

# Luke Part 3



# background: read this stuff before you begin

## WELCOME TO ROOTWORKS

This guide is my gift to you to help you study the Bible. This may not seem like an expensive gift, but the treasures you will learn from studying God's Word will be priceless. I'm thrilled that you want to study the Bible! One of my greatest joys is to see students reading and learning from God's Word. Thank you for bringing me joy!

### What does RootWorks mean?

I made up the name RootWorks from one of my favorite passages. It's Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT) which reads:

*And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to live in obedience to Him. **Let your roots grow down into Him and draw up nourishment from Him**, so you will grow in faith, strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with thanksgiving for all He has done.*

As you can read from the passage, maturity in one's relationship with God requires nourishment. The imagery in this passage suggests that our spiritual roots must grow deep so that we'll continue in our vital relationship with God. This type of growth requires putting our ROOTS to WORK. Get it?

### Why do RootWorks? Why not just attend another Bible Study?

The reason I've put this notebook together is because I want you to learn how to study the Bible through reading and asking questions. It would be easy for you to find a weekly Bible study where you become comfortable attending and digging into God's Word. Chances are, you would go to Bible study, sit, and listen to someone else teach. While this is good, it's definitely not best for long-term maturity. You need to learn to study the Bible on your own. I want you to develop the habit of studying God's Word.

### How long will RootWorks take to finish?

The answer to this question depends on how much thought you give to answering the questions. The questions are not intended to be "raced through." Your goal shouldn't be speed; it should be comprehension and personal application. As a general rule, each lesson should take thirty to forty-five minutes.

### **How often should I complete a lesson?**

This depends upon you . . . upon how often you decide to sit down and work through this material. The idea would be to keep consistent. You don't want to do too much too fast and get burned out or tired. At the same time, you don't want to answer one question a month—this will break up the continuity and the cohesiveness of the lesson, and you'll be 35 years old by the time you finish.

### **What do I do when I finish all five lessons?**

Celebrate! You will have worked hard to reach this goal. Chances are you'll have some questions. If you're not in a small group I'd love to meet with you for a few minutes to hear those questions as well as what you learned as a result of your study (if you're in a small group, get together with your leader). When you're ready for the next RootWorks notebook let me know.

### **What if I don't know an answer for a specific question?**

Keep going. Don't let it discourage you. I would be surprised if you didn't have some questions that "stump" you. Give it some good thought and then skip it if you don't know the answer.

### **What Bible translation should I use?**

You can use just about any translation Bible and still be able to figure out the questions. When I wrote the questions I was using the NCV translation since that is the translation we hand out when you visit FIRE & WATER for the first time.

If this translation talk is confusing, don't worry about it. Basically, when the Bible was written 2,000 plus years ago, it was written in (mostly) Hebrew. The Bible you own has been translated from its original language into English so you can read and understand it. (If you think economics is tough, you should try Hebrew.) Have you ever noticed that you use some words differently than the ways your parents use those same words? After a time, words simply change their meaning; therefore, we have different translations of the Greek and Hebrew. Imagine the change that would happen over 400 years! That was when the King James Version was written—and that is why some of the language sounds so weird.

### **Should I also write in my own Bible during this study?**

Yes! I hope you will write notes in the margin of your Bible, underline key verses, and watch your Bible become a friend that is waiting to tell you more about God and His desires for your life.

## **What are the other HABITS I should be developing?**

Great question! (Thanks, I wrote it.) One of the many goals in our ministry is to help committed students develop HABITS necessary for continual spiritual growth. We've identified these habits and created some tools (like RootWorks) to assist you in developing these habits:

**H**ang time with God

**A**ccountability (with another believer)

**B**ible memorization

**I**nvovement with the church body

**T**ithing commitment

**S**tudy the Bible

Many other tools such as Scripture Memorization cards and Hang Time Journals are available in the student lounge for you to take (they're free!)

### **The Author: Luke**

Seeing as the book's full title is "The Gospel According to Luke", it should be pretty obvious who the author is. Luke was a doctor that lived around the time of Jesus. He lived in the Greek city of Antioch, a fair ways away from Israel where Jesus' ministry took place. So when writing this gospel, Luke had to do a little research.

