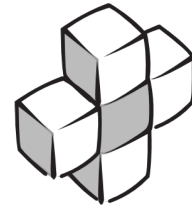


SMACC
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ



Bible Study Series:

Luke



Our Mission:

*To glorify God together in response to his grace
by making disciples of Jesus Christ*

About These Studies

These studies were written by various SMACC leaders for use among young working adults and university students. You are most welcome to use and adapt these studies for your own context. Where you do so please provide the following acknowledgment.

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Study 1: “The King is Coming!” (Luke 1)

Getting Started

1. World leaders often send representatives ahead of them before making an important visit to another country. Why do you think they might do that?

Digging In

Read Luke 1:1-4

2. Why did Luke write this account of Jesus life?

3. Why can we trust his account?

Read Luke 1:5-25

4. Examine the prediction of John’s birth and note down some of the key details in the table below.

1st Miraculous Birth	John the Baptist (v.5-25)	
When		
How foretold?		
Parents’	Mum	Dad
-names		
-profiles/ description		
What will their son do?		
Response of parents?		
What happens...		

5. Bearing children was seen to be a sign of God's blessing (Dt. 28:4), whereas barrenness was seen as a sign of God's curse (Dt. 28:18). Why is it strange that Elizabeth is barren?

6. Read the following passages where other miraculous births take place:

Passage	Name of Child	Significance of Child
Genesis 11:30; 12:1-3, 20:1-2		
1 Samuel 1:2; 11; 27-28		

a. What might be significant about God blessing Elizabeth by miraculously providing her with a child?

7. Read Numbers 6:1-4. Why is John not to drink wine or strong drink? (cf. Judges 13:4-14)

8. Read Isaiah 40:1-6, Malachi 4:5-6 and Luke 1:16-17

a. What is the special job that John has been set apart for?

b. What is God about to do?

Read Luke 1:26-38

9. In these verses, Luke describes to us the miraculous birth of another child. Examine the prediction of John's birth and note down some of the key details in the table below.

2 nd Miraculous Birth	Jesus (v.26-38)	
When		
How foretold?		
Parents'	Mum	Dad
-names		
-profiles/ description		
What will their sons do?		
Response of parents?		
What happens...		

10. Read 2 Samuel 7:12-17. How is Jesus birth a fulfilment of God's promises to David?

Read Luke 1:39-56

11. Why are both Elizabeth and John (still in her tummy) filled with joy when they meet Mary? (v41-45)

12. Mary's prayer is very similar to Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2 when God reverses her barrenness and provides her with a child.

a. What does Mary's prayer reveal of what she understands God is going to do through her child?

b. Apart from fulfilling the promise of an eternal King coming from David's line, which other promises is Jesus going to fulfil? (cf. Genesis 12:1-3)

Read Luke 1:57-66

13. God enables Zechariah to speak when he names his son John. What would you expect his first words to be?

Read Luke 1:67-80

14. What do you notice about who he prophesies about in v68-75 and v76-79?
- a. How does he understand who Jesus is in relation to the Old Testament, and what he came to do?
- b. What new information does God reveal about why John & Jesus have come? (v76-77)

Thinking it Through

15. What are the overwhelming emotions that surround the birth narratives of John and Jesus? Why do you think people feel this way?
16. We learnt in today's passage that Jesus will reign forever over an eternal Kingdom (v32) and will bring salvation through the forgiveness of our sins (v77).
- a. What does Zechariah indicate as the appropriate response to Jesus? (v74-75)

Application

17. In today's passage we are presented with two very different responses to God's words – the disbelief of Zechariah, and the trust of Mary. How will you respond to Jesus, God's eternal King, and Saviour?

12. Why do you think Luke mentions that Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart?
(v.19)

13. Have you accepted his free gift of salvation?

14. Do you forget that Jesus has *saved* you? Not simply improved your life, or made you a better person, but saved you from Hell? If you have already accepted Jesus' forgiveness, we're not to go on wilfully sinning. Is there an area of sin you need to put to death & ask God for forgiveness?

Study 3: “Bringing Forgiveness, Requiring Repentance” (Luke 3:1-20)

Digging In

Read Luke 3:1-20

We know from chapter 1 that Luke is writing an orderly account. Here in 3:1-2 he uses the names of 7 well-known people to mark this time in history.

1. Complete the table (in pairs/groups)

What did we last read about John in Luke 1?	
What is John doing now (3:2-6)?	

Read Isaiah 40:1-5

2. How then does John fulfil Isaiah 40? (v.3)
3. Last week we saw Simeon say that salvation was for all people (Luke 2:30-32). What other indications are there here that forgiveness of sins & salvation wasn't going to be for Jews alone?
4. Why does John call the crowd “a brood of vipers” in v.7? (see also Matthew 3:5-8)
5. Do you know of anyone who thinks like this?
Who believe they can escape judgement without changing, performing rituals, coming from a good family-line, or another similar reason)?

6. What practical examples does John give to the people coming to him? (in pairs/groups)
 Could any of these apply to us?

Crowd (v10-11)	
Tax collectors (v12-13)	
Soldiers (v14)	

7. How does John answer people who think he is the Christ, God’s promised King? (v.15-18)

8. Where can we stand with Jesus in verse 17? Is this good news (v.18)?

9. What happens to John as a result of him following God? (v.19-20)

10. What happens to Jesus as a result of him following God?

11. What happens to us as a result of us following God? (see also Romans 8:15-17)

Romans 8:15-17

“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you slaves again to fear, but you received the Spirit of Sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Study 4: “The Promised Sinless Saviour!” (Luke 3:21-4:13)

Getting Started

1. Do you feel immune or safe from temptation? Discuss.

Context

Read Genesis 2:15-17 and Genesis 3:1-24

2. What was God’s command? (2:15-17) Why do you think God set this command?

3. In small groups, fill out part 1 of the table over the page.

4. What was the result of Adam & Eve’s sin? (3:7-24)

5. Is there any hope at all in this passage? Where?

6. How is Adam & Eve’s temptation similar/different from our temptation?

Digging In

Read Luke 3:21-38

7. What do you notice about Jesus? (v21)

8. From what we saw in Genesis, why do you think the family tree is here in Luke going all the way back to Adam?

Read Luke 4:1-13

9. In small groups, fill out part 2 of the table over the page. How does Hebrews 4:15 and 2:18 help us?

10. Is simply quoting the bible enough for us to defeat temptation? Is that what Jesus did?

11. What do you think v13 means?

Further Reading

On how Adam & Jesus affect us

Romans 5:12-21

On temptation

James 1:12-17

1 Corinthians 10:13

1 Timothy 6:9

<p>Part 1 Adam & Eve</p>	<p>a) What did the devil/ serpent say?</p> <p>b) Was it the truth?</p>	<p>c) Temptation</p> <p>d) Can you draw this?</p>	<p>e) Response: Did they give in? Why/why not?</p>
<p>Part 2 Jesus</p>	<p>a) What did the devil/serpent say?</p> <p>4:1-4</p> <p>4:5-8</p> <p>4:9-12</p> <p>b) Was is the truth?</p>	<p>c) Temptation (hint: look at Jesus response to work out the temptation)</p>	<p>d) Response: Did Jesus give in? Why/why not? (Look up the cross refs)</p>

Study 5: “What Did Jesus Come To Do” (Luke 4:14-44)

Getting Started

1. Imagine you were an Israelite living in Galilee at the time of around 30AD. You are waiting for the Messiah to come. How would you know who the Messiah was when they arrived?

Context

2. What was the significance of the Spirit coming on Jesus at his baptism (3:21-22)? How would the Spirit help Jesus?

Digging In

Read Luke 4:14-15

3. Why do you think Luke chooses to include these verses?

4. In the verses that follow we read of Jesus first recorded public teaching in Luke’s gospel. What would you expect Jesus to talk about? Why?

Read Luke 4:16-30

5. What happens when Jesus visits the synagogue in his home town Nazareth? (16-22)

- a. Jesus reads from Isaiah 61:1-2. What is the passage about?
(It might help to look for repeated words or to refer back to Isaiah 61)

- b. By saying this passage is fulfilled by him, what is Jesus saying about himself?

6. What is the people's response? (v22-30)

a. Why their rejection of Jesus not unexpected? (24-27, cf. 18-19 on Jesus' identity)

Read Luke 4:31-37

7. What is Jesus doing when he comes to Capernaum?

a. What is the significance of these actions?

b. Why is the crowd amazed? Why shouldn't they be?

Read Luke 4:38-41

8. What is Jesus doing in these verses?

a. What is the significance of these actions?

b. What should Jesus actions tell them about who he is?

9. What is the crowd's reason for coming to Jesus?

Read Luke 4:42-44

10. Why do you think Jesus is avoiding the crowds?

11. What is Jesus primary mission? (How does this fit with Isaiah 61:1-2?)

12. What is the role of miracles in Jesus ministry so far?

Bringing Things Together

13. What evidence in this chapter points to Jesus as the Messiah?

Application

14. Should we expect Jesus to perform miracles in our lives like he did for the crowds? Why?

a. Instead of seeking miracles, what should we be putting our emphasis on? Why?

15. In what ways can people today be like the crowds in Jesus hometown?

16. In what ways can we be like the crowds who come to Jesus for help rather than to submit to him as the Messiah?

17. After his resurrection Jesus commands us to speak of the Kingdom and call people to repentance and faith in Jesus (Matthew 28:16-20).

a. How can we make sure we preach the Kingdom of God, not problem solving?

b. How can we make proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom more a part of:

i. Our lives?

ii. Our small group?

iii. Our church?

