

Luke Part 5



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:

Hang time with God

Accountability (with another believer)

Bible memorization

Invovement with the church body

Tithing commitment

Study 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 20:41-21:38

Questions for Luke 20:41-47

1. This is a different tactic on Jesus' part to get people's attention. What is the connection between the question He asks and the statement about the religious leaders?

2. What is your answer to Jesus' question, how can the Messiah be both "Lord" and "Son"? Why would that be so difficult for a Jewish person to understand (especially before Christ's death)?

3. Do you cheat people yet pretend to be pious like the religious leaders? How? What can you do to be more authentic?

Questions for Luke 21:1-4

1. What is your reaction upon reading this story? Are you the rich person or the poor widow?

The two coins the woman dropped are the smallest Jewish coin (Jewish money being much weaker than Greek or Roman money). What if all you had to live on was two cents (Canadian!)?

2. What does this illustration tell you about what Jesus thinks of giving? How does this work with the idea of a tithe (giving 10%)?

3. Was there ever a point where you gave everything you had? What happened? Why did you do it? How did it make you feel? Did God provide for you or reward you for that (or will He)?

Questions for Luke 21:5-38

1. Jesus specifically says in verse 8 not to follow those saying they are the Messiah. Why do you think people are so easily fooled and still do this?

2. Why is it when there is a natural disaster or some great war there are people preaching it is the end of the world? Judging by the description Jesus gives here, would you say we are close to the end? Closer than we have been?

3. Do you ever think about the end of the world? About when Jesus comes back? What do you think of? Why?

4. In verses 34-36 Jesus warns us to keep alert for when He comes back. How do you do this?

5. The last verses mention that every day Jesus taught at the Temple. When you picture Jesus' last week, did you picture Him leading a Bible Study? What do you think realizing the people yelling crucify were probably the same people who were at the Temple the day before, learning from Jesus?

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. How do we help others see that Christ is the Messiah and prepare them to do good until the day He returns?

lesson 2: Luke 22:1-38

Questions for Luke 22:1-6

1. What is the significance of Passover approaching?

To read where Passover originated and it's meaning, read Exodus 11-12.

2. Does satan entering Judas excuse him from what he did? Is there validity to the phrase "The devil made me do it"? Why or why not?

3. How would you feel if one of your friends gave you up like this, voluntarily, maybe even for money? How hard do you think it was for Jesus to love Judas? Could you do it?

Questions for Luke 22:7-30

1. What would be running through your mind knowing this was your last meal? What if it had spiritual significance like this?

The Passover meal very much resembles how Jesus dies and was resurrected. It was more than just a meal, it was a family religious service.

2. What is the importance of Jesus' broken body and of His blood poured out as a sacrifice for us?

3. Shortly after the Church began, people heard about Communion and thought the followers of Jesus were cannibals! Do you think we still do things that seem strange to outsiders? What? Why do they see it as weird? How can we help people understand our rituals?

4. How would you feel if this happened to you, you say someone at the table will betray you and everyone else starts to argue about who of them is the best? Do you ever do this, think about yourself and where you stand when someone opens up to you?

5. How are you great by being the lowest? How are you a leader by being a servant?

6. Do you take part in any ceremony at Easter? At communion at church? What does it mean to you? How does this story and what is going on tie in?

Questions for Luke 22:31-38

1. Have you ever denied Jesus? What happened? How did you feel after? What would it have been like if you had been told before you would do it?

2. How can we follow in Simon's footsteps, repent, turn back to Jesus and strengthen other followers of Christ?

3. Why would Jesus ask for the disciples to have swords?

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. You have probably heard the story of the Last Supper before. What seemed different this time? What stuck out to you?

lesson 3 - Luke 22:39-65

Questions for Luke 22:39-46

1. Do you ever pray that you will not give into temptation? Wouldn't that be a wise prayer to pray? What do you think temptation is?

2. Why do you think Luke focused on this one tiny section of Jesus' last prayer before He died?

You can read a more complete account of Jesus' prayer in John 17.

3. How would you feel on the most difficult night of your life, if all you asked of your friends is for them to pray and instead they were sleeping? Do we sometimes view prayer like this, as of that little importance?

Questions for Luke 22:47-53

1. Why did Judas betray Jesus with a kiss? What significance can you see in that act?

2. Why did Jesus have the disciples bring their swords but then ask them not to use them?

3. If you were Jesus, would you heal the people who were coming to arrest you?

According to John, the disciple who cut off the man's ear was Peter. He always seemed to be the first to fight!

4. Jesus asks a good question, why didn't they arrest Him at the temple? Do you think Jesus knew why they waited until now? Did the disciples know?

5. When all this happens, the disciples run. Honestly, what would you do? Would you fight the Temple priests (punishable by death)? Would you fight the Roman guards (also punishable by death)? What would you do?

