

## Study Guide on the Book of Luke

### 1. Background and Overview

#### Author

- Traditionally attributed to Luke, a physician and companion of Paul.
- Also, the author of Acts formed a two-volume work.

#### Audience & Purpose

- Written for Theophilus (Luke 1:1–4), likely a patron or representative Christian reader.
- Aims to provide an orderly, well-researched account of Jesus' life.
- Emphasises Jesus as Saviour for all people, including Gentiles, the marginalised, women, and the poor.

#### Major Themes

- Compassion and mercy of Jesus
- The Holy Spirit
- Reversal of expectations (rich/poor, exalted/humbled)
- Prayer
- Joy and praise
- Universal salvation
- Concern for the outcast

#### Notable Features Unique to Luke

- Longest Gospel (most detailed narrative).
- Most parables—especially about God's mercy.
- Emphasis on prayer (Jesus praying at key moments).
- Focus on women (Elizabeth, Anna, Mary, Martha, the widow of Nain).
- Highlight on Holy Spirit activity.
- Stress on social justice and reversal.

#### Key Characters

- Jesus: compassionate Saviour, guided by the Spirit.
- Mary: highlighted more than in other Gospels; model disciple.
- John the Baptist: forerunner preparing the way.
- The Disciples: learners who sometimes misunderstand.
- The Poor & Outcast: sinners, tax collectors, women, Samaritans.
- Pharisees: often corrected for hypocrisy.

## Important Passages

- Luke 1–2 – Birth narratives
- Luke 4:16–30 – Jesus' mission statement
- Luke 6:20–49 – Sermon on the Plain
- Luke 10:25–37 – Good Samaritan
- Luke 15 – Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Prodigal Son
- Luke 18:9–14 – Pharisee and Tax Collector
- Luke 19:1–10 – Zacchaeus
- Luke 22–24 – Last Supper, Crucifixion, Resurrection

## 2. Study Plan

### Week 1: Luke 1 – 4:13 (Birth Narratives, Preparation for Ministry)

#### Key highlights

- Birth Narratives
- Unique details: Zechariah & Elizabeth, John the Baptist's birth, Mary's Magnificat, angels and shepherds, Jesus in the temple at age 12.
- John the Baptist's ministry
- Jesus' baptism
- Temptation in the wilderness

#### Study Questions

- Why does Luke emphasise his careful investigation?
- What does this introduction tell us about the reliability and purpose of the Gospel?
- How does an "orderly account" strengthen your own faith?
- How do the stories of Elizabeth, Mary, and Zechariah highlight God's work among ordinary people?
- What do Mary's words in the Magnificat reveal about God's character?
- Why does Luke include so much detail about Jesus' early life?
- How do the shepherds and Simeon respond to Jesus' arrival? What can we learn from their reactions?
- What does John the Baptist teach about repentance and readiness for God?
- Why is Jesus' baptism a significant moment?
- What do the temptations in the wilderness reveal about Jesus' mission and priorities?
- How can Jesus' response to temptation guide our own spiritual battles?

## Week 2: Luke 4:14 – 9:50 (Jesus' Ministry in Galilee)

### Key highlights:

- Rejection in Nazareth
- Calling of disciples
- Miracles and healings
- Sermon on the Plain
- Parables like the Sower and the Lamp

### Study Questions

- In Luke 4:16–21, Jesus announces His mission. How would you summarise it in your own words?
- How does Jesus' treatment of the sick, outcasts, and sinners challenge cultural norms?
- What do the early miracles reveal about the kingdom of God?
- How do the parables of this section (e.g., Sower, Lamp) challenge your understanding of faith?
- Why do the disciples struggle to understand Jesus despite seeing His miracles?

## Week 3: Luke 9:51 - 14 (Journey to Jerusalem Part 1)

### Key highlights

- Parable of the Good Samaritan
- Parable of the Barren Fig Tree
- Parable of the Rich Fool

### Study Questions

- Why does Luke deliberately focus on Jesus' "journey" toward Jerusalem?
- What themes of reversal (last/first, rich/poor) stand out to you?
- Parables of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37)
  - How does this parable redefine "neighbour"?
  - What barriers keep us from compassion today?

## Week 4: Luke 15 – 19:27 (Journey to Jerusalem Part 2)

### Key highlights

- Prodigal Son
- Lost Sheep & Lost Coin
- Rich Man and Lazarus
- Pharisee and Tax Collector

## Study Questions

- Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32)
  - Which character do you relate to most—father, younger son, or older son? Why?
  - What does this parable teach about God’s heart?
- Rich Man & Lazarus (Luke 16:19–31)
  - What warnings about wealth and indifference stand out?
  - How does this parable challenge modern attitudes toward poverty?
- Pharisee & Tax Collector (Luke 18:9–14)
  - Why is humility essential for approaching God?
  - How do we fall into the trap of self-righteousness today?
- Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1–10)
  - What does Zacchaeus’ transformation teach about repentance and generosity?

## Week 5: Luke 19:28 – 23:56 (Passion Narrative)

### Key highlights

- Triumphal entry
- Last Supper
- Trial, crucifixion, burial

## Study Questions

- How does Luke portray Jesus’ calmness and compassion during His trial and crucifixion?
- What differences stand out in Luke’s telling of the Last Supper?
- Why is Jesus’ prayer on the cross (“Father, forgive them...”) so significant?
- Which characters respond faithfully? Which do not?
- How does Luke highlight innocence, injustice, and mercy in the Passion?

## Week 6: Luke 24 (Resurrection)

- Empty tomb
- Road to Emmaus
- Appearance in Jerusalem
- Ascension

## Study Questions

- Why is the Road to Emmaus story such a powerful picture of spiritual awakening?
- What does Jesus emphasise in His post-resurrection teaching?

- How does the ascension shape your understanding of Jesus' continued work today?
- What emotions or actions characterise the disciples at the end of the Gospel?
- How has reading Luke changed your view of Jesus?

### Personal Reflection Questions

- What theme in Luke spoke to you the most (mercy, reversal, joy, Holy Spirit, etc.)?
- Which parable challenged you the most—and why?
- How does Luke call believers to live differently today?
- What step of obedience is God inviting you to take based on this study?