Study 6: “Sick with Sin” (Luke 5:1-32)

Getting Started

1. What do are some of the greatest needs of humans? Why so?

Context

2. a. What has Jesus’ teaching and actions so far shown about who Jesus is and why he came?

b. What was the predominant response to Jesus?
3. *Read Luke 5:1-11*
 - a. What setting are we presented with in v1-3?

 - b. Why does Peter listen to Jesus even though he’d caught nothing all night? How does that relate to v1-3?
4. What is unexpected about the great catch of fish?
5. What does Peter recognise about:
 - a. Himself?

 - b. Jesus?
6. a. What do you think Jesus means when he says to Simon, “Do not be afraid, from now on you will be catching men” (v11)?

b. How do Simon and his partners respond to Jesus call?

Read Luke 5:12-16

7. Jesus comes into contact with a leprous man. Read Leviticus 13:1-3, 45-46. What were the consequences of having leprosy?

8. Why is it shocking that Jesus touches the man and he is healed?

9. What eventually results from the man's faith in Jesus?

Read Luke 5:17-26

10. How do the paralysed man and his friends show faith in Jesus?

11. a. What does Jesus consider the man's greatest need?

- b. What is shocking about Jesus actions?

- c. Why does Jesus heal the paralytic?

Read Luke 5:27-32

12. What kind of person is Levi?

13. a. How does Levi respond to Jesus call to follow him?

- b. Why is it shocking that Jesus is calling sinners to follow him?

- c. How does Jesus explain his actions?

d. How does this help us understand what Jesus has been doing in 5:1-26?

Thinking it Through

14. Who do you identify with in the story? Why?

15. From reading this passage, what are we meant to realise about:

a. Ourselves

b. Jesus

16. What does Jesus offer to those who follow him?

Application

17. What does Jesus demand of those who follow him?

a. What will this mean for your life?

b. Have you responded to Jesus call to follow him?

4. What is Jesus explaining through his parables in v36-39?

Conflict #2: Read Luke 6:1-5

5. What was the purpose of the Sabbath in Exodus 20:8-11?

6. What were the Pharisees accusing Jesus disciples of doing?

7. Read v3-4 and 1 Samuel 21:1-7; 22:9-10. Was his action wrong? (v4, cf. Leviticus 24:5-9)

a. What is Jesus claiming about himself? (v5)

Conflict #3: Read Luke 6:6-11

8. Why is there conflict this time?

9. Who do you think is pleasing God by what they do on the Sabbath?

As Jesus heals the man with the withered hand the Pharisees are sent into a blinding, irrational rage (the word means insanity). They don't consider the evidence just set before them, that Jesus actions have been vindicated by the healing. Clearly God agrees that is perfectly right to do good on the Sabbath. Jesus not only has authority but demonstrates it in the way he lives his life. In so doing it produces opposition, even when what he is doing is good.

Summary

Fill out the following table, to summarise:

Conflict	Pharisee's rule	God's rule	Jesus' response
Luke 5:33-35		Lev 16:29	
Luke 6:1-5		Exodus 20:8-11	
Luke 6:6-11			

10. Why do you think there was conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees? (Hint: how is this similar to the parable?)

Read Luke 6:12-16

11. What is the significance of Jesus choosing 12 disciples immediately after the Jewish leaders' rejection?

Thinking it Through

12. Is Christianity all about being religious?

13. How is it that we are made right with God?

14. How are we sometimes like the Pharisees? What lessons must we learn?

Study 8: “Sermon on the Plain” (Luke 6:17-49)

Getting Started

1. Last week we saw that Jesus was creating a whole new community of God, over which he ruled as King. What things should characterise the people of God? Why?

Digging In

Read Luke 6:17-26

2. What does Jesus actions on the plane reveal of his nature and character (v17-19)?

3. Fill out the table summarising the initial part of Jesus’ teaching.

Situation	Blessing	Situation	Woe
v20		v24	
v21		v25	
v22		v26	
v23		v27	

4. In these verses, Jesus’ teaching mirrors Mary’s prayer of 1:50-55. What is the result of the blessings and curses?

5. Is it really wrong to be rich or to laugh, and pious to be poor and reviled?

6. How do these verses:
 - a. Show God's character?
 - b. Show what kind of people God is looking for?
 - c. Comfort disciples in their affliction?

Read Luke 6:27-36

7. How are Christians to treat those around them?
 - a. What is radical about this love?
 - b. What is counter-cultural about this love?
 - c. Why should Christian's be like this?
8. Take time to reflect on your own life. Are there people in your life who have been mistreating you? How can you show love to them?
9. In what ways can you show love to:
 - a. Your family and friends?
 - b. Work colleagues?

c. Wider society (esp. needy)?

d. People at church?

In each of these, be specific about particular people, and particular actions & attitudes.

Read Luke 6:37-42

10. What should be the Christian's attitudes to others?

11. Reflect on your own life. How do you need to change your own life that you might be able to unhypocritically witness to others. (Try to be honest and open, we're amongst friends).

Read Luke 6:43-49

12. How can you discern a genuine disciple of Jesus?

a. How is it related to the way they respond to Jesus words?

13. What will be the final result for the person who responds obediently to Jesus words and the one who doesn't?

Thinking it Through

14. What things should characterise the people of God?

15. How do Jesus words' challenge:

a. You to change your life?

b. Us as a bible study group?

c. Us as a church?

16. How do Jesus' words comfort us as his people?

Study 9: “Responding to the One Who Was to Come” (Luke 7:1-35)

Getting Started

1. Have you ever met someone important? What is the appropriate way to treat them?

Digging In

Read Luke 7:1-10

2. What is the situation of the centurion? (1-3)
3. Why do the Jewish elders ask Jesus to heal the centurion’s servant? (4-5)
4. What is the centurion’s attitude to Jesus? (v6-8)
 - a) It is rare for Jesus to commend someone so openly for their faith (9). In what way does this Roman centurion show such great faith?
 - b) What is Jesus response to this Gentile centurion’s humble faith? (10)

The Centurion humbly acknowledges Jesus authority as the Christ

Read Luke 7:11-17

5. How does Jesus respond when he sees the widow? (v11-13)
6. What do Jesus’ actions reveal about his identity and character? (v13-15)
 - a) Have the crowd’s rightly recognised who Jesus is? (v16-17)

Read Luke 7:18-24

7. Why does John the Baptist send some of his disciples to Jesus? (v20, cf. 3:15-18)

a) Why might a prophet as great as John be in doubt?

8. What proof does Jesus give them that he is the Christ?

9. Fill out the following tables (In Groups)

What the Christ will do		What Jesus did (Luke 5:22)	
Isaiah 26:19		Luke 7:11-17	
Isaiah 29:18-19		Luke 7:21	
Isaiah 35:5-6		Luke 5:18-26	
Isaiah 61:1		Luke 6:20-22	

Read Luke 7:25-30

10. What does Jesus think of John's ministry? (v26-28)

a) How does John compare to those in the new Kingdom that Jesus brings? Why? (v28)

11. How do the people respond when they hear Jesus words? (v29)

John the Baptist and the crowds are unsure whether Jesus is the Christ but they believe when they see the evidence.

Read Luke 7:29-35

12. How did the Pharisees respond to John and to Jesus? (v30-35)

The Pharisees reject that Jesus is the Christ despite the evidence and refuse to submit to his authority.

Thinking it Through

13. Which group of people in this story do you identify with? Why?

- The Centurion who believes Jesus is the Christ
- John the Baptist and the crowds, who are unsure whether Jesus is the Christ but investigate further.
- The Pharisees who reject that Jesus is the Christ

14. Do you think that there is strong evidence that Jesus is the Christ?

Application

15. What is the model response to Jesus presented in this passage? How can we live out such a response in our own lives?

6. How does the parable challenge what Simon thinks about:
 - a. His standing before God?
 - b. How he should treat God?

7. Will being a good person (at least better than the people around you) make you right with God?

8. How does Jesus respond to the sinful woman? What does he think of her?

9. Why do you think Jesus forgives the sins of this woman?

10. Who actually pleased Jesus in this story, the sinful woman or the Pharisee (Simon)? Why?

Thinking it Through

11. Have you had your debt of sin forgiven by Jesus? Do you want it to be?

12. The sinful woman gave Jesus everything she had hoping to be forgiven. Do you value forgiveness from Jesus as much as she did? Should we?

13. How should being forgiven by Jesus change the way that we live?

Study 11: “Responding Rightly to Jesus’ Words” (Luke 8:1-21)

Getting Started

1. Can you think of examples where how you act now will be important later on?

Digging In

Read Luke 8:1-10

2. What was Jesus doing as he was travelling through the towns and cities? Who is with him?

3. In **groups**, draw pictures of what happens in this story in verses 5-8.

4. Jesus has told the crowd a story about farmers and seeds. What is the meaning of this story?

- a. Why do only some people understand the story?

Read Luke 8:11-15

5. Fill in the following table to discover the meaning of the parable.

Where the seed lands	What happens to the seed?	What does this mean?
Path (v5, v12)		
Rock (v6, v13)		
Thorns (v7, v14)		
Good Soil (v8, v15)		

6. Can you think of examples of people who are like the seed that falls on the:

- a. Path?
- b. Rocks?
- c. Thorns?
- d. Good soil?

