to die"?
- 2.** Have any of your relatives or friends died or had been unjustly injured in the line of duty? How did that affect you or family members?
- 3.** How patient are you as a gardener with any plants that do not live up to their potential? What action (or inaction) do you take whenever you are disappointed by a plant's performance?

Read Luke 13:1-9

- 4.** Where did this event take place?
- 5.** Who was there and what were they talking about in verse 1?

Verse 1 appears to carry a warning for Jesus and his group of Galileans about Pilate's current attitude towards people from this region - perhaps as another of Satan's attempts to discourage Jesus from his final visit to Jerusalem for the coming Passover season and his intended death for the salvation of the world.

6. How do we react if people try to dissuade us from telling them about Jesus?

Jesus' response in verse 2 answers unspoken questions about whether the fate of the murdered Galileans indicate that God had judged them as worse sinners than others.

7. What warning does Jesus give his hearers about their own (and everyone's) standing before God?

In verse 4, Jesus adds details about what may have been an OH & S incident in Jerusalem at Siloam that leads to him giving his followers the same warning in verse 5 as in verse 3.

8. What can we understand about the urgency for repentance, in view of the ever-present prospect that without having a personal relationship with Jesus right now, sudden death would close the door forever on whether or not we will be living on with him into eternity?

In verses 6-7, the owner of the vineyard is disappointed that a fig tree in good soil has not produced any fruit for several years, so he orders his workman to cut it down. In spite of an extension in time for this to happen (verses 8 - 9), the extension (and the tree) still face sudden termination.

9. What can we learn about Jesus' disappointment with Israel - the nation that shows no sign of repentance?

10. What is the 'big picture' message through the whole of Luke 13: 1-9 as described in the conversation Jesus has with his followers, as well as in his parable of the fig tree?

Luke's Gospel records a number of occasions where Jesus provides examples of what repentance looks like.

11. How would you describe in your own words what each of the following passages tells us about:

- the outcomes of repentance ?
- the level of personal commitment? and
- the meaning for me?

Luke 15:11 - 24 "The Prodigal Son" A complete turning around and restoration

Luke 18:9 - 14 "The Pharisee and the Tax Collector"
Justified before God.

Luke 19:1 - 9 “Zacchaeus” Unconditional conversion of lifestyle and values.

12. What does the message of Luke 13: 1 – 9 mean to me?

Luke 13:10 - 21

Strict Practice or Pastoral Care

- 1.** Have you ever come across an establishment where certain practices had generated bitter factional discussion between members over rules about why or how things had to be done? Who was responsible for the rules in the first place?

- 2.** Do you know someone who has a disability or has undergone a substantial medical procedure? What level of follow-up support have they experienced or would like to have been given? (What would instant healing have meant to them?!)

- 3.** Have you ever watched seeds being planted and later on had an opportunity to check out the resulting plants? What did you notice?

Read Luke 13:10 - 17

- 4.** Where did this event take place?

- 5.** Who was there and what were they doing?

Leading into this event in verse 10, Jesus would have been invited by the Synagogue Leader to “teach” or to read and explain passages from the Scriptures, as was the custom in the synagogue meeting places in towns and villages across the country. (See also Luke 4: 14 - 22).

6. What do verses 11 to 12 tell us about the underlying cause of the crippled woman's physical infirmity and her response when Jesus declared she was healed?

7. Why do you think she immediately praised God for her healing?

8. How does the reaction of the synagogue leader reveal where his priorities lay, with regard to the strict observance of religious practice being more important than recognising how and why Jesus had performed a divine act of miraculous healing inside his synagogue that day?

9. How might Jesus' reference to the woman as "a daughter of Abraham" (verse 16) provide some insight into the extent of his longing that the entire nation of Israel would choose to be "set free" from what binds them?

10. When Jesus describes the woman's crippling infirmity as being "bound by Satan" in verse 16, what does this tell us about human suffering being a part of the same on-going spiritual warfare as for human sin?

11. What similarities can you find between this event and another miraculous healing described in Luke 4: 31 - 37?

Read Luke 13:18 - 20

Following the events in the synagogue Jesus describes the nature of the kingdom of God by firstly comparing it to a small mustard seed growing into a substantial and beneficial “tree”, and also to a small trace of yeast working its way through a very large amount of flour.

12. In verses 18 and 19 about the mustard seed, how is the time scale for its development, as indicated in this picture of the kingdom of God, likely to be at odds with expectations of crowds of followers that a new nationalistic “kingdom” may suddenly emerge?

13. How might Jesus’ description of the way yeast works in verses 20 and 21 apply to the kingdom of God with regard to its visibility, growth rate and also the inevitability of transforming the entire mass to dough?

14. Who do you think is not entitled to see themselves as citizens of the kingdom of God?



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