Because he was not from Israel it is thought Luke may be a Gentile (someone who is not Jewish). Either way, we know he eventually got together with some Jewish friends. He also wrote the book of Acts (otherwise known as the Acts of the Apostles) in which he continues the story of Christianity with the story of Jesus' followers. The only difference is he was apart of this story. He joined the apostles at Troas (Acts 16:10) and went with them on some of their missionary journeys. It's for this reason Luke is known as "Luke the Evangelist". He spent the rest of his life serving God where he finally died at the age of 84 (people can still visit his tomb in Greece at Thebes).

### **The Audience: Theophilus And Others**

Luke was hired to write the gospel account of Jesus' life, just like he was hired to write about the acts of the apostles (Luke 1:1-4, Acts 1:1-3). It's for this reason that some archaeologists and professors call Luke a "historian of the first rank", meaning he was one of the first and one of the best. So the original reason for Luke writing this book was for the man who paid him.

But as with many books and inventions, this gospel really was meant for so much more. Theophilus may have backed the project with his money, but this book was really meant for us. It was written from the perspective of a thinker and someone who was not born Jewish. In many ways the gospel of Luke was written for those who had merely heard of Jesus and wanted to know more, even if they didn't understand all the little cultural things of where Jesus lived.

It's for this reason this book has survived two thousand years. Other gospels were written about Jesus' life, many were lost, some have been found to be false by the church and others who were actually there in the story. Luke's gospel has stood the test of both of these and continues to help us understand the story of Jesus thousands of years later.

# lesson 1: Luke 9:46-10:24

## Questions for Luke 9:46-56

1. Here we have three stories of the apostles struggling with some sort of personal sins. What sins can you see? Do you struggle with them as well?

- Did you notice every single time the apostles tried to make themselves seem better in front of Jesus? What was His reaction to this? What does this tell you about how Jesus?

2. Why were the disciples worried about other people doing good in Jesus' name? Do we still do this today?

3. Why do you think James and John went for such an over-the-top reaction of complete annihilation for not welcoming Jesus?

*The Samaritan people were partially related to the Jews, but very much did not get along with them. They were offended that Jesus was only stopping on His way through to visit the capital of Jewish culture and worship, Jerusalem.*

## Questions for Luke 9:57-62

1. What did Jesus mean when He said foxes have holes, birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head?

2. What about in verse 60 when Jesus tells the man to let the dead bury their own dead? What did He mean? Doesn't it seem harsh that Jesus would not let the man go bury his father first?

3. What did Jesus mean when He said anyone who puts their hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God?

*When plowing a field, a farmer would steer a single plow in the earth pulled by oxen. He would have to always be looking forward to make sure he was plowing in a straight line, if he looked behind him to check his work, the plow would likely veer off course (it was heavy!)*

4. What do these three instances tell you about serving Jesus and giving your life up for Him? Are there other things we try to put in front of Jesus in our lives?

## **Questions for Luke 10:1-20**

1. List below the instructions given to the disciples Jesus sent ahead of Himself.

2. What did Jesus mean when He said if someone rejects your message they are rejecting Him? Does that make you feel more or less confident about sharing the Gospel with people? Why?

3. Do you place more emphasis on what you do for God over who you are in God? Why or why not? What does Jesus say about it in verse 20?



## **Questions for Luke 10:21-24**

1. What do you think of Jesus' prayer in verse 21-22? What sticks out to you from there?

2. Why do you think God choose to hide things from the wise and clever? Why reveal them to the childlike? What does that tell us about how we should be approaching our faith?

3. Of all the stories about Jesus, what do you most wish you could have seen? What do you most wish you could have heard and experienced?

## **Wrapping It Up**

1. What verse did you find most meaningful in this lesson? Why?

2. List some questions you have from this lesson:

3. Are you living your life, sharing your faith, living out the gospel in a way that lines up with what has been mentioned in these Scriptures? How can you line up with them?

# lesson 2: Luke 10:25-11:13

## **Questions for Luke 10:25-29**

1. Why do you think Jesus asked the expert how he interpreted the question first? Do you think Jesus does that a lot, asks us to read the Bible first and try and figure it out?

2. The expert quotes two Bible verses for Jesus as the answer to inherit eternal life, Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. Why do you think he chose those two verses?