7. Let us explain the meaning of the pictures we drew before.

8. How do you make sure you're in the right group?

9. What happens when you are in the right group? How might you do this?

Read Luke 8:16-18

10. Why does it not make sense to put a light under a jar or under a bed?

11. What does the light represent in this story?

12. If 'nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed' (v17), what should we do with the light?

a. How can we do this?

13. Why is the way we listen to Jesus word important? What will happen if we fail to listen?

Read Luke 8:19-21

14. Who does Jesus say His mother and brothers are?

Thinking it Through

15. What is the right response to Jesus?

16. How can we ensure we keep "hearing" God's word?

Study 12: “Jesus & The Demoniac” (Luke 8:26-39)

Getting Started

1. When was the last time you witnessed a desperate situation; what happened?

Digging In

Read 8: 26-33

2. How does Luke describe the situation of the demon possessed man?

Vs	Description	What does this imply?
27		
29		

3. How would you summarise this man’s situation in a word?

4. What do we learn about the demon here?

Vs	Description	What does this imply?
29		
30		(compare with 8:2)
33		

5. What do we learn about Jesus from this encounter:

- a. In relation to demonic forces?

- b. In relation to those they afflict?

- c. How does Jesus show these things ultimately in the cross? (cf. Col 2:14b-15)

Read 8:34-39

6. How do the surrounding peoples respond to this miracle?

7. Why do you think they react this way?

8. How does the man rightly respond to Jesus having been delivered by him?

Thinking it Through

9. How is this demonstration of Jesus' authority an encouragement for us?

10. Is the response of the people a challenge for us? *What are we tempted to prize more than Jesus and why?*

11. Is the response of the man a challenge for us? *What reason do we have to be devoted to Jesus tomorrow and how might we do it?*

Study 13: “Saving Faith” (Luke 8:40-56)

Getting Started

King, who spent 25 years hosting his CNN chat show Larry King Live until it ended in 2010, told us that being frozen ‘after death’ felt ‘logical’ to him... ‘They take the body right away. They put it in a compression chamber, they inject you with a fluid that keeps certain things working even while you’re dead, it keeps blood flowing and the like.

1. What are other ways our society tries to cope with the reality of death?

Digging In

Read 8:40-42a

2. How does Luke show Jairus’ desperation before Jesus?

3. Why was this a brave action for Jairus? (cf. 6:6-7, 10-11)

Read 8:42b-48

4. How does Luke show this woman’s desperation before Jesus? (Consider Lev 15:25-27 as well)
5. Why do you think Jesus stops (given what he’s in the middle of, v42b!) and is concerned to know who touched him?
6. Why do you think the woman is afraid? How does Jesus affirm her?

Read 8:49-56

7. What’s happened whilst Jesus stopped to speak with the woman?

8. What do Jairus' servants assume given their statement?

9. Why do you think Luke tells us about the "*mourners*"¹ actions here? What does it make clear to us? (vs53)

10. How does Luke make clear that the child has really been resurrected from death to physical life?

11. With the demon possessed man, vs26-39, Jesus commanded him to go and tell others what God had done for him. Why do you think Jesus' charges the witnesses to keep silent about this miracle?
(cf. 8:26, 40)

Thinking it Through

12. What reason do we have to trust that Jesus is able to bring life in the face of death?

13. Can you identify with the servants and mourning's who doubt Jesus and his ability to save? In what ways are we tempted to dismiss rather than accept him?

14. Given that Jesus is the risen Lord in whom we have resurrection life, how might that shape our priorities tomorrow?

¹ It was common practice to employ strangers who would act as mourners when a loved one died. They usually had no real attachment to the deceased. What's the sign that this is probably the case here?

Read Luke 9:10-17

7. How do we see the success the apostles had during their mission?

8. What problem do they face at the end of that day?

9. Why do you think Luke focuses mostly on Jesus' miraculous provision of bread and even tells us there was some left over? (Exodus 16:15-23, 31-35; Deuteronomy 8:1-4)

Thinking it Through

10. How do these accounts of Jesus' ministry help us understand who he is and what he came to do?

11. Here Jesus gives his apostles authority to drive out demons and heal everywhere. Do you think this is the norm for gospel ministry today?

Application

12. What opportunities do we have to be ambassadors for Christ and his kingdom tomorrow?

Pray for an individual you might witness to in the near future...

Study 16: “Seeing the Kingdom” (Luke 9:28-36)

Getting Started

1. What are some of the evidences that Yang di-Pertuan Agung is currently king of Malaysia?

Digging In

Read Luke 9:27-31

2. What promise do we need to keep in mind as we study these verses? (v27)

3. Look up Exodus 34:27-35 – what’s God doing here and how do we see similar but greater things in Luke 9?

4. Why do you think Moses and Elijah appear; how does their presence and discussion add to this testimony of who Jesus is? (*note footnote for verse 31*)

Read Luke 9:32-33

5. Why might Luke want to make clear the disciples were heavy with sleep here? (cf. 8:25)

6. Peter completely misses the point of what he witnesses here – how do we see that?

7. Why do you think Peter responds this way?

Read Luke 9:34-36

8. How does God himself correct Peter's mistake?

9. What is God saying about Jesus before the disciples here? *(Use the table)*

OT Ref	Link with Luke 9:35?	So who does God say Jesus is?
Psalm 2:6-12		
Isaiah 42:1-7		
Deuteronomy 18:15-19		

Thinking it Through

10. How do the disciples get a taste of God's kingdom here? Does their behaviour here encourage/challenge you?

11. How do we know the kingdom of God has been made possible in Jesus now and that we're a part of it? (v31)

12. How might the reality of God's kingdom for us in Jesus affect our priorities in terms of

- a. Our family/friends

- b. Our finances

- c. Our fellowship

Study 17: “Who is the Greatest?” (Luke 9:37-50)

Getting Started

1. Who does our world see as great today and why?

Digging In

Read Luke 9:37-43

2. What themes continue on from the transfiguration here?

3. Why do you think Jesus' gives this rebuke in vs41?

4. What does this miracle show about Jesus/about us?

Read Luke 9:43a-48

5. Why do you think Jesus' reminds his disciples of his upcoming death here?

6. Who is responsible for their lack of understanding? (read verse 45 carefully)

7. What do we think of the disciple's argument in verse 46? How well have they been listening?

8. Why do you think Jesus' uses a child to correct the disciples reasoning?

Read Luke 9:49-50

9. What does John's statement tell us about their view of discipleship?

10. How does Jesus correct them here?

11. How does this reinforce his teaching on being a great disciple?

Thinking it Through

12. The disciples saw themselves as great over and against one another; how might we be tempted to do the same today?

13. How do these verses encourage us in humility rather than pride and competition?

Application

14. Think of one way you receive (serve) someone in Jesus' name this week.

Study 18: “Serving the Servant King” (Luke 9:18-27, 46-48, 57-62)

Getting Started

1. Can you think of an example where how you act now will be important later on?

Digging In

Read Luke 9:18-21

2. Who do the crowds think Jesus is?

3. Who does Peter say Jesus is?

4. What do you think Peter meant?

Read Psalm 2

5. The word ‘Christ’ is Greek and literally means ‘Anointed One’ (v2). Fill out the table below:

Question	Answer
(v1-3) What are the kings and rulers of the earth doing?	
(v4-6) How does God respond? Why?	
(v7-9) What power has been given to the God’s King (‘the Anointed One’)?	
(v10-12) How should people respond to God’s King?	

6. How would you summarise the role of the Christ?

Read Luke 9:18-22

7. What does Jesus say must happen to him because he is the Christ? Why does this seem very unusual?

8. How is Jesus a different King to the other kings and rulers of the earth?

9. Can you think of other examples from previous weeks where Jesus is both a mighty ruler, and yet is compassionate, gracious and serving?

Thinking it Through

10. Who do you think Jesus is? Do you think that he is the Christ?

11. Do you think that it is important how we treat Jesus? Why?

Read Luke 9:23-27

12. How will the way we treat Jesus now be important later on?

13. What does it mean to deny yourself take up your cross and follow Jesus?

14. What cost is there in following Jesus now? How is this way of living like Jesus?

15. What cost is there in not following Jesus now? Why is this so bad?

16. What will it mean to deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Jesus in the following areas:

1. Money
2. Career
3. Family
4. Time
5. Energy

Read Luke 9:57-62

17. What excuses do people make why they can't follow Jesus straight away?

18. Do you think these are good excuses? Do you think Jesus is being harsh?

19. Which of these statements do you think is accurate? Why?

- a) Jesus wants us to care nothing about our university studies or dead people, or our family just to follow him.
- b) Jesus wants us to make the Kingdom of God more important than everything else in our life.
- c) It is not necessary to follow Jesus straight away. We may need to work out some things first.
- d) Following Jesus will involve costs now, so it may be better to not follow Jesus straight away.
- e) Jesus will not accept excuses for not following him.

20. What excuses do people make why they can't follow Jesus? Is there something that is preventing you from following Jesus now?

Study 19: “Mission Matters” (Luke 10:1-24)

Getting Started

1. How have your friends responded when you have told them about Jesus?

Digging In

Read Luke 10:1-4

2. What does Jesus do? (v1)
 - a. What does Jesus mean when he is talking about “workers” and a “harvest”? (v2)
 - b. Do the disciples have a big job? What is Jesus’ solution? (v2-3)
 - c. What will the work be like? (v3-4)
3. There are still billions in our world who don’t trust and follow Jesus. How should Jesus words affect us?

