



FOLLOWING THE
KING

STUDIES IN LUKE 9-19
(Part 2: Luke 14-19)

In this set of studies we dive back into the section of Luke which describes Jesus' journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. The tension between Jesus and the religious leaders continues to grow. The anticipation of what will happen when Jesus finally arrives in Jerusalem also continues to grow. And Jesus' teaching and authority continue to amaze and challenge his hearers. Prepare to continue discovering how extraordinary King Jesus is, how revolutionary His Kingdom is and how blessed we are to be part of it..

As with any study, you'll get the most out of them if you're able to read the relevant passage and answer the questions before your group meets. That will also equip you to best encourage the others in your group with what you say. However, if some weeks you don't get to prepare, please don't use that as an excuse to not go along. Just being there is a great way of showing the group that they're important to you. Plus, the studies are designed to be useful even if you're thinking about them for the first time at your group.

Each study firstly works through the verses (section by section) so as to help build an understanding of what the overall passage means. The study then ends with a "Think it over" section in which practical applications are considered for us as individual Christians, as well as for us as a church family.

Luke 14:1-24

Read Luke 14:1-6

- 1) Why do you think the Pharisees remain silent throughout these verses?

- 2) What does this healing show us about the ever widening gap between Jesus and the Pharisees?

- 3) What do we learn about Jesus in these verses?

Read Luke 14:7-14

- 4) What observation prompts Jesus to say the things he does in this section?

- 5) What advice does Jesus offer the Pharisees in v8-10? What lesson lies behind his advice?

- 6) What advice does Jesus offer the Pharisees in v12-14? What lesson lies behind his advice?

Read Luke 14:15-24

- 7) The circumstances of a parable are always important in understanding the parable. What are the circumstances of this parable?

- 8) How would you describe the guests who were originally invited to the banquet in the parable?

- 9) How would you describe the master of the banquet in the parable?

10) Given its context what do you think is the main lesson of the parable?

11) What seems to be the master's motive for holding the banquet? What does this tell us about God?

Think it over

- List all the things we've discovered about the Kingdom of God in this passage? What difference should they make to our lives?

- In what ways are we at risk of "exalting" ourselves in life? How can we resist the urge to do it?

- What influences us when we choose a place to sit at a social gathering of some kind (e.g., a meal, small group, church)? How should our decision be shaped by the things we've noticed in this passage?

- What is the most comforting or challenging thing you've discovered about Jesus from this passage?

Luke 14:25-35

Read Luke 14.25-27

1) Who is Jesus talking to?

2) What does Jesus say someone must do if they want to be his disciple?

3) What do you think Jesus is getting at in verse 26?¹ Why do you think he phrases it this way?

4) What do we learn about Jesus from these verses?

Read Luke 14.28-33

5) What point is Jesus making with his first story?

6) What point does Jesus make with the second story?

7) How does Jesus apply this to the crowds in verse 33?

¹ You may find it helpful to compare Matthew 10.37, where Jesus says the same thing but phrases it differently.

Read Luke 14.34-35

8) What is the characteristic of "good" salt in this parable?

9) How might the salt end up?

10) How might this apply to being a disciple of Jesus?

Think it over

- "I give generously to church, but I can't share Jesus with my friends." "I can meet with my church family most of the time, but I can't risk my job to be with them." What do you think Jesus would say to those kinds of statements?

- Are there times when you might have to make decisions that put Jesus ahead of your family? What will it look like to be both fully committed to Jesus, and also gracious and kind in our families?

- In what other practical ways does this part of Luke challenge you to be fully committed to following Jesus?

- What is the most comforting or challenging thing you've discovered about Jesus from this study?

Read Luke 15.1-10

- 1) Who is Jesus talking to?

- 2) What is the lesson of the first story?

- 3) What is the lesson of the second story?

- 4) How are these parables an answer to the mumbling of the Pharisees (verse 2)?

Read Luke 15.11-24

- 5) How does the younger son treat his father?

- 6) What do you think of the younger son by the end of verse 16?

- 7) How does the younger son evaluate himself (verses 17-19)?

- 8) How does the father treat his younger son?

- 9) Who of those listening to Jesus does he tell this part of the story for?

Read Luke 15.25-32

10) How does the older son react?

11) How does the father respond to his older son?

12) Who of those listening to Jesus does he tell this part of the story for?

Think it over

- What does this part of Luke teach us about repentance? How does this apply to us?

- Do you identify more with the younger or older son? Why?

