

*A Study Guide  
for Listening to and Practicing  
The Gospel of Luke*

Dearest Lighthouse,

As you may already know, my approach to preaching is not about bringing you inspirational messages each Sunday. With the elders, I pray about what book of the Bible the Lord wants to teach us from, in this season of our congregation's life. Whatever book I am preaching is not meant to be pastor's 'Sunday stuff,' but *the book that all of us are studying, praying through, and living out every day*. For some time now, we have been listening to God in the books of Acts and Luke.

I see our Sunday mornings together with our Lord much more like a team practice, than a morning of "Christian" entertainment, or sacred duty. Each book of the Bible becomes a 'playbook' that the Spirit uses to guide us in living for and with our Lord Jesus today, this day. Certainly we gather to God to worship Him. But, if we worship Him and fail to trust and obey His Word during the week, God says 'Don't bother!' (Amos 5:21-24) and 'just close the doors' (Malachi 1:10). We gather together so that we can learn together what it means to both worship Him and follow Him, to serve Him in the congregation. and serve Him in the world.

The study guide that follows is meant to help you in your daily reading, prayer, and living out God's playbook for us in Luke. There are many authors, resources, web-sites, and study guides available to help you understand and apply the Bible. Mine is not better than the rest. Its only advantage is that it is just tailor made for our season in this book, as the Lighthouse.

**Luke 1:1-2:40      The Birth of All God's Promises in Jesus**



In the marvelous opening chapters of Luke we enjoyed the Christmas story. The cynical doubt of Zacharias, and Mary's trust in God's Word, were the contrasts that invited us to trust that Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's Old Testament Promises.

10 Themes surfaced and re-surfaced to focus our faith upon Jesus. These themes will continue to provide us a focused faith in reading the rest of Luke and the book of Acts. Be on the lookout, and let your hearts be open to these 10 realities of life.

1. Jesus Reveals God in All His Glory, to All People
2. Jesus Reveals and Exposes our Hearts & Minds
3. Jesus is The Fulfillment of God's Old Testament Words &  
The Eternal King David Who Brings God's Kingdom!
4. Jesus is Rejected and Opposed by Many
5. Jesus is God's Invitation to Repent of Whatever It Is We Live For Apart From God and His Word: Sin
6. Jesus is God's Invitation to Live and Believe "According to God's Word"
7. Salvation & Peace are Found Only in Jesus

8. Our Lives Can be Filled With the Power and Presence of God the Spirit, through Jesus

9. Jesus: Our Praise & Testimony

10. Status, Justice, Equity, and Power, Belong to the LORD and His Messiah! *Jesus lifts up those who humbly trust Him, and throws down all pride and power that resist and oppose Him.*



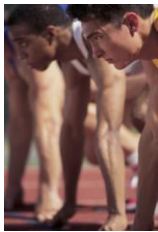
**2:41-4:41 Is this really the Son of God? Yes, He is God's Isaiah Promise to Bring Good news, Healing, & Restoration**

Notice the question that ties these many different scenes together: '...is Jesus really the Son of God?' The question is stated in many ways. Mary has to wrestle with this. Satan taunts God's Son. The crowds have to decide if they are hearing God's Word from God's Son, and seeing the hand of God in His healing, or if this is just Joseph's son, whom they can take or leave. We have to decide as well.



**4:42-9:50 Messiah Calls and Sends Disciples to Bring Good News, Healing, and Restoration of the Kingdom of God**

What does it mean to follow Jesus? What does it mean to be sent by Jesus? Who is this Jesus?



**9:51-19:48 The Son of Man Journeys to Jerusalem**

- lifting up and casting down all in his path
- to bring good news, healing, and restoration: The Kingdom of God
- Promising his disciples He will accomplish all this through suffering and resurrection.

Pay attention to how Luke leads us from place to place, with Jesus, en-route to Jerusalem. It begins with occasional references. By chapter 18, every step brings us closer to Jerusalem and the cross. Pay attention to who Jesus lifts up, who he casts down, and why. Pay attention to what it means to follow and be sent by Jesus.



