

The Gospel of Luke | Summer 2023 Study Guide

the gospel according to

LUKE

We will not be producing new study guides every week for the Luke series during the summer. For those groups that do choose to continue through the summer, please use this guide as a template for discussion.

Summer Challenge

Many of Jesus's challenges in the Gospel of Luke emphasize God's heart for people excluded in this world, and his warnings against allowing the trappings of this world to keep us from entering his kingdom (see Luke 1:52-53, 3:7-14, 4:16-19, 5:31-32, 6:20-26, 8:11-15, 11:39-52, 12:13-21, 14:12-24, 18:18-30, 20:9-16, 21:1-4). How can you use the resources God has given you to bless those in need? How can you arrange your summer to be more available to Jesus' influence in your life?

Begin with Prayer

Beginning with silence, invite the Holy Spirit to guide your time. Consider Mary's prayer: **"I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled"** (Luke 1:38) or Jesus' prayer: **"Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come"** (Luke 11:2).

Reconnecting and Debriefing

Take a few minutes to briefly check in with one another, sharing highs and lows, ways God demonstrated his love or spoke his word, or answers to prayer since you last met.

Listening to God's Word: The Gospel of Luke

According to the ESV Study Bible, "Luke wrote his gospel so that his readers would understand that the gospel is for all, both Jews and Gentiles alike [and especially for the poor, needy and downcast].... Jesus is the promised one of God as prophesied in the OT and as attested through God's saving activity in Jesus' life, death and resurrection! In addition to this, Luke emphasized the truthfulness of the Christian traditions his readers had been taught, so that by believing in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, they would receive the

Date	Scripture	Title
June 26	Luke 14:25-35	The Cost of Being a Disciple
July 2	Luke 15:1-32	The Lost Sheep, Coin, Sons
July 9	Camp Sunday	
July 16	Luke 16:1-9	The Shrewd Manager
July 23	Luke 16:10-18	Kingdom Faithfulness
July 30	Luke 16:19-31	The Rich Man and Lazarus
August 6	Luke 17:1-10	Forgiveness, Faith, Obedience
August 13	Luke 17:11-19	The Thankful One
August 20	Luke 17:20-37	The Coming of the Kingdom
August 27	Luke 18:1-8	The Persistent Widow

promised Holy Spirit whom he gives to all who follow him.... The Gospel of Luke finds its fundamental unity in the person of Jesus Christ and in his mission to seek and to save the lost." As you listen to Luke's witness to Jesus (drawn from many eye-witness accounts), look for themes such as God's sovereignty over history, the coming of the kingdom of God, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the overturning of the world's value systems and power structures, a life of prayer and stewardship, and the danger of riches.

See the Bible Project's excellent summary here: <https://bibleproject.com/learn/luke/>

Option 1: Lectio Divina

Leader: Slowly lead your group through this meditative exercise. DON'T RUSH. Leave periods of silence (i.e. >30 sec) *between each sentence* of instructions. Before you begin, have the group open their Bibles to this week's sermon passage from the Gospel of Luke, or another Scripture of choice.

1. **Ready:** Spend time in silence - long enough to let your mind, breathing and heart rate slow down. Pray silently and simply, in 2-3 words expressing your desire to hear from God. (~ 2 minutes)
2. **Read:** Have someone read the assigned passage slowly, out loud. (~ 3 minutes)
3. **Ruminate:** Individually, silently, slowly and prayerfully re-read the text. (this section ~ 10 minutes)
 - *What word, phrase, image or character catches your attention?*
 - Of this word, phrase, image, character - ask God: "Why do you want me to hear those words?"
 - Then be still and listen. *What ideas, memories, hopes, faces, feelings emerge?*
 - Ask God: "Why did you want me to pay attention to this Scripture and these thoughts?"
 - Then be still and listen. *What insight (idea, feeling, principle) emerges?*

Pause to Share: <i>Invite all to briefly share what they heard in this time.</i>

4. **Respond:** Invite each person, if they are comfortable, to express a brief prayer of response to the insight they sensed – ex. thanksgiving, praise, confession, repentance, request, desire, love.
5. **Rest:** Sit silently in the quiet. Feel God's loving gaze on you. He is happy to be with you. (~2 minutes) Close with a simple, "Amen."

Option 2: Small Group Discussion

Read this week's passage from the Gospel of Luke twice. Then discuss together:

- ***What is your first thought when you read through this passage?***
- Try to imagine the situation (physical, emotional, spiritual) from the perspective of various characters in the story. *Who or what do you relate to in the encounter described here? Why?*
- *What part of this teaching do you find most compelling or relevant to you today?*
- *What questions does this passage of Scripture raise for you?*
- *From this passage, what do we learn about*
 - *Jesus' character, priorities, or practices?*
 - *God and God's kingdom from what Jesus teaches or does?*
 - *our own character, priorities, or desires from this passage?*
- *What is the "good news" in this passage?*
- *What surprises or intrigues you the most about Jesus or Jesus' teachings in this passage?*
- *Are there other stories, teachings or pictures from Scripture that this passage reminds you of?*
- *After reflecting together on this passage, what new insight have you come to?*
- ***How is God speaking to you in this Scripture? How do you intend to respond?***

Caring for One Another

Using **Luke 1:38** or **the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)** as a guide, based on what you've shared together, spend time listening to God and praying for one another.