

UNEXPECTED
beginnings

Gospel of
LUKE
EPISODE I

How to use this book



Personal Devotions

- Use this book to help you read your Bible every day. You will find a guide that will help you read through scriptures related to themes in our sermon series. Scribble down your thoughts and questions, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His Word. Additionally we've recommended a verse to memorise each week.
- We have also suggested 'songs of the week'. So listen on Spotify by searching for the Church by the Bridge and St Augustine's playlist.
- Please make note of and pray too, for the mentioned 'what's on' events each week.



Connect Groups

- Take this guide with you to your Connect Group each week. There are Bible Studies based on each Sunday's Bible talk theme and space to write down both prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.



Church

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

Dear Church by the Bridge & St Augustine's,

Jesus said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to other towns also, because that is why I was sent" (Luke 4:43).

I am so excited to begin a series on the Gospel of Luke (which we'll come back to later next year) because my deepest desire is for all of us to know Jesus better, to understand why He came, to see all the people's lives that were changed and challenged by their interactions with Jesus, and to see how God might transform our church as each of us encounter Jesus in a fresh way. We've called our sermon series 'Unexpected' because Jesus was not the Messiah that the people expected – He was born to an unexpected young woman, He chose unexpected people to be His disciples, He interacted with unexpected people that the world often ignores (the outcast, the sick, the marginalized), He treated the 'religious' people with unexpected disdain and He ultimately suffered a cruel and unexpected death. So our prayer is that we see God work in unexpected ways as we dig into Luke's gospel.

So much of what God has been doing in our church has been 'unexpected' this year – yet how good it is to look back in gratitude and praise. To name but a few things:

- The number of people who have met Jesus through the Alpha Course & the Christianity Explored courses;
- The fact that we now have regular Farsi speakers in church & in Explore courses;
- New people who are joining all our congregations every single week;
- Bible studies being formed out of Everyday English & Explore;
- Playtime in both Kirribilli & Neutral Bay being packed with guests every week;
- Our Ignite youth group attracting more & more people;
- Ministry to the elderly at James Milson Village & Lansdowne Gardens;
- People praying fervently & praising God for answered prayer;
- Stories of our mission partners growing in faith & seeing others come to faith;
- The reality that every Sunday we now have 8 services, with over 150 servant hearted volunteers who make that happen;
- Excellent Men's & Women's events, with inspiring Bible teaching & genuine fellowship;
- Seeing God's Spirit at work as Job was preached, equipping people in suffering & enabling us to care for those people better.

It's hard to believe we are at Term 4 – and Christmas is around the corner! But here are some things to look forward to:

- 6pm church at Neutral Bay starting on Sunday 14th October! Please pray for God's Spirit to draw many new people to this gathering;
- Many outreach opportunities for Men (Golf), Women (Christmas events), Kids (Mini World Cup) & the broader community (Christmas Community Choir) etc;
- All the Christmas Services – both in Kirribilli & Neutral Bay, as well as at Greenway & our Retirement Villages;
- Carols under the Bridge & Carols in the Bay;
- Free Christmas Lunch; &
- All our regular church events (e.g. Connect Groups, Christianity Explored, Kids & Youth).

Please do pray that we would be a church that loves Jesus, loves others, seeks to grow in our godliness and our prayerfulness, and eager to do good to all people!

Rachel and I are thankful for this privilege of serving the saints, and we crave your prayers.

God has been exceedingly gracious to us this year – so let's give Him all the glory.

With love in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P Dale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Paul Dale
(Senior Pastor)

Overview of Luke

Luke is one of the four gospel accounts in the Bible that detail the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus (the others being Matthew, Mark and John).

In many ways it is similar to the other gospels, in that it contains many of the same parables, miracles and the inevitable ending (Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection). Mark is particularly identified as a major source for Luke. In addition to the similar stories and miracles, the structure of the book bears striking resemblance to Mark.