Read Luke 10:5-16

4. What instructions does Jesus give his 72 workers? (v8-12)
5. What does Jesus warn will happen to the towns that rejected the message about Jesus? (v13-15)

6. Have a look at verse 16. When people decide to accept or reject the message about Jesus, who are they actually responding to?

7. Why is important how we respond to Jesus? Have you listened to Jesus and accepted him or have you rejected him?

Read Luke 10:17-20

8. Why do the demons submit to the disciples?

- a. What does this show?

- b. What should the disciples be focussing on? (v20)

Read Luke 10:21-24

9. What sort of people will accept the message of Jesus? What people won't? (v21)

- a. Who decides who will accept the message and who won't? (v22)

10. Why are we privileged to hear the message about Jesus? (v23-24)

Application

11. The message about Jesus is a life or death matter. Those who listen to it and accept it will go to heaven (v20) but those who reject it will face unbearable judgement (v11-16).

a. How should this affect our own response to the message?

b. How should it affect our attitude to sharing the message? (See v2-3)

Study 20: “Teach us to Pray” (Luke 11:1-13)

Getting Started

1. What kinds of things do you normally pray for?

Digging In

Read Luke 11:1-4

Luke 11:2-4 is Luke’s version of the Lord’s prayer – probably the best-known prayer of all time. In it, Jesus is giving his disciples instructions on what to pray about.

2. What prompts Jesus to give the Lord’s prayer? How might that shape how we read it?
3. Who are we to taught to address our prayers to? In what sense is prayer an absolute privilege? (cf. Luke 22:42, 22:46)
 - a. Does that mean we should not pray to Jesus or the Holy Spirit? Why? Why not?
4. What are the first two things Jesus tells his disciples to pray about (i.e. in v2)?
 - a. What are they a prayer for? (This may require some thought: consider when everyone will honour God’s name.)
 - b. What can we learn from the fact that Jesus starts with this? What are to be our priorities in prayer?

5. How does the Old Testament context of Exodus 16:4-26 sharpen our understanding of what it means to pray “Give us today our daily bread” (or “give us today tomorrow’s bread”)
 - a. When are you tempted to forget your utter dependence on God for your every need?
 - b. Given the Sabbath is a picture of the new creation (cf. Hebrews 4), what is this prayer looking forward to?
6. What are the two things Jesus tells his disciples to pray for in v4?
 - a. What subject lies at the heart of both these requests?
 - b. Why does Jesus say so much about this subject?
7. What practical implications does the Lord’s prayer have for what you pray for?

Read Luke 11:5-13

8. What are the two parables of verse 5-13 teaching? Do we need to be ‘impudent’ to gain God’s attention?
9. What is the main point Jesus is making in 11:9-10? What do vv11-13 add to this?
10. Given God’s character and promise, what does this say about us, when we don’t/won’t pray?

11. In the light of what Jesus taught in 11:2-4, what sort of request is Jesus promising this sort of answer to?
- a. How is this confirmed by his promise that the answer will take the form of the gift of the Holy Spirit? (cf. Matthew 7:11)
 - b. How does this fit in with what we saw at the end of the previous passage (i.e. 10:21-42)?

Application

1. Sometimes we do not pray because we think that God is not good, or does not really care about what we need. How does this passage encourage us to pray?
2. When your prayers are not “answered” as you desire, are you tempted to think that God does not answer? How should we respond in this situation?
3. How has Jesus’ teaching on prayer challenge you regarding:
 - a. What you pray for?
 - b. How often you pray?
 - c. What you think God is like?

Prayer

Ask God that he would help us become people who desire above all things the things that he desires.

Study 21: “Challenge from the Stronger Man” (Luke 11:14-36)

Getting Started

1. What do people around you think about Jesus?

Digging In

Read Luke 11:14-28

2. What miracle did Jesus perform? (v14)

3. How do the crowds respond to this miracle? (v14-16)

4. Jesus tells stories to respond to their accusation. Fill in the following table. (in pairs)

Passage	What Jesus says	What Jesus means
v17-18		
v19-20		

5. By what power did Jesus drive out demons? What does this show? (v20)
 - a. Do you identify with the crowds in this story? Why? Why not?

6. Who is the strong man? And who is the one attack and overpowers him? (v21-22)

7. What two kinds of relationship could we have with Jesus? (v23)

a. Can we be in between? Why?

8. What sorts of people are blessed by God? (v28)

Read Luke 11: 29-32

9. Why did Jesus say this is a wicked generation? (v29)

a. What about our generation? Is it better or worse? Why?

10. Jesus uses an example about Jonah and the Ninevites. (See Jonah 3)

a. How did Ninevites respond to Jonah? (v30, 32)

b. How does Jesus compare to Jonah? (v32)

c. How should we respond to Jesus?

11. Jesus uses another example about Solomon and the Queen of the South (See 1 Kings 10:1-13).

a. How did the Queen of the South respond to Solomon? (v31)

b. How does Jesus compare to Solomon? (v31)

c. How should we respond to Jesus?

Read Luke 11: 33-36

12. What is the light Jesus talking about? (v33)

13. What does it mean to have good eyes and bad eyes (v34-36)

14. How could we make our eyes good? (v35)

4. What did the law experts say?

5. How does Jesus respond?

Read Luke 11:46-52

Woes	What does it say?	What does it mean?	How can we see or apply this today?
v46			
v47-51 (cf. 2 Chron. 24:20-25)			
v52			

Read Luke 11:46-52

6. How does the accused respond?

Application

7. What is the right response?

Prayer

Reflect on the woes above and share a particular personal prayer point.

Read Luke 12:4-6

7. Who should we fear/not fear? Why? (v4-5)

8. Why do you think Jesus is telling this to his disciples? (See also 2 Timothy 3:10-13)

9. What do we learn about God in verses 6-7? How might this comfort us when we suffer as Christians?

Read Luke 12:8-10

10. What will happen if we acknowledge Jesus before men? What will happen if we disown him? (v8-9)

11. Do you think it is easier to stand up and follow Jesus when things are going well or when you are suffering? Why?

12. How does God help us to stand up for him when things are hard? (v11-12)

13. What do you think Jesus means in verse 10?

14. What should we do when:
 - a. We are opposed or ridiculed by our family or friends for following Jesus?

 - b. We are opposed or persecuted by governments or authorities for following Jesus?

 - c. People speak against Jesus at university or at work?

5. How are people in our world exactly like the rich man? How are we like the rich man?

a. Why are you studying at university? What are you hoping to achieve in life?

b. What is Jesus warning to us?

Read Psalm 49

6. What things stand out to you in this psalm? What do you find challenging?

Read Luke 12:22-34

7. What things are important in life? How should this affect our outlook on life? (v22-23, c.f. Luke 10:26-27)

8. Fill out the following table:

Verse	Example	Why should we not worry?
v24		
v25-26		
v27-28		

9. Why do you think that people worry? What is the opposite of worrying? (v28)

Application

10. What things are you worried about at the moment?

a. How important are these things compared to food and clothes?

b. What should we do instead of worrying?

11. How should Christians live differently to the world? (v29-31)

12. What should we do instead of being greedy and worrying about our life? How does this show we trust God? (v32-33)

13. How does the way we use our money reflect what is in our heart? (v34)

Study 25: “Are You Ready? (Luke 12:35-59)

Getting Started

1. How does the future affect what we do now?

Digging In

Read Luke 12:35-40

2. How should servants act knowing that their master will return? (v35-36)
3. What will be the result for servants who are ready for him when he returns? (v37-38)
4. What will the return of the master be like? What must the servants do? (v39-40)

5. In groups, fill out the following table

Question	Answer
Who is the master?	
Who are the servants?	
When will Jesus return?	
Are you ready?	
How can we be ready for Jesus return?	

Read Luke 12:41-48

6. What is the faithful and wise servant like? (v42-43)

- a. How is he treated by his master? (v44)

 - b. What will happen to the servant who disobeys his master? (v45-48)
7. How does a servant's knowledge of his master's will affect how he is judged by his master? (v47-48)
- a. What implications does this have for us?

Read Luke 12:49-53

8. How do you feel about Jesus' words here? Do they surprise you?
9. What is Jesus saying here? How was this true in Jesus own life?
- a. Is following Jesus more important to you than following your parents?

Read Luke 12:54-59

10. Why does Jesus condemn the crowd? (v54-57)

11. What should someone do if they are being taken to court to be judged? (v57-59)

a. Who is the person being taken to court?

b. Who is the adversary?

c. Who is the judge?

Thinking it Through

12. Are you ready for Jesus return?

a. Have you been reconciled to Jesus or are you his enemy?

b. How should we live as we await Jesus return?

Study 26: “Why Does God Allow Suffering?” (Luke 13:1-9)

Getting Started

1. Why do you think that there are natural disasters and tragedies in our world? How do they affect our outlook on life?

Digging In

Read Luke 13:1-5

2. What tragedies occur in these verses? Why did they happen? (v1-5)
3. Do you have to be extremely sinful for disaster to occur? (v2, 4)
4. Do you think that God is in control of the tragedies that occur in our world? Why/Why not? (See Isaiah 45:7)
 - a. What is the purpose of such tragedies and disasters? (v2, 4)
5. What should we do when we are faced with death and suffering? (v3, 5)
 - a. What does it mean to repent?
6. One day, we will all die. How should the reality of death affect the way that we live now?

