



# FOLLOWING THE **KING**

STUDIES IN LUKE 9-19  
(Part 1: Luke 9-13)

Luke's Gospel is a wonderful way of discovering Jesus. Luke has done the hard work of researching the history and compiling it into an "orderly account", structuring the narrative to give us clear access to the truth of Jesus.

In this set of studies we'll begin delving into the section of Luke which describes Jesus' journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. This section marks a turning point in Jesus' mission, as he begins to "set his face to go to Jerusalem"—the city in which he knows he will face his crucifixion. We're going to discover a lot about King Jesus, His Kingdom and ourselves.

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 9:51-10:24

### Read Luke 9:51-56

1) Twice we're told that Jesus is now heading for Jerusalem (v51,53). Are there any clues in these verses as to why this is significant?

2) Why do you think Jesus wasn't welcome in the Samaritan village?

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

### Read Luke 9:57-62

4) Luke does not name the three men in these verses. Why do you think Luke tells us about them? What point is being made?

5) What do we learn about Jesus from his interaction with the three men?

### Read Luke 10:1-24

6) What do you think Jesus means when he says "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few"?

7) What message are the seventy-two being sent to preach? Is this a good message or a negative message?

8) Koran, Bethsaida and Capernaum are all towns in Galilee in which Jesus has performed miracles during Luke 3-9. What is Jesus' warning to them?

9) The seventy-two return very excited. In what way does Jesus redirect their enthusiasm?

10) Why does Jesus praise His Father in heaven?

11) According to Jesus, who are blessed?

12) What things do we discover about Jesus in these verses?

**Think it over**

- Looking back over this section of Luke's Gospel it is people's individual and corporate response to Jesus which seems to be the common thread which runs through. In the midst of negative responses and strong words of condemnation Luke highlights Jesus' joy and the disciples privileged position - as those who see, and hear. In what way is our context both similar and different to the disciples?
  
- What can we learn from Jesus' instructions to the seventy-two about our own mission as Christians?
  
- What is the most comforting or challenging thing you've discovered about Jesus from this passage?
  
- In what ways can your small group be involved in the mission of Jesus? Try and be as practical and specific as possible.

## Luke 10:25-37

### Read Luke 10:25-29

1) Who approaches Jesus with a question? Why is he asking it?

2) Why do you think Jesus answers the question with his own question?

3) Based on the man's answer, do you think it is easy or hard to receive eternal life?

4) What is the man's follow-up question? Why do you think he's asking it?

### Read Luke 10:30-37

5) Why do you think the priest and the Levite passed by on the other side of the road? (cf Lev 21:2)

6) Why is the Samaritan such an unexpected helper? (cf Luke 9:51-55)

7) How would you describe the extent of the Samaritan's help?

8) How do you think the expert in the law felt as he answered Jesus' question (verse 36-37)?

9) In what way is Jesus' command in verse 37 an answer to the man's original question?

10) This is one of Jesus' most famous parables? Given it's context, what do you think it's main point is?

**Think it over**

- How does Jesus follow his own advice about being a neighbour?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- In the conversation between the lawyer and Jesus, who is testing whom? What does this tell us about how we should relate to Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How would you apply this parable to your own life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What is the most comforting or challenging thing you've discovered about Jesus from this study?

## Luke 10:38-11:13

### Read Luke 10:38-42

1) Where are Jesus and his disciples on "their way" to? Why do you think Luke wants to remind us of this?

2) What is Martha's mistake?

3) What do we discover about Jesus in these verses?

### Read Luke 11:1-4

4) In Jesus' model prayer, what two concerns related to God come first? Why do you think this is the case?

5) How do the requests in verses 3-4 relate to the God centred concerns of verse 2?

6) What do we discover about Jesus in these verses?

### Read Luke 11:5-10

7) What does this parable teach us about prayer?

8) Given the context of Jesus prayer in verses 2-4, what do you think Jesus has in mind as the object of the disciples' asking, searching, and knocking?

9) How might verses 9-10 be misinterpreted?

**Read Luke 11:11-13**

10) What do these verses tell us about the character of God?

11) Verse 13 is the first time Luke has mentioned the Holy Spirit being given to anyone who asks. In what way is this an exciting new prospect? (If you have time you might like to do a word search on "Holy Spirit" in Luke's gospel)

12) In what ways does this section build anticipation for Jesus' arrival at Jerusalem?

**Think it over**

- In what ways do you sometimes find yourself preoccupied and bothered as Martha was? What are some steps you can take to refocus?
- What main lessons have you learnt about our attitude to prayer? What changes to your prayer life would be good to make?
- What main lessons have you learn about the content of our prayers? What changes to your prayer life would be good to make?
- Does this section of Luke challenge or comfort you? Why?



## Luke 11:14-54

### Read Luke 11:14-28

1) How do people demonstrate they're not seeing or hearing Jesus properly?

2) What is Jesus' main point in the parable about the strong man? (v21-23)

3) What is Jesus' main point in the parable about the evil spirit? (V24-28)

### Read Luke 11:29-36

4) Jesus is now responding to those people asking for a "sign from heaven" (v16). What "sign" does Jesus say is the only one they will be given? And what exactly is that "sign"?

5) What is Jesus' main point in the parable about the lamp? (v33-36)

6) What is Jesus calling on "this generation" of Israelites to do?

### Read Luke 11:37-54

7) What issue causes a stir at dinner? How does Jesus deal with it? How does this issue relate back to the parable of the lamp?