Yet, Luke is unique and worth being studied independently from the other gospels. It is the longest gospel (1151 verses, compared with Matthew with 1071 verses, John 879 and Mark 678) and therefore includes parables and miracles that the other gospels do not. It is also the only gospel that comes with a companion second volume written by the same author – the Book of Acts. Acts continues the story beyond Jesus' ascension and the subsequent spread of the gospel through His apostles.

Many people describe Luke as a historical biography. Given the meticulous and precise way in which Luke records these events and the long infancy narrative detailing the birth and childhood of Jesus (Mark and John omit Jesus' birth altogether and begin their accounts with Jesus' baptism), it is easy to see why people view it in this way.

But Luke is much more than a historical biography. It shows that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises (Luke 1:1), who has come to proclaim good news (Luke 4:18). Those reading Luke are not to read it only to glean information about Jesus, but they are to "know the certainty of the things [they] have been taught (1:4)". Luke is "both theology and history. It is written not only to instruct but also to exhort." (Bock)

Luke is a historian, theologian and pastor, who wrote so that the reader may come to know and to love our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and God who sent Him.

AUTHOR & DATE OF WRITING

Luke has been traditionally identified as the author of both Luke and Acts. Although not a direct eyewitness to Jesus' life and resurrection, it is clear that he had access to those who were. It is thought that Luke was a travel companion of Paul, accompanying him on many of his missionary journeys and was a doctor (see Col 4:14).

There are many opinions on when Luke might have been written, ranging from 60AD to late 80AD. Given that Mark is a major source for Luke and the commonly accepted date for Mark is in the early 60s, many scholars hold a mid to late 60AD dating for Luke. This would mean that many eyewitnesses to Jesus ministry and

crucifixion would have been alive and available to give their own accounts to Luke.

This is a very small gap between a person's life and recording of their life according to ancient scholarship standards. It would be the equivalent of us attempting to write a biography of John Lennon, if we wanted to take a modern example. We would be confident that it could be an interesting and accurate account. Lennon's family, some of his former band mates and many of his friends, with memories to recall, are alive and available for interviews for a comprehensive account. In comparison, earliest accounts of Julius Caesar's life are from 900AD, nearly 1000 years after his death.

THEMES

God's Promises Fulfilled

The Old Testament had generated big hopes about the coming of the Saviour. By referencing these promises and themes, Luke repeatedly shows that Jesus was the one that fulfilled these big expectations. Whilst recording the reactions of those that rejected Jesus, Luke also took care to show that the righteous Israelites found Jesus to have matched their hopes (e.g. Anna and Simeon). But he did not wish for those recognising Jesus to stop there – he expected them to go on and bear witness about Jesus and God's promises that were fulfilled in him.

Jesus and Salvation

Luke portrays Jesus as God's chosen king, promised saviour and perfect sacrifice, who brings the forgiveness of sins. Those who recognise Jesus' authority are shown to have entered into God's Kingdom and received eternal life.

New Community

In His ministry, Jesus is shown to overturn the conventions of His time, by spending time with the spiritually and materially poor. Instead of shunning the tax collectors, physically ill, demon possessed and women (including widows), Jesus is shown to repeatedly praise them and their response to Him. In contrast, Jesus is often impatient and angered by the socially important Pharisees and the Scribes. In doing so, Jesus shows that spiritual wealth has eternal significance, whilst material wealth and significance is finite.