- What do we discover about God the Father in these verses?

- What do we discover about Jesus here?

- What is the most comforting or challenging thing you've discovered about Jesus from this passage?

Luke 16:1-15

Read Luke 16.1-9

1) Who is Jesus talking to?

2) What is the manager accused of doing?

3) How does the manager respond to being sacked?

4) How does the master react when he finds out what's happened?

6) How does Jesus apply this story (verse 9)?

Read Luke 16.10-12

7) What is the principle in verse 10?

8) How does Jesus apply the principle in verse 11 and 12?

Read Luke 16.13-15

9) What is the principle in the first half of verse 13?

10) How does Jesus apply the principle in the second half of verse 13?

11) How does Luke describe the Pharisees and their reaction?

12) What does Jesus think about the Pharisees?

Think it over

- Do you think of money as a tool, or a master? What makes it hard not to think of money as a master?

- What do you think Jesus means by using money to 'gain friends' for the sake of the gospel?

- When are you in danger of serving money rather than serving God? What can you do to change this?

- What is the most comforting or challenging thing you've discovered about Jesus from this passage?

Luke 16:16-31

Read Luke 16.16-18

1) Who is Jesus talking to (check verse 14)?

2) How did Israel know how to live 'until John'?

3) How do people know how to live 'since then'?

4) Has the law disappeared completely?

5) How is verse 18 an example of the law² and also a new way of living in the kingdom of God?

Read Luke 16.19-26

6) What happens to the poor man in the story?

7) What happens to the rich man in the story?

8) What does the rich man ask for, and what reply does he get?

² *The Old Testament law permitted divorce in some circumstances, particularly for the protection of women.*

Read Luke 16.27-31

9) What does the rich man ask for next, and what reply does he get?

10) How does verse 31 apply to the Pharisees Jesus is talking to?

11) How does verse 31 explain Jesus' words in verses 16-17?

Think it over

- How does this section build anticipation for Jesus' arrival at Jerusalem?
- How might 'the good life' of riches and wealth distract us from living for Jesus?
- If Jesus is risen from the dead, what ought that convince us to do?
- How can we make sure 'the good news of the kingdom of God' dictates how we live?
- What is the most comforting or challenging thing you've discovered about Jesus from this passage?

Luke 17:1-19

Read Luke 17:1-4

1) What attitude to sin is Jesus wanting to encourage in his disciples?

2) What attitude to forgiveness is Jesus wanting to encourage in his disciples?

3) What does Jesus' teaching show us about our responsibility towards others?

Read Luke 12:5-6

4) What do you think prompts the apostle's question about faith?

5) How does Jesus encourage them in their faith?

6) Does verse 6 imply that God will do *anything* for us if we only have enough faith? How does the context help us understand Jesus' teaching?

Read Luke 12:7-10

7) What attitude is Jesus wanting to encourage in his disciples?

8) What does the parable of the servant shows us about the Kingdom of God?

9) How does this parable challenge the way we often relate to God?

Read Luke 12:11-19

10) In what way does the incident with the ten lepers illustrate Jesus' previous teaching regarding "faith" and "unworthy servants"?

11) What's so significant about the thankful servant being a Samaritan?

Think it over

- How does Jesus' command to forgive 'seven times' challenge our approach to forgiveness?
- How does the parable of the mustard seed inspire your understanding and cultivation of faith?
- How does Jesus' teaching about the dutiful servant shape your understanding of service?
- What do we discover about Jesus from this passage?

Luke 17:20-18:8

Read Luke 17:20-21

1) Given the tension that has existed between the Pharisees and Jesus, what motives might lie behind the Pharisees' question?

2) Jesus tells the Pharisee that the Kingdom is already in their midst (see also Luke 11:20). What does Jesus mean by this?

3) In what ways do you think the Kingdom's arrival was different to people's expectations?

Read Luke 17:22-37

4) Jesus now goes on to explain to his disciples about "the days of the Son of Man." This is most likely a reference to the glorification of Son of Man when he receives authority and power from God (Daniel 7:13-14). What does Jesus say must happen before he comes into his glory?

5) What temptations will the disciples face while they wait for these days?

6) What point does Jesus seem to be making by referring to Noah and Lot? (17:26-29)

7) What point does Jesus seem to be making by referring to Lot's wife? (17:30-36)

8) What does Jesus mean by "losing" our lives? Look back at Luke 9:24.