8) What three "woes" does Jesus direct at the Pharisees?

9) What three 'woes' does Jesus direct at the experts in the law? What are the similarities and differences between these and the "woes" directed at the Pharisees?

10) In what way does this section build anticipation for Jesus' arrival at Jerusalem?

**Think it over**

- How do you think this section relates to our current "generation"? How do people misunderstand or falsely accuse Jesus or his followers today?
  
- How should Christ's overpowering of Satan show in our lifestyle?
  
- Are there ways in which we can be hypocrites like the Pharisees? How can we avoid this?
  
- What is the most comforting or challenging thing you've discovered about Jesus from this passage?

## Luke 12:1-34

### Read Luke 12:1-12

- 1) What reason does Jesus give for avoiding hypocrisy?
- 2) What attitudes do you think Jesus is referring to when he uses the word "fear"? (v4-5). Can you think of another suitable word?
- 3) What reason does Jesus give for not being afraid in verse 6-7? How is this a comfort?
- 4) Jesus twice refers to himself as "the Son of Man" in this section. In what ways does this add to the importance of his lesson? (cf Daniel 7: 13-14)

### Read Luke 12:13-21

- 5) In what way is the man in the parable foolish? What is the main point of the parable?
- 6) What issue causes Jesus to tell his parable? How does the parable address this issue?

### Read Luke 12:22-34

- 7) How do these verses build further on the parable of the rich fool?

8) How do these verses grow our understanding of what it means to be “rich towards God”

9) Jesus again tells his followers to not be afraid (look back at verse 7). What new reasons does Jesus now give for not being afraid? How are they similar and/or different from his previous teaching?

10) What things in life reveal “where our heart will be”? Where should our heart be?

**Think it over**

- How can we “be on your guard against all kinds of greed”?
- What are some of the ways we often justify our greed?
- What does “seeking first the kingdom” look like in everyday life?
- What is the most comforting or challenging thing you’ve discovered about Jesus from this passage?

## Luke 12:35-48

### Read Luke 12:35-40

1) In these verses Jesus tells a parable about being "ready." What do you think Jesus wants his listeners to be ready for? List as many traits as you can of the person who is "ready"?

2) List as many traits as you can of the person who is "ready"?

3) How are the ready servants treated when their master arrives? In what way is this a surprise?

4) What is Jesus' point in verse 39?

### Read Luke 12:41-48

5) How would you answer Peter's question in verse 41?

6) What characterises the faithful and wise manager?

7) Why does the servant act the way they do in verse 45? What is their fate?

8) Why does the servant act the way he does in verse 48? What is his fate?

9) Who do you think Jesus has in mind when he speaks of those "who have been entrusted with much"?

10) How is Jesus' parable an answer to Peter's question?

11) How does this section build anticipation for Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem?

**Think it over**

- "These parables sound like we're saved what we do." How might you respond to a comment like that?
  
- As followers of Jesus what have we been given and entrusted with? What responsibilities or duties might therefore be demanded of us?
  
- What is the most comforting or challenging thing you've discovered about Jesus from this passage?

## Luke 12:49-13:21

### Read Luke 12:49-53

1) What two things does Jesus say he has come to do? What do you think these refer to?

2) How does Jesus feel about these two missions?

3) Have we seen any evidence of verses 51 already happening in Luke's gospel so far?

### Read Luke 12:54-59

4) What is so significant about the "present time" for Israel?

5) What signs should Israel be interpreting?

6) What lesson about Jesus should Israel be learning from Jesus' parable in verses 57-59?

### Read Luke 13:1-9

7) What does Jesus want Israel to do? Why?

8) Who do you think the fig tree represents in Jesus' parable? Why?

9) What is the significance of verse 8-9? How might this relate to the "present time" for Israel?

**Read Luke 13:10-20**

8) In what way does the synagogue ruler exemplify the fig tree in the previous parable?

9) The parables of the mustard seed and the yeast both tell us what the Kingdom of God is like. What is the same in each of these parables? What is different?

10) How are these parables exemplified by Jesus' own mission?

11) How does this section build anticipation for Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem?

**Think it over**

- The division Jesus speaks of in verse 55, originally referred to his effect on Israel. Do you think it's also true of our current world? How should we respond to it when it occurs?
- Twice Jesus calls on his listeners to repent in this section. To what extent should we be doing the same? How can we effectively be doing it?
- In what ways can we fall into the same error as the synagogue leader? How can we help each other avoid this?
- What is the most comforting or challenging thing you've discovered about Jesus from this passage?



## Luke 13:22-35

### Read Luke 13:22-30

1) Who is 'in' the Kingdom? Who is excluded?

2) On what basis are people excluded from the Kingdom?

3) In what ways would Jesus' parable be surprising to his Israelite listeners?

4) What does it mean for the "first to be last"?

### Read Luke 13:31-35

5) What is Jesus expecting to happen when he reaches Jerusalem?

6) What does Jesus want for Jerusalem?

7) How is Jesus' warning to Jerusalem a further example of the parable in the previous verses?

8) This section opens and closes with a reference to Jerusalem. In what way does it build anticipation for Jesus' arrival there?

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

**Think it over**

- What do you think is involved in "making every effort to enter through the narrow door"? Try and be specific.
  
- Look back over these studies. What has been the most important thing about Jesus that you've discovered throughout Luke 9-13.
  
- Look back over these studies. What has been the most important thing you've discovered about following Jesus?