STRUCTURE

Luke 1:1 - 4:13 Introducing Jesus

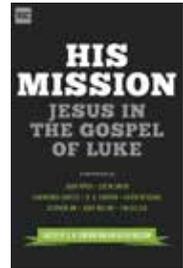
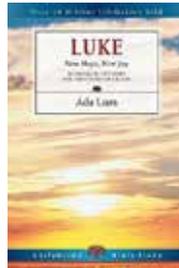
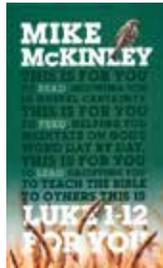
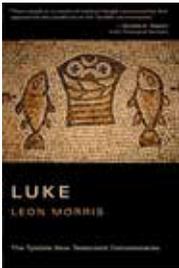
Luke 4:14 - 9:50 Jesus' Galilean Ministry

Luke 9:51 - 19:44 Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem aka 'Travel Narrative'

Luke 19:45 - 21:38 Jesus' Ministry in Jerusalem

Luke 22 - 24 Jesus' Death and Resurrection in Jerusalem

HELPFUL RESOURCES:



1. Luke (Leon Morris)
2. Luke 1–12 for You (Mike McKinley)
3. Luke Bible studies (Ada Lum) – Biblestudies
4. His Mission: Jesus in the Gospel of Luke (Don Carson)

www.wire.com

\$10

**GOOD
NEWS
IS COMING**



Sermon 1

Luke 1:1-38

SERMON NOTES:

Sunday 14th October

WEEK BEGINNING:

Monday 15th October

Songs for the week:

Praise the King

Look and See

Bible readings:

Monday: Luke 1:1-4

Tuesday: Luke 1:5-17

Wednesday: Luke 1:18-25

Thursday: Luke 1:26-38

Friday: Luke 1:1-38

Memory verse:

"I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." (Luke 1:3-4)

What's on:

Wed 17th: New Mums Group

Thu 18th: Men's Golf Day

Thu 18th: Raising Resilient Parents Course Commences (wk 1 of 4)

Fri 19th: Refresh: Women's Half Day of Prayer

Sat 20th: Monthly Prayer Breakfast

Bible study 1

Big Idea:

Prophecies are coming true! But do you believe it?

Kick Off:

Miracle time! Share a story of when you noticed God's intervention in your life. How did this grow your view of God?

READ Luke 1:1-38

1. God chose this elderly couple for an extraordinary job. What do you think God's reasons for choosing them are? V5-10

2. Are you sympathetic or critical of Zechariah's response? Why do you feel that way?

3. Compare and contrast Mary and Zechariah's responses.

4. Zechariah and Mary expressed their hope in God differently. How have their interactions with God given you hope as you also seek to trust God totally?



Sermon 2

Luke 1:39-80

SERMON NOTES:

Sunday 21st October

WEEK BEGINNING:

Monday 22nd October

Songs for the week:

God, You're So Good

O Praise the Name

Bible readings:

Monday: Luke 1:39-45

Tuesday: Luke 1:46-56

Wednesday: Luke 1:57-66

Thursday: Luke 1:67-80

Friday: Luke 1:39-80

Memory verse:

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my savior,
for He has been mindful of the humble state of his servant."

(Luke 1:46-47)

What's on:

Mon 22nd: Belonging Course Commences (wk 1 of 3)

Mon 22nd: Christianity Explored Course Commences (wk 1 of 6)

Thu 25th: Raising Resilient Parents Course Continues (wk 2 of 4)

Bible study 2

Big Idea:

Songs to the LORD. Have you ever written a song to Him?

Kick Off: Share your favourite song. It doesn't have to be Christian. What makes it great to you?

READ Luke 1:39-56

1. From Mary's song of response, how does your concept of God compare with hers?
2. Chat about what God has done according to Mary. i.e. who are the rulers, humble, poor etc. Do you believe this?

READ Luke 1:57-80

3. What do you think Luke's purpose is in recording these songs?

4. Note the differences in lyrics between Mary and Zechariah's songs. Do you resonate with one or the other more? Consider writing a few lines to God now reflecting on your relationship to Him.