*Obviously Jesus liked those verses, He agreed with the man!*

3. Luke recalls that the man wanted to justify his actions. What do you think that means? Do we do this?

## Questions for Luke 10:30-37

1. This is one of the most famous stories of Jesus. Why do you think that is?

- It is also one of the hardest stories to live out, but why?

2. What is the significance of the first two men who walked by the injured man? What similarities are there between them? How would that have spoken to Jesus' audience, an expert in religious law?

3. What would you have done?

*The two silver coins the Samaritan left were Greek denarii, each one would equal a full day's wage. Some teachers believe this amount of money would have allowed the man to rest at the inn for weeks, maybe months!*

## **Questions for Luke 10:38-42**

1. Which sister in this story do you relate with more, Mary (the one sitting and learning) or Martha (the one busy doing)? Why?

2. What is the one thing that is worth being concerned about?

*As a hostess, it would have been Mary and Martha's job to have the house clean and the meal prepared for their guests. Was it fair for Mary to leave those duties and give the work to Martha? Why?*

## Questions for Luke 11:1-13

1. How do these sections on prayer work together? We have the most famous prayer of all leading into stories of persistence, why?

2. Many times these passages are used to tell people to constantly “bug” God for things. Is that what it says to you? Why or why not?

3. Do you see prayer as knocking on heaven’s door? If you did, how would that change how you pray?

- If you were to knock on a king or a president’s door, how would you do it?

## Wrapping It Up

1. What verse did you find most meaningful in this lesson? Why?

2. List some questions you have from this lesson:

3. There seems to be a lot of conflicting messages about “doing”, but really they all work together. How?

# lesson 3 - Luke 11:14-54

## **Questions for Luke 11:14-28**

1. What do you think of the idea that whoever is not for God opposes God? Would you say your actions are for God or oppose Him? Why?

2. Do you believe in evil spirits? Are you worried about what they do and why?

3. Do you think followers of Jesus are a kingdom divided like Jesus is mentioning in here? If so, what can we do to bring union to God's house?

4. Why did Jesus mention more blessings to those who hear the Word of God and put it into practice? How do we do that?

## Questions for Luke 11:29-36

1. What is the sign of Jonah that Jesus is referring to?

*The story of Jonah is found in the Old Testament prophets in the Book of Jonah.*

2. Jesus focuses on light here. Is it true that we do not hide light, that we put it out where it can shine the most light in an area? Does your spiritual light shine like that?

3. Jesus focuses on the eye, saying the eye is a lamp for the body. What does He mean by this?

- If the eye is the "light filter" for the house (our body), what does that tell you about what our eyes see and how it affects us?

## Questions for Luke 11:37-54

1. Do you think Jesus did something wrong by not performing the hand-washing ceremony? Why or why not?

2. Jesus speaks to some very devout religious people about their actions, how they make their religion clean but do not do the dirty things to clean souls. Two thousand years later, do we still do this? How? Why? How do we stop it?

3. What do you think are the "more important things" Jesus speaks of in verse 42?

*This is the second time in only a few chapters Jesus speaks of "more important things". There may be something to that...*



4. Do we still have religious laws (written or unwritten) that are crushing those trying to live for God? Like what? How do we get rid of them?

5. Jesus makes a bold statement about their actions, they take away the truth and knowledge from not only their own lives, but those around them! Does your life reflect truth? Is it in your life? Does it affect those around you for truth and knowledge of God?

### **Wrapping It Up**

1. What verse did you find most meaningful in this lesson? Why?

2. List some questions you have from this lesson:

3. In what ways can you let your light shine, be a beacon of truth, and help others come into a proper knowledge of Jesus and His love?

# lesson 4 - Luke 12:1-34

## **Questions for Luke 12:1-12**

1. Why do you think Jesus referred to the hypocrisy of the Pharisees as yeast?

2. It's a pretty bold statement in verses 4-5, not to be afraid of those who kill you. Are you afraid of dying? When you look at your life, are those things in your life now more important than those in your life forever?

3. How do you publicly acknowledge God here on earth? Do you trust that God will give you the words to say like He does in verses 11-12? Why or why not?

## Questions for Luke 12:13-21

1. What is your first reaction upon hearing this parable?

2. Do you value your earthly possessions? If there was a fire (or some catastrophe), what could you not bear to lose? Why those things?

3. Jesus says to guard our hearts against every type of greed. How many types of greed are there? How do we work on not coveting what others have?