Read Luke 13:6-9

7. What happens in the parable of the fig tree? (v6-9)

8. In this parable, who is the man? The fig tree? The man who took care of his vineyard? (See also Isaiah 5:1-7)

9. How much opportunity is the fig tree given to bear fruit? What does this tell you about God?(v7-9)

10. Why is it urgent that we repent?

Read Isaiah 53

11. Who do you think this passage is talking about? Why?

12. What happened to this person? Why?

13. How does God deal with sin and suffering in our world?

Thinking it Through

14. How you repented and put your trust in Jesus for salvation?

15. What things have amazed you about Jesus? Why is he worth following?

Study 27: “An Unstoppable Kingdom” (Luke 13:10-21)

Getting Started

1. In what ways do we worry about the health of God’s kingdom?

Digging In

Read Luke 13:10-17

2. What background information are we given in v10-11?
3. What does Jesus do and what impact does it have?
4. What do you think of the ruler’s reaction?
 - a. What was the Sabbath? (Ex 20:8-11, Deut 5:12-14)
 - b. What did violating the Sabbath involve? (Num 15:32-36, Jer 17:21-22)
5. What does Jesus think of the ruler’s reaction?

Thinking it Through

6. How do we see the might of Christ’s kingdom here?
7. Can we expect the same treatment this woman receives? (Rom 8:18-23, 1 Cor 15:53, Jam 5:14)
8. What is the big point of this episode?

Read Luke 13:18-20

9. Jesus tells two parables to show us what the Kingdom of God is like. In groups, fill out the following table:

Parable	How does it start?	How does it end?
Mustard Seed (v19)		
Yeast (v20)		

10. What do these parables tell us about what the Kingdom of God is like?

11. How do we see the might of God's kingdom here?

Application

12. When might we really need the encouragement of these parables?

13. How should they shape our priorities if we're...

- a. *Students*

- b. *Parents*

- c. *Workers*

- d. *Retired*

Study 28: “Entering God’s Kingdom” (Luke 13:18-35)

Getting Started

1. What do you think God’s Kingdom is like? How can people enter it?

During the coming weeks we will be reading from the bible and learning about **Jesus**. Who is he? What did he come to do? How should we treat him? We will be reading through a part of the bible called Luke. It is a biography written by one of Jesus’ followers Luke, who wrote down eyewitness accounts of Jesus life.

Tonight, we will be learning about **God’s Kingdom**. What is it? How can we enter it? We will learn about the important of entering his Kingdom and not being shut out of it.

Digging In

Read Luke 13:18-21

2. Jesus tells two parables to show us what the Kingdom of God is like. In groups, fill out the following table:

Parable	How does it start?	How does it end?
Mustard Seed (v19)		
Yeast (v20)		

3. What do these parables tell us about what the Kingdom of God is like?

Read Luke 13:22-30

4. How does Jesus answer the question of how many people are going to be saved (v23-25)?

- a. How is timing important? (v24-25)

5. What is the reason why people are shut out (v25-27)? Is it enough to listen to Jesus words or to go to church?

6. What does it mean to be in a relationship with Jesus?
 - a. Are you in a relationship with Jesus? How can you know?

7. Verses 28-29 present a picture of what we would commonly refer to as “heaven” and “hell”.
 - a. What will it be like to be shut out of God’s Kingdom? Why? (v28, see also 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10)

 - b. What will it be like to be a part of God’s Kingdom? (v29-30)

8. How is Jesus’ description of heaven and hell different to the worlds?

Read Luke 13:31-35

9. How does Jesus respond to Herod’s threats to kill him? (v31-33)
 - a. What does Jesus know will happen to him in Jerusalem? (v34)

10. How does Jesus feel about Jerusalem? What will happen to it? (v34-35)
 - a. What does this tell you about Jesus and about people (See also Hosea 11:1-11)?

Thinking it Through

11. What is the Kingdom of God is like? How can we enter it?

12. Where do you stand with Jesus?

Study 29: “Excused Out from the Kingdom” (Luke 14:1-24)

Getting Started

1. What are some excuses you might have used to bail out from an appointment with your friends at the last minute?

Context

2. Different to the letter of Hebrews which was written to Jewish Christians, the Gospel according to Luke was written to Theophilus, a Gentile Christian. What do we learn about the purpose of this gospel account from Luke 1:3-4?
3. From Luke 9:51 and Luke 13:22, what do we learn about Jesus’ ministry thus far in the gospel account? What has Jesus been teaching along the way?

Digging In

Read Luke 14:1-24

4. What was the setting in which we find Jesus in?
5. Complete each column below to see who were the people being addressed by Jesus in this passage & what was Jesus talking about?

The People	What Jesus said to them?	Why do you think Jesus said that?
v.1-6		
v.7-11		
v.12-14		
v.15-24		

Read Luke 14:15-24

6. Identify the following characters mentioned in the parable? How do you know who they represent?

Character	Who they represent
Master	
Servant	
The excusers	
People from the streets and lanes (poor, crippled, blind, lame)	
People from the highways and hedges	

Ponder:

What are the purposes of parables?
*Parables are stories told in parallel to a truth to illustrate the truth. However, contrary to popular thinking, Jesus' parables are not told because it helped people understand better. In fact, in Matthew 13:11, Jesus said the reason was so that it can reveal the truth to those who wanted to know it and to conceal the truth from those who were indifferent. That is why Jesus often ends his parables by saying "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear". **Are you hearing what Jesus' parables are saying?***

7. What do the excuses of the guests reveal about them and their heart? What happened to those who rejected the invitation?
8. Who are the people that are eventually invited to the great banquet and how does that relate to the Parable of the Wedding Feast (v.7-11)? [c.f. Luke 18:14]

Application

9. The Parable of the Great Banquet reminds us of Hebrews 2:3 that says "How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation, which was first declared by the Lord..."
- a. What excuses do people give today for not following Jesus? What do they fail to see when they give such excuses?
 - b. Do you need to beware of giving similar excuses? What are they? Share with the group and pray about it, if any.
10. Comparing v.13 and v.21, we see similarity in how God's welcomes outcast into his kingdom and how we are to treat the outcast around us. How we treat them is an outflow of how God treats us who were outcast.

Can you think of some groups of outcasts (or people markedly different from us) around you at work/uni/neighbours/church? In what ways can we be means of expressing God's generosity to them?

Study 30: “The Cost of Following Jesus” (Luke 14:25-35)

Getting Started

1. What are some of the things in life that people hold on dearly to and find it difficult to give up for Jesus sake?

Digging In

Read Luke 14:25-27

2. Who is this “crowd” that was following Jesus and what do you think their intention were? What would be the right reason for them to follow Jesus?

3. What does Jesus mean when He says we are to hate our mother and father and family? Doesn't the bible teaches us to love our family?

4. What do you think Jesus meant by bearing their own cross and come after Him (v27)? How would this have looked?

5. What then is the implication of v26-27, for people today?

Read Luke 14: 28-33

6. What does the person building the tower need to consider and what happens if he fails to complete the tower? (v28-30). What kind of people is Jesus addressing and how is it relevant to them?

7. What does the king need to consider and what happens and what do you think will happen if he fails to do this? (v31-33). What kind of people is Jesus addressing here and how is this relevant to the people Jesus is telling this to?

Read Luke 14:34-35

8. What is Jesus' point about salt that has lost it's saltiness? How does this relate to those who claim to be His disciples?

Application

9. If you are following Jesus, have you counted the cost of what it means to follow Jesus and are you determined to hold on to Him no matter what circumstances befalls you? Why or why not?

10. What should be the ideal response to Question 9? Why do you think so?

11. What area of life would you feel is the biggest challenge for you in regards to temptation to fall away from Jesus? How can your brothers and sisters help you?

12. How can we be helping others to be true disciples and not end up like “salt that has lost its taste”?

13. How does what Jesus warn here about the cost of discipleship effect how the Gospel should be shared?

Study 31: “Lost & Found” (Luke 15)

Getting Started

1. Tell each other of a time where you experienced dissatisfaction over unfair treatment (e.g. sibling stories, stories of when you were younger would be nice conversations to share). How did you feel, and respond?

Context

2. What have we seen so far from Luke 14?

3. Why was it controversial for Jesus to be in fellowship with tax collectors and sinners (v1)?

Digging In

Read Luke 15:1-32.

4. Fill in the table with the relevant information. (Best to do this in smaller groups of 2-4).

	The Lost Sheep	The Lost Coin	The Prodigal Son
Who are the characters?			
What did the main character do?			
What did the “lost” son/object do?			
Who is the parable about?			
What responses can we observe from the finding of the lost person/object?			
What Jesus means to emphasize			

5. It seems unnecessary to talk about the same thing 3 times. Why do you think Jesus did so?

6. Jesus seems to be telling these parables in response to the Pharisee's grumbling. Who do you think is the older son and the prodigal son in this passage, and why?

7. In the third story, the father has the most right in some sense to be angry, but he doesn't get angry. In fact, he responds in an unexpected way to greet and welcome back a son who has willingly cast himself out and shamed the family name. Since the younger son receives such a warm welcome home, should we read the passage as a license to "sin" radically but still expect to receive a warm welcome from God?