Sermon 3

Luke 2

SERMON NOTES:

Sunday 28th October

WEEK BEGINNING:

Monday 29th October

Songs for the week:

Oh Praise (the Only One)

Rejoice

Bible readings:

Monday: Luke 2:1-12

Tuesday: Luke 2:13-21

Wednesday: Luke 2:22-35

Thursday: Luke 2:36-40

Friday: Luke 2:41-52

Memory verse:

“Do not be afraid! I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11)

What's on:

Mon 29th: Belonging Course Continues (wk 2 of 3)

Mon 29th: Christianity Explored Course Continues (wk 2 of 6)

Wed 31st: All Hallows Eve Family Celebration

Thu 1st: Raising Resilient Parents Course Continues (wk 3 of 4)

Sat 3rd: Kids Mini World Cup Soccer

Bible study 3

Big Idea:

Baby born to young couple. They say He is extra ordinary, a child of hope!

Kick Off: Christmas is full of many things thanks to our wallets and advertising! What do you like most about Christmas?

The Bible Project video on Luke 1-2: <https://thebibleproject.com/videos/gospel-luke-1/>

READ Luke 2:1-21

1. Luke's account of Jesus' birth reads like a newspaper article. What impression does it leave with you?

2. Talk about the character qualities that you notice in Joseph, Mary and the Shepherds.

READ Luke 2:22-40 & 41-52

3. Either together or in teams for each section, discuss your thoughts on Luke's purpose for including these passages. What do we learn about Jesus?
4. Do you feel encouraged by Jesus childhood? How might these events change the way you share the gospel?



Sermon 4

Luke 3

SERMON NOTES:

Sunday 4th November

WEEK BEGINNING:

Monday 5th November

Songs for the week:

O Come to the Altar

Jesus Paid it All

Bible readings:

Monday: Luke 3:1-6

Tuesday: Luke 3:7-14

Wednesday: Luke 3:15-20

Thursday: Luke 3:21-38

Friday: Luke 3:1-38

Memory verse:

“The Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:22)

What's on:

Mon 5th: Belonging Course Concludes (wk 3 of 3)

Mon 5th: Christianity Explored Course Continues (wk 3 of 6)

Tue 6th: Thanksgiving & Vision Prayer Meeting (Neutral Bay)

Wed 7th: Thanksgiving & Vision Prayer Meeting (Kirribilli)

Thu 8th: Raising Resilient Parents Course Concludes (wk 4 of 4)

Bible study 4

Big Idea:

A new era of salvation and guidance has begun!

Kick Off: When was the first time you deeply repented of your sin and then knew God's forgiveness?

READ Luke 3:1-20

1. Some think that talk about repentance is negative. But by insisting on it, John is a positive preacher of hope. What connection can you see between repentance and hope?
2. There are 3 responses to John's appeal. In all cases, what basic sin is he attacking?



Sermon 5

Luke 4

SERMON NOTES:

Sunday 11th November

WEEK BEGINNING:

Monday 12th November

Songs for the week:

O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer
Who You Say I Am

Bible readings:

Monday: Luke 4:1-13

Tuesday: Luke 4:14-30

Wednesday: Luke 4:31-37

Thursday: Luke 4:38-44

Friday: Luke 4:1-44

Memory verse:

Jesus said "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to other towns also, because that is why I was sent." (Luke 4:43)

What's on:

Mon 12th: Christianity Explored Course Continues (wk 4 of 6)