## Questions for Luke 12:22-34

1. How much do you worry? How much time do you spend worrying about things? Has worrying ever helped you in any way?

2. Jesus here speaks of how God values us more than birds or flowers, yet they manage to survive without the worrying we do. Do you think that word picture is applicable? Why or why not?

3. Where does your money go? Where does your family's money go? Judging by what you spend, what would you say is most important to you? Do you worry about money and what it will buy?

4. A couple of times Jesus tells us to seek God's Kingdom. How do we do that?

5. Verse 34 asks a good question, what is your treasure? What are the desires of your heart based on your spending?

### **Wrapping It Up**

1. What verse did you find most meaningful in this lesson? Why?

2. List some questions you have from this lesson:

3. Why do you think Jesus talked so much about money here? Does money really show us where our heart lies? Where does your heart lie?

# lesson 5 - Luke 12:35-13:17

## **Questions for Luke 12:35-48**

1. Jesus tells two stories about a master returning to his servants. Do you live like your Master could return anytime? How?

*There were no quick business flights in this time, if a rich man had business elsewhere he could be gone anywhere from weeks to years.*

2. Why do you think Peter asked the question he did? What was Jesus' answer?

3. Jesus tells of a more severe punishment in verses 47-48. Which category do you fall under? Why?

### **Questions for Luke 12:49-59**

1. List some of the ways below Jesus describes Himself and His ministry. How does this fit into your view of Him? If it doesn't work, what does this tell you about who Jesus really is?

2. How do you interpret the present times? Based on what?

3. Verse 53 is taken from Micah 7 (read it if you like). Why do families divide when God moves?

## Questions for Luke 13:1-9

1. Do you think that bad things happen to bad people? Why is that?

*It was a common Jewish belief that if something bad happened to you it was caused by sin that had not been dealt with, kind of like punishment for not fixing your relationship with God. Do we still have this view when bad things happen?*

2. On one hand Jesus is saying these people weren't punished for their sins, but He tells the followers to repent so they don't perish too. How do these two teachings work together?

3. What does the story of the fig tree tell off God's patience?

*It can take certain varieties of fig trees five years to start producing fruit!*



## **Questions for Luke 13:10-17**

1. Why was the leader at the synagogue so upset Jesus healed this woman? How would you feel to be one of those sick in the crowd to know the Person who can heal you is there but it is forbidden by the priest because it is seen as "work"?

2. What do you think of Jesus' reply? Why is work defined so personally? Why is following the law defined so loosely?

## **Wrapping It Up**

1. What verse did you find most meaningful in this lesson? Why?

2. List some questions you have from this lesson:

3. There were many discussions about the connection between sin and suffering. What do you believe about this after this section?

# lesson 6 - Luke 13:18-14:24

## Questions for Luke 13:18-30

1. What does the parable of the mustard seed mean?

*Mustard seeds are about 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch around. Mustard trees under ideal conditions can be 15 feet high.*

2. What does the parable of the yeast mean?

- Back in Luke 12:1-3, Jesus talks about the Pharisees hypocrisy as being like yeast. What does that mean to you now?

3. Why is the door to heaven described as narrow? If salvation is wonderful, why "will only a few be saved"?

## **Questions for Luke 13:31-35**

1. Why would Herod want to kill Jesus?

2. Why is Jesus not concerned about what Herod thinks or would do?

3. Why would Jerusalem be the place for Jesus to die? What did He mean about all the other prophets dying there? (You may have to do some Old Testament research for this one)

### **Questions for Luke 14:1-14**

1. Again people are worried about Jesus "working" on the Sabbath! Why is that? Why did the Pharisees refuse to answer Jesus? Why did He ask them before He healed the man (and after)?

2. There is some good advice in verses 8-11. How can you purposely take the "low seat at the table"?

3. Jesus reprimands the host for inviting friends and tells him to give to those who can't pay it back. Do you do this? How?

## **Questions for Luke 14:15-24**

1. What does this story tell you about the people invited to be in the Kingdom of God?

2. Do you think we in the church turn away people that God invites because they aren't who we would invite? Why? How do we fix this?

## **Wrapping It Up**

1. What verse did you find most meaningful in this lesson? Why?

2. List some questions you have from this lesson:

3. What can you be doing to help people feel invited into the Kingdom of God and pass through the narrow door?