Application

8. Where's the balance between "bad company corrupts good morals" (1 Corinthians 15:33) and spending time with sinners to tell them the gospel?

9. Jesus maintained His holiness and yet sinners seemed comfortable in His presence. How can we do the same?

10. Is God's grace fair? Why/why not? What implications does this have for us in the Christian life?

11. It is likely that at some point in our lives, we have experienced responding like the angry brother did. Being subjected to unfair preferential treatment is something we are all painfully aware of. In the church context, discuss with the person next to you about an incident where you realised you had been behaving towards a Christian brother and sister in a self-righteous way, and what you did to address it. If you have not addressed it, perhaps think and pray together about how you can be responding in a more Christ-like manner.

Prayer

Study 32: “Prudent Preparations” (Luke 16:1-13)

Getting Started

1. When was the last time you did something Christians would consider unconventional or controversial for the sake of the gospel?

Context

Luke 14:1-24 – who can enter the kingdom of God?

Luke 14:25-35 – following Jesus comes at a cost.

Luke 15:1-32 – the magnitude of God’s love and saving grace, and the appropriate human response.

Digging In

Read 16:1-9

2. Fill up the table

The manager’s problem	His solution	His goal

3. Why do you think ‘the master’ commended the dishonest manager for ‘his shrewdness?’
4. In v8, Jesus seems to insinuate that ‘the sons of light’ should be at least as shrewd as the manager. What do you think Jesus means?
5. Why is it surprising that Jesus tells his disciples to ‘make friends for yourselves by unrighteous wealth?’ What does this mean?
6. Is Jesus condoning dishonesty? How is Christian shrewdness different from worldly shrewdness?

Read 16:10-13

7. How does what Jesus say in vv. 10-13 connect with vv. 1-9?

8. Why does Jesus say 'you cannot serve God and money?' (v13)

Bringing It Together

9. What is the point of this parable that Jesus teaches?

Application

10. What might 'gospel shrewdness' look like for Christians today?

11. From this passage, what dangers might Christians face when serving Christ? And how can we overcome them?

Study 33: “The Great Divide” (Luke 16:14-31)

Context

As Jesus continues onwards to Jerusalem in chapter 15, large crowds are following Him and He warns them to consider what it means and costs to follow Him as a genuine disciple. At the same time, we read in the same chapter that all men, whether selfish sinner or self-righteous Pharisee, are in need of salvation and reconciliation with God. Jesus then addresses His disciples in Luke 16 and explains that the way in which they manage their possessions and the way they live out their lives would prove if they are truly faithfully following and serving Him.

Digging In

Read Luke 16:14-18

1. What was the cause of the Pharisees mockery in verse 14?
2. From verses 14-15, why do you think they were ridiculing Jesus’ teaching and refused to accept it?
3. In contrast, what does Jesus’ response to the Pharisees in these same verses reveal about their own supposed righteousness?
4. Jesus continues rebuking the Pharisees in verses 16-18. If the Pharisees were truly spiritual and righteous people, what should they have done instead of self-justifying their own righteousness before men? (Refer also to Malachi 3:1-5, Luke 1:15-17 and Matthew 5:17-20)
5. With this in mind, how does Jesus’ teaching on marriage and divorce demonstrate that the good news that he preaches upholds the Law and is authoritative? (Refer to Matthew 19:1-8)

Read Luke 16:19-31

6. Jesus then sharpens his rebuke by conveying a parable to the Pharisees. Summarise the details of the parable by filling up the table below:-

	Life on earth	Afterlife
Rich man's home		
Lazarus' home		
Rich man's quality of life		
Lazarus' quality of life		
Interaction between the rich man and Lazarus		
Interaction between the rich man and Abraham	N/A	

7. Why do you think there is a reversal of both the rich man's and Lazarus' earthly life and after life? (Recall what Jesus has been preaching in Luke 16:1-13 as well as Luke 6:20-26)

8. On a closer reading of verses 24-31, the rich man engaged in 2 interactions with Abraham. What significant implications do we learn from the first interaction about the afterlife for all men?

9. What significant implications do we learn from the second interaction?

10. In light of the Pharisees objection to Jesus' teachings, how would this parable reinforce His strong rebuke in Luke 16:16-18?

Application

11. Are there areas in your life where you are in danger like the Pharisees in 'exalting' your own conduct/attitude according to your own justification and standards, rather than how God might judge them?

What are some factors or reasons which could lead you to do so? Share what might help you to respond rightly in honouring God and submitting to His standards.

12. Imagine if you have a non-Christian friend who says to you "I will only believe in the God of the Bible - if I can see or experience a supernatural incident from Him, with my own senses."

What would you say to him or her in light of what we learned in Luke today?

Study 34: “Characteristics of a Disciple” (Luke 17:1-19)

Digging In

Read Luke 17:1-4

1. What do learn about temptation here? How does Jesus show us the seriousness of causing someone else to sin? (v1-2)

2. What must we be ready to do if/when a brother sins? What does that look like for us? (v3)

3. What does Jesus mean when he says we are to forgive seven times? Does this depend on the genuineness of the repentance?

4. We're called to rebuke (not be indifferent toward sin) and to be forgiving. How are we struggling with this?

Read Luke 17:5-6

5. From the apostles request of Jesus, what is it that they are concern with? (v5)

6. How does Jesus' answer challenge their your perspective on faith? (v6)

Read Luke 17:7-10

7. Here Jesus teaches that we are mere unworthy servants. What attitude and behaviours:
 - a) Should we have?

b) Do we need to guard against?

8. Do we sometimes feel like we've sacrificed so much for God and He should acknowledge it in ways we desire? What does that say about our hearts?

Read Luke 17:11-19

9. Why did the lepers stand at a distance, calling out to Jesus? (v11 - 13)

10. Notice that Jesus didn't have to say "you are cured", touch them or walk closer to them.. (v14)
a) Instead he told them to show themselves to the priests. Why?

b) How does their obedience show their faith (trust)?

11. What does the Samaritan Leper's response reveal about his attitude toward God? (v15 - 18)

12. What does Jesus' response say about:
a) The other nine lepers

b) The Samaritan

13. Why does Jesus say to the Samaritan “..your faith has made you well”? Has healing not already occurred with the other nine? (v19)

Application

14. On this side of the cross, we know the saving grace of Jesus. Which leper are we responding like, daily?

Prayer

Reflect and pray for one another in light of today's passage.

Study 35: “The Already but Not Yet Kingdom of God” (Luke 17:20-18:8)

Getting Started

1. Malaysians enjoy many public holidays. Share with one another something you really look forward to do during the next public holiday. How would the days leading up to it be different from your usual routine?

Digging Deeper

Read Luke 17:20-25

2. The Pharisees were asking Jesus how they could tell when the Kingdom of God would come. How did Jesus respond and what do you understand from his answer? (v.20-21; c.f. Luke 16:16)

3. Turning to his disciples, Jesus then said that they will not see “*one of the days of the Son of Man, though they desire to see it*”. This seemed to contradict what Jesus said about the Kingdom being here already. What do you understand about the Kingdom of God from Jesus’ statement to his disciples? (v.22, 25)

Fact:
The Son of Man is a title Jesus often used to refer to himself (more than Son of God). It is referenced from Daniel 7. While the term can be referring to Jesus’ humanity, it signifies a deeper understanding that he is the promised Messiah, a divine figure and one highly exalted, who would receive an everlasting dominion. That was why the high priest tore his robes

4. Read Daniel 7:9-14. How does that help you understand “*the days of the Son of Man*” in Luke 17:22? In other words, what happens when “*the one like a son of man*” comes?

5. While the Kingdom of God starts off almost unnoticeably (v.21), how will its culmination look like with the return of the Son of Man? (v.23-25)

Read Luke 17:26-37

6. From v.26-30, Jesus compared the return of the Son of Man (himself) to the great flood in Noah’s days and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in Lot’s days. Fill up the following table to infer how it would be like when Jesus returns.

	Noah’s Days	Lot’s Days	The Return of Jesus
What were the people doing?			
What did God’s people do?			
What was the end like?			

7. From v.31-33, what do we learn about the attitude we should have towards the return of Jesus?

Are these attitudes something we should have now or only when the day is here (v.31’s “On that day”)?

8. In v.37, the disciples said “Where, Lord?” What do you think they were referring to based on Jesus’ unconventional response?

Read Luke 18:1-8

9. Jesus starts giving a parable to teach a truth by using a lesser to greater argument. Describe the parable in your own words and share what was the purpose of the parable? (v.1)

Why might the disciples lose heart? How was Jesus’ response an encouragement? (v.7-8a)

10. How do you think the parable ties back to what Jesus said about the Kingdom of God in Luke 17:20-37? (v.7-8)

11. Why do you think Jesus ended his teaching on the parable with a rhetorical statement in v.8b? What do you think Jesus was trying to convey?

Application

12. Often times, secular people would think that Christianity is a psychological crutch Christians believe in to get through life. They put their hopes in a pie in the sky, something totally removed from the here and now. How does Jesus' teaching about the already but not yet Kingdom help you respond to this claim?

13. The warning from Jesus is clear in 17:33 – whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it. If you are a follower of Christ, do you look forward to the days of the Son of Man? What keeps you or hinders you from longing for it?

14. If you are not yet a follower of Christ, what do you think would be holding you back from being part of his Kingdom now?