Sat 17th: Refresh: Women's Half Day of Prayer

Sat 17th: Monthly Prayer Breakfast

Bible study 5

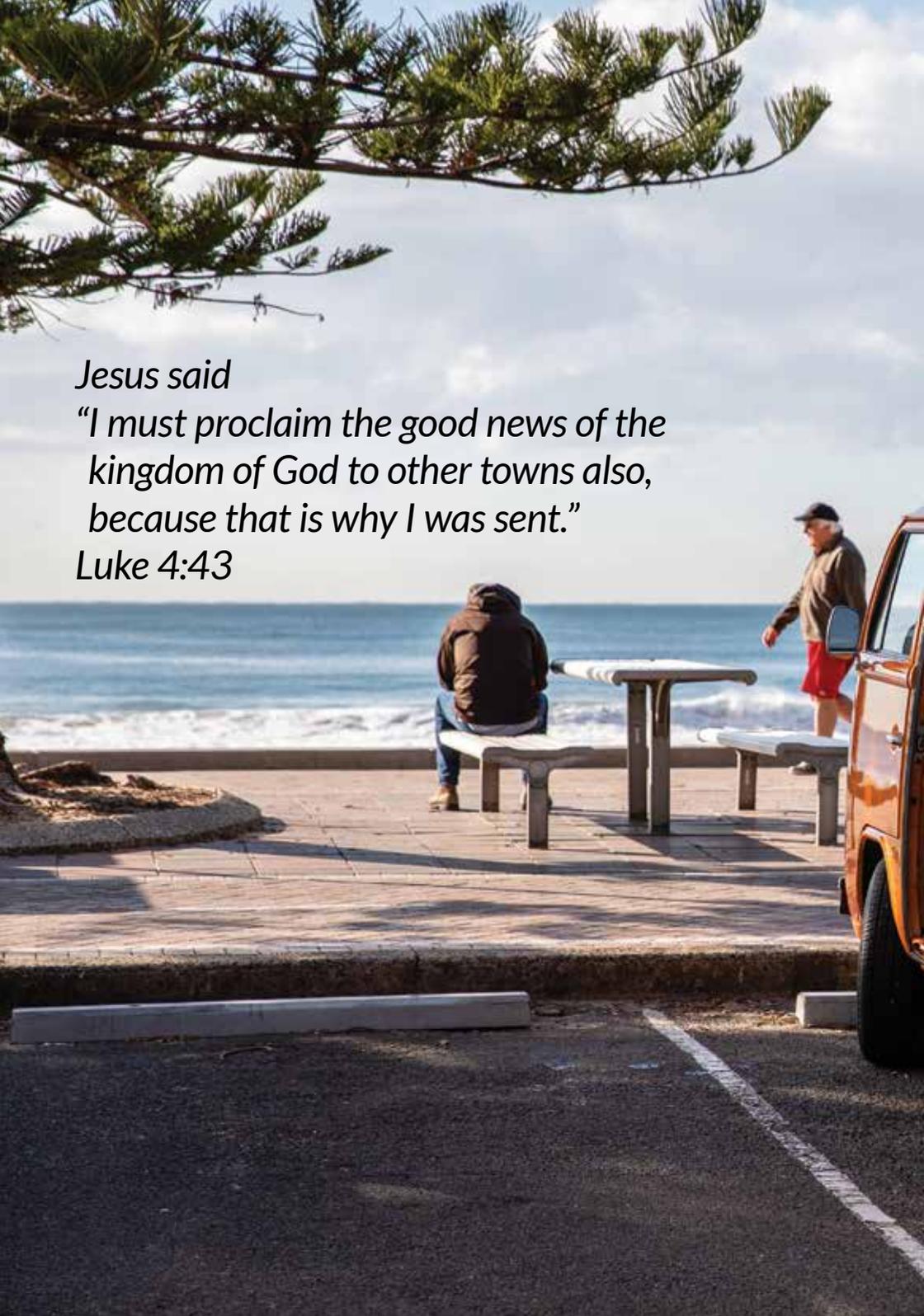
Big Idea: A busy life in ministry!

Kick Off: Would you consider Jesus a workaholic? Are you happy with the time and energy you give to God's kingdom?

The Bible Project video on Luke 3-9: <https://thebibleproject.com/videos/gospel-luke-2/>

READ Luke 4:31-44

1. Was it Jesus' goal to just heal as many people as He could on earth? Why was He healing people?

A photograph of a coastal scene. In the foreground, a person wearing a brown jacket and blue jeans sits on a concrete bench, looking out at the ocean. To the right, another person in a brown jacket and red shorts walks past. A portion of an orange car is visible on the far right. The background shows the ocean with white waves under a cloudy sky. A large pine branch hangs from the top left corner.