Questions for Luke 22:54-65

1. Why do you think Peter denied Jesus to these people?
2. Have you ever done something you regret? What went through your mind? Have you ever had it so specific someone told you not to do it, then you did it? How do you think Peter felt?
3. Suddenly the story turns to Jesus being beaten. How would you feel knowing Jesus was being hurt and there was nothing you could do about 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. In what ways have you betrayed Jesus? In what ways has He still forgiven you and wants you to be a part of His plan of salvation?

lesson 4 - Luke 22:66-23:25

Questions for Luke 22:66-71

1. How would you have handled being on trial like Jesus?

The high council, also known as the Sanhedrin, was the Jewish ruling authority, like a religious Supreme Court.

2. Did Jesus actually say that He was the Messiah? That He was the Son of God? So then how did they still convict Him?

Questions for Luke 23:1-25

1. What do you think of the charges brought against Jesus in verse 2? Were they true?

2. How come when Jesus didn't answer the Sanhedrin they said He was guilty, but when Jesus says the same thing to Pilate, Pilate says He is innocent? What does that tell you about those putting Jesus on trial?

3. Just like the government, Jesus is shuffled between political leaders. How do you think that felt, going back and forth with no real answer?

4. Why would Jesus refuse to answer Pilate when he asked questions? Why did He not say anything when the religious leaders are shouting false statements?

5. Pilate says both he and Herod find Jesus innocent, yet his answer is to flog Jesus and then release Him. Why beat Him first? He just said Jesus was innocent?

6. What would you be thinking if you are Pilate, the Man you have found innocent the people want to kill, the man they want released is a convicted murderer and leader of a revolt?

7. What do you think happened that turned the people against Jesus so quickly and so violently?

8. Why did Pilate simply wash his hands of this and hand Jesus over to the people?

You may have to do a little historical digging on this one!

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. This whole section has been about Jesus' trial? Was it a fair trial? What would you do if you were treated this unfairly? What does that say about Jesus?

lesson 5 - Luke 23:26-24:12

Questions for Luke 23:26-43

1. Why did Jesus say what He did to the women in verses 28-31? What does that tell you about Jesus' heart, what was important to Him (as He is carrying His cross to be crucified)?

2. Would you be able to pray for God to forgive those who did this to you? Is there someone you should pray for God to forgive who did something much less to you?

3. So many people are asking Jesus to prove Himself. Why didn't He do it? Why couldn't Jesus prove He was God and still die? Is proving ourselves really necessary?

Questions for Luke 23:44-56

1. What is the significance of the curtain in the Temple being torn in two?

This curtain separated the Inner Court from the Holy of Holies.

2. Why did all the people who wanted Jesus dead so passionately a few hours ago leave in deep sorrow?

3. What trouble would Joseph of Arimathea gotten into for taking Jesus' body? For caring for Jesus against the wishes of his fellow Jewish high council peers (the ones Jesus was in front of a few hours ago in 22:66-71)

Questions for Luke 24:1-12

1. The women were coming back to finish preparing Jesus' body for burial. What would have been your first reaction after seeing the tomb open?

2. What is the significance of angels appearing at Jesus' tomb (think back to chapter 2)?

3. Would you have believed the women who came in saying Jesus was alive? What would your first reaction be? What would you do?

4. Peter always seemed to act without thinking. In this case, was it a good thing? Would you be able to follow your instincts and jump up when everyone else says it's foolish? Would you have to see for yourself?

5. How long do you think it took after this happened for people to accept it as truth? To start to understand everything Jesus said about His death and resurrection before?

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 is the hardest part for you about the story of the crucifixion and the resurrection?

lesson 6 - Luke 24:13-53

Questions for Luke 24:13-34

1. Why would Jesus appear to these two people? Out of all the people wondering about what happened to Jesus, why these two? And why did Jesus play dumb?

2. Jesus makes a good point. Do you find it hard to believe what is written in the Scriptures? Do you ever need to see it with your own eyes, or to go back to Luke 17, have someone rise from the dead first?

3. What is the significance of Jesus disappearing once He broke bread (it was just a few days ago)?

4. What would it take for you to say "The Lord has really risen"? What would it take for you to explain that to someone else?

Questions for Luke 24:35-53

1. Why would the group think Jesus was a ghost, right as the people who walked with Jesus was telling them their story? What does that say about faith?

2. Would it frighten you to see Jesus face to face, especially after all this? Why or why not?

3. it is written Christ would die and rise again. But it's also written that this message would be proclaimed to all nations. How are you living out the second part?

4. Do you live in a way that reflects there is forgiveness of sins for all who repent? How?

5. Why did Jesus send the Holy Spirit to be with us? Again, does your life reflect that the Holy Spirit is with you? How?

6. What would have gone through your mind watching Jesus rise into heaven and disappear?

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. After completing the book of Luke, what did you learn? What has affected you? What changes do you plan to make to your life after this study?