15. Time and again, there will be someone who claims that the end of the world will happen on such and such date. One recent popular one was the end of the Mayan Calendar on 21 December 2012. Notably it caused some worry and stir worldwide. As Christians, how do we approach this topic for ourselves?

Study 36: “Who will Inherit the Kingdom of God?” (Luke 18:9-30)

Getting Started

1. You are being offered VVIP tickets to the most exclusive event that has all your favourite things eg. musicians, entertainment, amenities food, games, etc. What would you be willing to give up? Quiz each other and try to find out where each of us will draw the line at.

Context

Last week we talked about the already but not yet nature of God’s kingdom. God’s kingdom will come at a unnoticeable time where we least expect it but it will be culminated unmistakably. Therefore, we as Christians must always be prepare and not lose heart as we wait for that day when Jesus returns in glory.

Digging In

Read Luke 18:9-14

Parable	Summary	Lesson learnt
The Parable of the Pharisee & the Tax Collector		

2. What is the contrast between the Pharisee and the tax collector?
3. What did Jesus meant when He said ‘This man went home justified before God’? Why would this be shocking to those who hear this parable?
4. As Christians, sometimes we can be in danger of being like the Pharisees. Let’s share how sometimes we approach God like the Pharisee did. How can we be responding to God like the tax collectors?

Read Luke 18:15-17

Parable	Summary	Lesson Learnt
Little Children & Jesus		

5. Why did the disciples rebuke those who were bringing children to Jesus for him? What then did Jesus do instead? What does this teach us?

6. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God like a little child? How will that look like for us?

Read Luke 18:18-25

Parable	Summary	Lesson Learnt
The Rich & the Kingdom		

7. We saw here that Jesus rebukes the ruler when he calls Jesus good. Why does Jesus do that?

8. The rich ruler was confident he could stand before God righteous. What was his problem and how did Jesus address it?

9. Why is it difficult for the rich to enter the kingdom of God? Discuss

Read Luke 18:26-30

10. "What is impossible with man is possible with God" Discuss why Jesus says this in this context and what it means for those listening to this at that time.

11. As we read verse 29-30, how does this verse assure us of our future even when we seem to be on the losing end now?

Thinking it Through

12. As we reflect on the passage and evaluate ourselves, how can we be entering the kingdom of God and on what basis can we enter?

13. What difficulties are there for us to enter the kingdom of God on the basis of what God reveals in this passage?

Application

14. For those who do trust Jesus, how can we be reminding, helping and encouraging each other to mirror the right attitude that comes with being saved for God's kingdom?

Study 37: “Salvation Has Come” (Luke 19:1-10)

Getting Started

Who is currently unpopular or despised in Malaysia (or the world) and how do people generally respond to them?

Digging In

1. How is Zacchaeus described in the passage?
2. What happened in Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus?
3. Why was there grumbling and uneasiness from the crowd in response to Jesus' decision to visit Zacchaeus' house?
4. How did Zacchaeus respond to Jesus and what was Jesus' reply?
5. What does Jesus mean when he mentions about “a son of Abraham” (v9)?
6. How are Zacchaeus's actions linked to salvation?

Application

7. Think about a person that you dislike or a person that is despised or unpopular in society. Will you share the gospel with that person and invite the person to church? Share with one another some challenges and struggles that you would face in sharing the gospel with such a person.
8. Zacchaeus's decision to let go of his possessions and turn from his ways, though repentant might seem like overcompensation, or even justification by works. Must we give up our possessions like Zacchaeus to be saved?

Study 38: “Well done, good servant!” (Luke 19:11-27)

Digging In

Read Luke 19:11-27

1. Starting at verse 11, what is significant about the context which prompted Jesus to speak a parable?
2. In verses 12-14, note the key characters and summarise their personal goals and actions at the start of the parable.

Characters	Goals/Actions

3. In verse 15, we read that the nobleman has “returned”. To what occasion does the ‘return’ of 19:15 refer?
4. We then begin to see how the reign of the nobleman, who is now the king, would look like. How would you describe the way the master interacts with the first and second servant in verses 16-19?
5. How about the other interaction between the lord and his other servant in verse 20?
6. Why do you think the ‘wicked’ servant kept the mina in his handkerchief?

Study 39: “The King Has Arrived” (Luke 19:28-48)

Getting Started

1. How would you prepare if a VVIP has stated that he is visiting your home or office?

Context

As we have been following Jesus’ slow journey towards Jerusalem, we see him teaching people about the Kingdom of God. This Kingdom has been what Jesus has been proclaiming throughout his preaching ministry as he shows what it looks like and who will be in the kingdom.

Where a “kingdom” is preached, there is a question about the identity of the coming King. Here we see that the one who was revealed to be the King of Israel, Jesus has finally come to Jerusalem, the seat of the throne of David .. how will things unfold and how does it tie in to the Kingdom of God?

Digging In

Read Luke 19:28-35

2. What do we find interesting here? Why is it interesting?

3. Read Zachariah 9:9. How does this help us understand the significance of what is happening?

Read Luke 19:36-40

4. Why do you think the multitude of disciples rejoiced the way they did? What do you think they understood?

5. Why do you think the Pharisees asked Jesus to silence His disciples (v39)?

6. Read Joshua 24:27 and Habakkuk 2:9-11. In light of the picture of how rocks are said to be witnesses, what do you think Jesus meant when he said “the stones will cry out” (v40)?

Read Luke 19:41-44

7. Why did Jesus weep?

8. How could have “the things that make for peace” (v42) been known to the city?

Read Luke 19:45-48

9. Read these verses and discuss on what the context of these verses are:

a) Isaiah 56:6-8 (“house of prayer”)

b) Jeremiah 7:11 (“den of robbers”)

10. In light of Question 9, what do you think was the reason for Jesus to drive out the traders from the temple (v45-46)?

11. Considering that Jesus processed into Jerusalem on a donkey as fulfilment of His role as God’s chosen King (the Christ), why do you think Jesus teaches in the temple (v47)?

Application

12. What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Christ? Who do you identify with in the passage?

13. How does your life line up with your convictions?

14. What changes would you like to make to the way you live in response to the passage?

Study 40: “Whose Authority?” (Luke 20:1-18)

Getting Started

1. Share with each other the different types of authorities that have you encountered in your life. Do you find it difficult to submit to that particular authority/Have you rebelled against such authority?

Context

Jesus has made his triumphal entrance as king. When the Pharisees tried to rebuke his disciples for praising His name, Jesus replied that even if man does not praise him – the stones (creation) will.

He comes to the temple and overturns businesses (those who were using God’s house for greedy gain). He taught daily. People were responding to his message, and Jesus seems to be doing all of these with authority.

Digging In

Read Luke 20:1-8

2. What did “these things” refer to in v2?
3. Why do the chief priests and the scribes with the elders feel threatened by Jesus’s preaching and teaching in the temple?
4. Why couldn’t the Jewish religious leaders answer Jesus’ question about who authorized John’s baptism?
5. Why did Jesus confront the question on His authority with another question?

Read Luke 20:9-18

6. List down the events you see happening in the parable in the table below:

Who did the vineyard owner send?	How did the tenants treat the representative?	What did the representative return with?

7. What do you think the events of the parable mean in light of Jesus’s quote from Psalms 118:22? (see also Acts 4:11) “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone”

8. What did Jesus mean in vs. 16-18? Refer to Isaiah 8:14-15 and discuss.

Application

9. In our passage today, we see a discussion of competing authorities (man against God and the religious teachers against Jesus). What are some of the things which we have in today's world that compete with Jesus for authority over our lives?

10. We see the implications of not recognizing and acknowledging Jesus' authority in today's passage. How should we conduct our daily lives as Christians in view of what we have read today?

Study 41: “Render to God what is God’s” (Luke 20:19-21:4)

Getting Started

1. How you ever felt that you were denied something that was rightfully yours?

Digging In

Read Luke 20:19-26

2. Perceiving that the parable was told about them, how should the chief priest and scribes have responded? What did they do instead?

3. What is Caesar’s and what is God’s?

What is Caesar’s?	What is God’s?

3. What are the implications for those who:

- a. were reluctant to pay tax to Caesar?
- b. were quick to accommodate to Rome and corroborate with Pilate?

Read Luke 20:27-40

4. What did the Sadducees wanted to prove? Why do you think they were so keen for that to be true?

5. Jesus answered them by making a comparison:

This _____	That _____

6. What did Jesus use to prove that the resurrection will indeed happen?

Read Luke 20:27-40

7. Look at Psalm 110:1 - Who is speaking? Who is the "LORD" and "Lord"?

8. So how is the he (Christ) his (David's) son?

Read Luke 20:41-21:4

9. What do you think the Scribes were most concerned about?

10. How would you contrast the rich and the poor widow?

	The Rich	The Poor Widow
What did they give?		
What did they keep?		
Who gave more?		

Application

11. How will we live knowing that there will be a resurrection? Are we those who are worthy of that age?

12. Should we follow the widow's example and give everything away?

Bringing It Together

7. What is the (overall) significance of the destruction of the temple?

Application

8. What reassurance can we have from today's passage?

9. In what ways can we (today) be ready/live in readiness of the impending arrival of the kingdom?

5. a) What is the 'it' in 22:16?

c) In what ways is 'it' fulfilled in the kingdom of God?