9) In these verses Jesus could be referring to his return at the end of the ages or else he could be referring to the cross (like in Luke 12). Which do you think? What reasons do you have for concluding this?

Read Luke 18:1-8

10) What seems to be the main point of Jesus' parable?

11) Why do you think Jesus tells this parable when he does?

Think it over

- Why do you think people like the Pharisees were so susceptible to not recognising the kingdom? What warnings are there for us?

- How should 18:1-8 affect what we pray for and how we pray for it?

- What are the main lessons which Jesus wants to teach his disciples in this section? Which of these have most challenged you?

- What is the most important truth you've discovered about Jesus from this passage?

Luke 18:9-43

Read Luke 18:9-14

1) In Jesus' parable, why is the tax collector justified but the Pharisee not?

2) Jesus has already taught that the "humble will be exalted" (eg 14:11). Why do you think this is such an important lesson that he needs to repeat it?

Read Luke 18:15-17

3) What does it mean to "receive the kingdom of God like a little child"?

4) How does Jesus' response to the children exemplify the previous lesson that the "humble will be exalted"?

Read Luke 18:18-30

5) This is not the first time Jesus has been asked the question of, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" What was Jesus answer the previous time? (Look back at 10:25-37).

6) How is Jesus' answer to the rich ruler different? What additional question does this cause the disciples to ask?

7) According to Jesus, how can anyone have eternal life?

8) How does Jesus' teaching highlight the previous lesson that the "humble will be exalted"?

Read Luke 18:31-34

9) Jesus again predicts his suffering, death and resurrection (also 9:21). Why do you think he chooses now to repeat it?

Read Luke 18:35-43

10) What does the blind man get right that the ruler got wrong?

11) How does Jesus' healing of the blind man highlight the previous lesson that the "humble will be exalted"?

Think it over

- In what ways are you tempted to be like the Pharisee or the rich ruler?

- In what ways is this passage a good one to read with a non-Christian?.

- How should the lessons of this section shape the way we treat each other?

- How should the lessons of this section shape the way we live for Jesus?

Luke 19:1-10

Read Luke 19:1-10

- 1) Look up the distance from Jericho to Jerusalem. What expectations does this bring to the text?

- 2) Unlike in the ruler and the blind man in the previous study, Zacchaeus is actually named. Why do you think that is?

- 3) Why do you think Zacchaeus is so interested in Jesus?

- 4) How is Jesus' treatment of Zacchaeus so surprising?

- 5) How is Zacchaeus changed by Jesus' treatment of him?

- 6) What's so significant about Jesus' describing Zacchaeus as "a son of Abraham"?

- 7) How does Jesus describe his mission? Try and write this in your own words.

8) How does Zacchaeus exemplify the lesson in the previous study, that the "humble will be exalted"?

9) What do we learn about Jesus in this study?

Think it over

- How should Jesus' mission shape the way we live?

- In what ways is Zacchaeus' "conversion" story similar to our own?

- Zacchaeus made some radical changes to his lifestyle as a result of being saved. Are there any changes you might need to make?

- Zacchaeus had a few obstacles to seeing Jesus - some were personal (his height) and some were social (the crowd). What barriers keep people from encountering Jesus in our world? How can we help minimise these for others?

Luke 19:11-48

Read Luke 19:11-26

1) This is not the first time people have had strong expectations about the Kingdom of God arriving (compare 19:11 and 17:20). Why do you think this might have been happening?

2) Considering the context of the parable, what do you think is its key lesson?

3) Considering the context of the parable, who do you think Jesus has in mind in verse 27?

Read Luke 19:27-44

4) Why do you think there's so much detail about Jesus riding a colt into Jerusalem? (cf Zechariah 9:9-3)

5) How does the crowd react to Jesus entering Jerusalem? What emotions does this build in the text?

6) How do the Pharisees react to Jesus entering Jerusalem? What emotions does this build in the text?

7) How does Jesus react as he enters Jerusalem? What emotions does this build in the text?

Read Luke 19:45-48

8) Why is Jesus so angry in the temple?

9) Read Jeremiah 7:1-11. How does this passage clarify Jesus' actions?

Think it over

- Jesus has finally arrived at Jerusalem. Imagine you are reading Luke for the very first time. Given the events we have covered in this set of studies, what do you imagine is going to happen?

- Look back over these studies. What has been the most important thing about Jesus that you've discovered (or be reminded of) throughout Luke 14-19.

- Look back over these studies. What has been the most important thing you've discovered about following Jesus?