**20:1-24:12 Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Messiah, as It Was Written!**

The significance of the Temple, the meaning of the Passover feast, the hope of the LORD's coming on the final day: all of this and more is wrapped up in the suffering and rising of Jesus, the Messiah, as it was written.



**24:1-53 The Culmination of God's Plan in Jesus**

Messiah explains His life, death, and resurrection are God's Old Testament plan. Jesus then sends His disciples out...

- as witnesses to all people
- so that they repent from their sin and follow Jesus
- promising the presence and empowerment of God the Spirit to disciples

### Seeing the building blocks of Luke's Gospel

When we are reading and praying our way through the Gospels (Matthew Mark, Luke, and John) it is helpful to break the book down into scenes, like in a movie. A scene in a movie or book happens in one location with one set of characters and one small plot, or issue. When the camera (or our minds eye, in the case of a book...) moves out of the kitchen and focuses on a different character in the barn, or when a new issue or problem pops up as the characters sit down for a meal, we are in a new scene. Scenes are the lego-like building blocks of books and movies. If you pay attention to the main point of each scene, and the big picture that connects them, you will be catching the most important things the God is saying to us in the Gospels.

Below, you will find the scenes of the 4<sup>th</sup> section of Luke's Gospel broken down for you. In the space you are provided...

- *Underline or write out* one or two sentences in the scene that summarize or capture what the scene is all about.
- *Note* what this scene is revealing about Jesus.
- Pay attention to what this scene is revealing about people. Luke will do this through the characters. Some characters will show who you and I are when we are at our worst, while others invite us to be at our best, humbly trusting and following Jesus. *Note what God is inviting you and I to repent from, and what He is inviting you and I to become, in Jesus.*
- *Pray* about what all of this has to do with your life. Pray alone and with other followers of Jesus. Pray for your family and friends and congregation and community and country and world, in regards to what God is teaching you through His Son and His Word.

### Praying and Practicing through Luke's Gospel

**Luke 9:51-56** (example) Jesus response and words seem to summarize His perspective in this conflicted situation. He rebukes their attitude and says "...did not come to destroy... but to save."

Jesus is determined to go to Jerusalem and suffer! He sends His disciples with His ministry and does not just have them follow Him around. Jesus is loving to even those who reject His salvation.

We people can reject Jesus, reject his messengers, and be spiteful and mean when we are rejected. We can also be corrected by Jesus.

*I might pray first about my own attitude. Am I spiteful and mean to people who reject me and Jesus? Who would I rather call fire down on than risk reaching out to in the community? Am I glad to be corrected by Jesus? Have I rejected Jesus, or am I going with Him, wherever He goes, to bring His good news? I might pray that God would let me appreciate who Jesus is, not who I want Him to be. If I really appreciate Jesus' passionate love and determination to go to the lost, and the way He involves disciples like me in His mission, I will be changed. I will share His passionate love and determination and I will go with Him, loving those who reject me, to bring His Kingdom to all.*

*I might pray for my family in these regards, and my church, and my community. Who am I being sent to?*

(T: this T in parenthesis below appears each time Luke moves us closer to Jerusalem, by giving us names of towns and places along the way)

9:57-62

10:1-11 (T)

10:12-16 (T)

10:17-24

10:25-37

10:38-42 (T)

11:1-13

11:14-26

11:27-28

11:29-32

11:33-54

12:1-12

12:13-48

12:49-53

12:54-59

13:1-9

13:10-17

13:18-21

13:22-31 (T)

14:1-24

14:25-35

15:1-32

16:1-13

16:14-31

17:1-10

17:11-19 (T)

17:20-37

18:1-14

18:15-30

18:31-34 (T)

18:35-43 (T)

19:1-10 (T)

19:11-27 (T)

19:28-36 (T)

19:37-40 (T)

19:41-44 (T)

19:45-48 (T)