*Jesus said
"I must proclaim the good news of the
kingdom of God to other towns also,
because that is why I was sent."
Luke 4:43*



XWX 044

VICTORIA - THE PLACE TO BE



Sermon 6

Luke 5

SERMON NOTES:

Sunday 18th November

WEEK BEGINNING:

Monday 19th November

Songs for the week:

God, You're So Good

What a Beautiful Name

Bible readings:

Monday: Luke 5:1-11

Tuesday: Luke 5:12-16

Wednesday: Luke 5:17-26

Thursday: Luke 5:27-32

Friday: Luke 5:33-39

Memory verse:

"But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." (Luke 5:24)

What's on:

Mon 19th: Christianity Explored Course Continues (wk 5 of 6)

Wed 21st: New Mums Group

Sat 24th: Christmas Community Choir

Sun 25th: Christmas Appeal launch

Bible study 6

Big Idea:

Jesus has authority to summon sinners to service.

Kick off: What do the people of Sydney think is their own greatest need? What do you think is yours?

1. Why does Jesus say He has come in 4:43? What about in verse 5:32? How do these fit together?

READ Luke 5:1-16

2. List the steps through which Jesus takes Simon Peter to persuade him to leave everything and follow him. At which step can you identify with Simon Peter and why?

3. Does the truth that Jesus uses sinful people to accomplish His purposes encourage you; challenge you; or both? What would change if you lived in light of this truth?

READ Luke 5:17-26

4. What does Jesus think is people's greatest need?

5. Why are the Pharisees and teachers of the law so upset? In what way is their concern right, and in what way is it terribly wrong?

6. What difference does it make to the way you look at your day today, to know that your greatest need (forgiveness of sins) if you trust in Christ, has already been met?



Sermon 7

Luke 6

SERMON NOTES:

Sunday 25th November

WEEK BEGINNING:

Monday 26th November

Songs for the week:

Lord of Lords

Only a Holy God

Bible readings:

Monday: Luke 6:1-11

Tuesday: Luke 6:12-26

Wednesday: Luke 6:27-36

Thursday: Luke 6:37-42

Friday: Luke 6:43-49

Memory verse: "For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."
(Luke 6:45)

What's on:

Mon 26th: Christianity Explored Course Concludes (wk 6 of 6)

Sun 2nd: Baptism Sunday

Bible study 7

Big Idea:

Following Jesus should produce godly fruit and character.

Kick off: "I can love Jesus but it does not mean much changes in the way I live my life." Respond.

READ Luke 6:17-49

1. If you had to group together Jesus' teaching in this passage into a few big points, what would they be?

2. Which of these challenges you the most?

3. God is ultimately interested in how our character is being molded. How do the illustrations about the tree and the builders reflect this?

4. Which one do you find more helpful? Why and how?

5. Are there areas in your life that you are living out verse 46? How do you need to change?

6. Jesus' high standard for His followers clash with our me-first human nature. How can this passage give you hope that you can maintain His standards?



Sermon 8

Luke 7

SERMON NOTES:

Sunday 2nd December

WEEK BEGINNING:

Monday 3rd December

Songs for the week:

Where Can I Look

Jesus is Better

Bible readings:

Monday: Luke 7:1-10

Tuesday: Luke 7:11-17

Wednesday: Luke 7:18-35

Thursday: Luke 7:36-50

Friday: Luke 7:1-50

Memory verse:

Jesus said to the women, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

(Luke 7:50)

What's on:

Wed 5th: Belonging Course Commences

Wed 5th: Monthly Central Prayer Meeting

Thu 6th & Fri 7th: Gingerbread House Decorating Women's Events (Kirribilli)

Thu 6th & Fri 7th: Christmas Wreath Making Women's Events (Neutral Bay)

Sat 8th: Working Bees

Sat 8th: Christmas Appeal Collection Day

Sun 9th: James Milson Retirement Village Carols & Afternoon Tea

Bible study 8

Big Idea:

Identifying Jesus Christ's true identity moves you from unbelief to belief.