6. In 22:20, Jesus says: "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood..."

a) What is the new covenant? (Jer 31:31-34, Heb 8:6-13)

b) What do you think 'covenant in my blood' means?

c) *Application.* Do you often meditate on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us? "22:19 Do this in remembrance of me". Beyond observing the Lord's supper, what will you do this week to focus on that?

8. a) What does Jesus mean by his words in 22:22 (Acts 2:23)?

Bringing It Together

9. Today's passage main truth and supporting truths are:

Main truth	
Supporting truths	

Study 44: “Prepared by Jesus” (Luke 22:24-38)

Digging In

Read Luke 22:24-38

1. Given that Jesus has just instituted the Lord’s Supper and stated that someone was going to betray him, what does the disciples’ response in v.24 tell us about the disciples?
 - a) According to Jesus in v.25-27, how are the disciples wrong?
 - b) And why does Jesus bring up the topic of the kingdom in v.28-30?

3. a) Why do you think Jesus started to warn Peter about what’s to come?
 - b) What does Peter’s response tell us about him?

4. Earlier in Luke 9:3 & 10:4, we see that Jesus sent his disciples with no moneybag, knapsack or sandals. What do you think Jesus meant back then?

5. Why does it seem like Jesus is asking them to do the opposite now in v.36-37?

Application

6. a) In today's world, leaders are often seen as people who do well at managing those under them. Based on what Jesus said in v.24-27, in what ways do you think Christian leadership is different from that of the world?

b) Do you think those attributes can be practiced in the workplace? Why or why not?

7. In all the instances where Jesus spoke in v.24-38, we see Jesus preparing his 12 disciples (- Judas). He told them about servanthood, the coming kingdom, Peter's failing and repentance, and to get themselves ready to support and protect themselves. How can we give thanks for God's word which equips us this day?

Study 45: “The Hour Has Come” (Luke 22:39-71)

Getting Started

1. In what kind of circumstances is it hard to be faithful to Jesus Christ?

Digging In

Read Luke 22:39-46

2. In one word, what do you think would be the main theme running in this passage and why do you think so?

3. In v42, Jesus prays for the removal of a “cup” from Him, what do you think Jesus is referring to here? (Check out Jeremiah 25:15-17)

4. What does the prayer in v42 show us about Jesus?

5. Why were the disciples sleeping? What could be the cause of them feeling this way?

6. What did Jesus mean when he asks them to pray so that “they do not enter into temptation”?

Read Luke 22:47-53

7. When Jesus was betrayed and the disciples took up arms and attacked the servant of the High Priest, why did Jesus stop this (v51)?

8. How do you think this links in to the earlier section of Luke 22:39-46?

Read Luke 22:54-62

9. What do you think of Peter?

10. In today's context how do we deny being a follower of Jesus at the workplace, with friends and family and in society?

Read Luke 22:63-71

11. What did Jesus mean when he said "from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God" (v69)? What did Jesus mean by Son of Man?

12. Why did the council respond with, "Are you the Son of God, then?" after hearing what Jesus says in v69? What connection are they making here and what do they mean when they say "Son of God"?

13. What is Jesus guilty of (v71) according to the council?

14. What is Luke showing us about Jesus from this passage and what is his intention in doing this?

Application

15. Temptation to desert Jesus will come unexpectedly, how do we guard against it?

17. What can be the biggest ways that you may be tempted to desert Jesus? What do you feel is your weakest area when it comes to holding firm to Jesus?

(Take some time to reflect on this and let's try to be honest and not judgemental of others)

17. What would you need to hold firm to Jesus?

18. How can you help others to hold firm to Jesus?

Study 46: “Jesus Under Trial” (Luke 23:1-25)

Getting Started

1. Have you ever been wrongly accused of something you did not do? In that incident, were you cleared of your name? Share an incident with your group.

Context

What happened previously in Luke 22?

Digging In

Read Luke 23:1-4: Under trial with Pilate

2. What were the accusations that the religious leaders had made against Jesus? Explain why Jesus was guilty or innocent for each accusation.

Accusation	Explanation on whether Jesus was innocent or guilty based on previous chapters of Luke

Read Luke 23:5-12: Under trial with Herod

3. Why did Pilate send Jesus to Herod?

4. Why was Herod happy to see Jesus? (see Luke 9:7-9)

5. It seems strange for Herod and the soldiers to mock Jesus, yet give him splendid clothing (v.11). Why did Herod and the soldiers do this?

6. Why were Pilate and Herod enemies before, and why are they 'friends' now? (v.12)

Read Luke 23:13-25: Back to Pilate and a Decision to Crucify

7. We can see that Pilate found no guilt in Jesus three times (v4,v15,v22) and desired to release him (v20). Is Pilate still considered responsible for Jesus's death?

8. We see the ultimate height of evil and irony, that someone who was captured for explicit crime (v 19), is demanded to be released (v 25) for the sake of punishing an innocent man. How can this account of Jesus being sentenced to death in Luke 23:1-25 point us to the Gospel?

Application

9. Some says "Pilate seems to have been a basically good man who got overwhelmed by forces stronger than he, such as the bloodthirsty crowd. Surely God would not judge people like that, would He?" How would you respond to that statement?

10. What are some common ways we are tempted to compromise our integrity and deny Christ? How do we deal with peer-pressure as Christians?

Study 47: “The Crucifixion” (Luke 23:26-43)

Getting Started

Name an instance where you failed to see something obvious.

Digging In

Read Luke 23:26-31

1. How were the characters in the passage responding to Jesus' walk towards death? Why do you think they are reacting this way?
2. What does Jesus say in response? What might be so shocking about what he said?
3. What do you think Jesus is referring to?

Read Luke 23:32-39

4. Read Isaiah 53. In what ways is it being fulfilled?
5. Contrast what the people and the soldiers said, with what Jesus said to His Father.
6. What are the ironies in this passage? What does this show us about the different characters?

Read Luke 23:40-43

7. How did the other criminal respond to Jesus? Contrast his response with the others before him.
8. What was Jesus' response to the man? What does this tell you about His kingdom?

Bringing It Together

9. Can you summarise the main message of today's passage?

Application

10. The first group did not recognise the hard times that were to befall them. Do we as Christians fall into the same trap, and how can we stop ourselves from doing so?

11. We saw different responses to the cross and how Jesus appealed to His Father to forgive them. How should Jesus' response encourage us in our evangelism in our workplace/family/university?

Study 49: “God’s Deliberate Plan” (Luke 24:1-35)

Context

Luke 23:44-56 showed Jesus’ death and the tearing of the temple’s curtain into two. This symbolised how Jesus’ sacrifice turned away God’s wrath and now His people can enter His presence through Jesus’ blood.

Digging In

Read Luke 24:1-35. Divide them into sections and give them a short title each.

Verses	Title

Read Luke 24:1-12

1. What are the women hoping to do once they reach Jesus’ tomb, and how did they react upon finding the tomb empty?
2. The strange men explain things more fully in verses 6-8. What does Luke mean by “then they remembered his words” (verse 8)?
3. What is the significance of the women being the first to find out that Jesus has indeed resurrected?
4. How does Peter respond differently from the other ten apostles? Why is this significant?

Read Luke 24:13-27

5. Why were the two disciples’ eyes kept from recognizing him (just like in Luke 9:45, 18:34 as well)?

6. How would you evaluate the response of Cleopas and the other disciple's response to Jesus' question in v. 19?

7. Look again at verses 25-27. Is Jesus being hard on the disciples? Why or why not?

8. Jesus referred to passages throughout all the Scriptures that were about him. What are some of these passages that he might have referred to?

Read Luke 24:28-35

9. In the final verses, when do the disciples come to recognize Jesus? What part did the Scriptures play in their coming to recognize him (verses 27 and 32)?

10. What do you think it means that their hearts "burned within them" when Jesus opened the Scriptures to them (verse 32)?

11. What do the disciples finally come to understand? How do they respond?

Thinking it Through

12. Why is the resurrection an important piece of God's big picture? Can someone choose to believe in Jesus but not believe in the resurrection?

Application

13. What difference can the reality of Jesus' resurrection make to you each day?

Study 50: “Why The Resurrection?” (Luke 24:36-53)

Getting Started

Have you spoken to any non-Christian about our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ lately?

Digging In

1. In verse 36, Jesus appeared before his disciples and said, “Peace to you!” How did the disciples react and what does it say about the state of their faith? (v37-38)

2. What did Jesus do and say to his disciples to prove that he really is back? (v39-43)

3. Jesus once again explains the scripture to his disciples. Compare this to his explanation on the Emmaus in verses Luke 24:25-27. What are the differences and similarities? (v44-49 cf. Acts 1:3)

4. Jesus focuses on three points in his exegesis.
 - a. Jesus again repeats how his rejection, suffering, death, and resurrection are foretold in scripture. Why? (v46)

 - b. What is the commandment Jesus gave to disciples in verses 47 and 48? Was it shocking to them? (v47-48)

 - c. Why did Jesus ask his disciple to stay in the city until they are ‘clothed with power from on high’? (v49)

5. Jesus continued to bless his church up to the moment he was carried up to heaven. What was his followers reaction? How did it differ from their reaction in the beginning of this passage?

Application

6. In your honest opinion, does our church today bear more similarities to the Disciples in the beginning of Luke 24 or the transformed Apostles at the end? (This is particularly in regard to the Great Commission).

7. How can we be more like the transformed Apostles at the end? What must we change?