Kick off: For you, what is faith?

READ Luke 7

1. As news spreads about Jesus, what do the disciples and the crowds think He is doing at this point of Luke's gospel?

2. Look up Isaiah 35:5-10. What does God promise through the prophet Isaiah in these verses? What, then, is John the Baptist asking in Luke 7:19?



Sermon 9

Luke 8

SERMON NOTES:

Sunday 9th December

WEEK BEGINNING:

Monday 10th December

Songs for the week:

God, You're So Good

Only a Holy God

Bible readings:

Monday: Luke 8:1-15

Tuesday: Luke 8:16-21

Wednesday: Luke 8:22-25

Thursday: Luke 8:26-39

Friday: Luke 8:40-56

Memory verse:

"Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him." Luke 8:25

What's on:

Sat 15th: Monthly Prayer Breakfast

Sat 15th: Carols under the Bridge

Sun 16th: Carols in the Bay

Bible study 9

Big Idea:

Hear the word of God and hold it fast!

Kick off: What one or two factors most influenced your initial response to Christianity?

READ Luke 8:1-3

1. Luke tells us about Jesus' radical departure from tradition: women are beginning to travel with His band of disciples. What are your observations about these women?

READ Luke 8:4-15

2. In the parable, the scattered seeds are the same, but the results vary. Describe the different results. Which of the four soils most nearly describes you?

3. All the “seeds” began by listening to the word of God, what are they listening to now?

- The seed along the path
- The seed in the rocky soil
- The seed amongst the weeds
- The seed in the good soil

4. Reread verse 15. What most helps you to retain God’s message and persevere?



Sermon 10

Luke 9

SERMON NOTES:

Sunday 16th December

WEEK BEGINNING:

Monday 17th December

Songs for the week:

Build My Life

The Lion and the Lamb

Bible readings:

Monday: Luke 9:1-17

Tuesday: Luke 9:18-27

Wednesday: Luke 9:28-43

Thursday: Luke 9:43-50

Friday: Luke 9:51-62

Memory verse:

"But what about you?" he asked 'Who do you say I am?' Peter answered "God's Messiah." (Luke 9:20)

What's on:

Thu 20th: Lansdowne Gardens Carols

Sun 23rd: Carols in Church

Sun 23rd: Greenway Christmas Service & Lunch

Bible study 10

Big Idea:

The mission of Jesus is to call us to Him, and call us to call others to Him.

Kick off: Think of a time when you had to get off the fence and when you stayed on. What was different between the two experiences?

READ Luke 9:1-17

1. Now that His followers have confessed Jesus as the Christ, what's next?
2. What of Jesus' commission and instruction are especially relevant for evangelism and mission today? Which seem irrelevant or impractical?

3. Why are the disciples reluctant to feed the hungry crowd?

4. What is the significance of Jesus' statement in verse 13: "You give them something to eat"?

5. The importance of this miracle is seen in the fact that it is the only miracle, apart from Jesus' resurrection, to be recorded in all four gospels. What does it teach us about Jesus and his power?

6. Jesus is training these Twelve to carry on his world mission. What aspect of this training would benefit you?

Bible studies particularly referenced from Luke by Ada Lum and Luke for you 1-12 by Mike McKinley.

Personal Reflection

How has our series on Luke changed your view of:

- *God – Father, Son & Spirit?*
- *Yourself?*
- *The world in which we live?*

*What is one area you have changed?
(in your thinking or actions)*

What is one question that you still have?

NOTES:

NOTES:

LIVING FOR
JESUS
LOVING LIKE
JESUS

KNOWING **CHRIST** & MAKING HIM KNOWN **TOGETHER**



CHURCH BY THE BRIDGE

Kirribilli

cibt.org.au



ST AUGUSTINE'S

Neutral Bay

neutralbay.church