

Luke Part 4



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 14:25-15:32

Questions for Luke 14:25-35

1. Jesus uses a pretty strong word, that we must "hate" everyone else by comparison to our love for Him, even ourselves. How does that measure up to a God that is all about love? How do we "hate" ourselves, our families, etc.?

2. Have you looked at what the true cost of following Jesus is? If you were to live 100% for Jesus, what would that cost? List it below.

Questions for Luke 15:1-7

1. Why would the Pharisees complain that Jesus was teaching, even eating, with sinners? If this were to happen at your church, how would you react? Why?

- Why did Jesus tell stories, why didn't He talk to the Pharisees directly?

2. What is so valuable to you that if you lost it you would leave everything else behind? Do you value people's souls in the same way?

3. Do you think there is rejoicing in heaven over you? Why or why not? When you look at your faith, do you value the one sinner enough to find them or the other ninety-nine righteous who do not stray?

- Does this mean Jesus doesn't value those who stay in the flock? What does it mean then?

Questions for Luke 15:8-10

1. What would you do if you "lost" 10% of everything you have?

Here again, the silver coin is a drachma, worth a full day's wage.

2. In this story, the woman lit a lamp, she burned oil, she paid to find the lost coin. What are you willing to pay to find those who are lost?

3. Again rejoicing! If someone were to call you and tell you they found lost money, would you "rejoice" with them? What about if someone were to find their soul and find Jesus, would you rejoice then? How?

Questions for Luke 15:11-31

1. How would you feel as the father having a child basically wish you were dead so they could have your stuff? How do you think God feels when we act this way towards Him?

2. Do you see yourself as fully accepted into the family of God?

The gifts from the father had meaning. The robe was the father's signifying being a part of the family. The ring would have the family seal, the son now had access to the family's money. Shoes show the world that the son is not a servant, servants went barefoot. The fattened calf showed his value and the joy of his return home.

3. Which brother are you most like, the one who is thankful for being home, or the one looking at what someone else has and feels cheated? Why that brother?

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 important are "lost" souls to you? Would people be able to see their value to you by your actions?

lesson 2: Luke 16:1-17:10

Questions for Luke 16:1-18

1. What is your reaction to this story? (It's one that's puzzled people for ages)

2. Jesus says the lesson here is to use worldly benefits to make friends and usher them into an eternal home. If God were to audit your spending, would He see this? How do you / can you use your worldly benefits to help God? List below what you can do for God.

3. What is Jesus teaching here about responsibility?

- Jesus mentions three ways to show you are faithful in little things. What are they?

4. A well-known phrase, "No man can serve two masters". But why did Jesus choose God and money as the two masters? What does that tell you about the power of money?

5. According to verse 15, which is more important, acting holy in public or having a holy heart? Look at what you do in a day, which one is more valuable to you?

Questions for Luke 16:19-31

1. Who do you relate more with, the rich man or Lazarus? Why? How do you relate to both of them?

2. Do you think it is true that people wouldn't listen to someone raised from the dead, that the current teachings are enough? Why or why not?

3. Have you thought about how what you do in this lifetime affects your next lifetime? Take inventory of your life, how are you doing for the next life?

Questions for Luke 17:1-10

1. Would you characterize how you live as a person who does the tempting (verse 1)? Why or why not? How can you live so that you will be a positive influence instead of a temptation?

2. Why do you think Jesus says we “must” forgive?

Could you imagine being wronged by the same person in the same way seven times every single day? That’s 49 times a week, 127 times a month, over 2500 times a year, the same offense!

3. Does your attitude towards service reflect what Jesus said in verse 7-10? Why or why not? How do we get that attitude?

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 are a lot of hard teachings in this section. Which one was hardest for you? Why?

lesson 3 - Luke 17:11-18:8

Questions for Luke 17:11-17

1. Why do you think Jesus allowed these lepers to experience their healing while away from Him?

Leviticus 14:2-3 commanded people with a skin disease to go to the priest to be declared clean. Did this mean the men knew they would be healed by Jesus' command to see the priest?

2. Why do you think only one man returned and thanked Jesus?

3. What is the significance of the returning leper being a Samaritan?

4. What do you think Jesus meant by telling the man his faith had healed him?

- Jesus says this phrase a lot. Look for the other times He says it, are there similarities to this story?

Questions for Luke 17:20-37

1. What did Jesus mean when He said the Kingdom of God is among you? What were the Pharisees looking for when they said "The Kingdom Of God"?

2. After answering the Pharisees question, He speaks about the end times only to His disciples. Why do you think He chose to tell only them this information?

3. How do you feel when you hear that when Jesus comes back it will be a surprise, people going about their daily business? If there are no warning signs, how can we be "ready" for His return?

4. How do you interpret verse 33? How do you live that out?

5. What does the picture of the gathering of vultures mean?

Questions for Luke 18:1-8

1. What does it mean to pray without giving up?

Some other translation say to "pray without ceasing". What does that mean?

2. Would you say you are like the widow? Are you that persistent in prayer? Why or why not?

3. Do you see God's decisions as "just"? What about the things that happen in your life, are they "just"? Why or why not?

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 stories of thanks and persistence in this section. Would you use those words to describe your relationship with God? Why or why not?

lesson 4 - Luke 18:9-43

Questions for Luke 18:9-14

1. In verse 9 it says who Jesus told this story to. Would you be one of them? Why or why not?

2. Generally when someone has to point out to you how good they are, what do you think of them? What do you think God thinks when we do it to Him?

3. When you talk to God, do you think of yourself as a sinner? Acknowledge yourself as a sinner? Why or why not? Why did Jesus think better of this man for admitting who he was?

Questions for Luke 18:15-30

1. Why do you think Jesus loves children so much?

2. What does it mean to receive the Kingdom of God like a child? How do you do that now?

3. Would you say that you are a rich person? Does that make it harder for you to give up what you have for God? Why or why not?

4. Why did the rich man pick these rules to live by? Do you think he kept every single one of them all the time?

5. Why did Jesus answer the question in verse 26 the way He did? What does this do to your view of salvation?

6. What have you actually given up for God? Do you think you will be repaid in the next life for it? Is that the reason you do it?

Questions for Luke 18:31-43

1. In verses 31-33, Jesus lays it all out there, and the disciples still don't understand. Do you think you would have understood at the time? Why or why not?

2. Why would the people who follow Jesus be telling someone in need of help to stop calling on Jesus? Do the followers of Jesus still do this? How do we help fix this?

3. Why did Jesus ask what the man wanted, wouldn't He have known? What does that tell you about how we should pray?

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 will the way you pray change after reading this section?

lesson 5 - Luke 19:1-44

Questions for Luke 19:1-10

1. How does a tax collector get rich? Why was Zacchaeus thought of as a notorious sinner?

2. Do you want God so badly you will embarrass yourself like Zacchaeus did? Would you allow yourself to be pointed out by Jesus like in verse 5?

3. Why did Jesus say salvation had come to Zacchaeus' house?

4. Jesus says why He came to earth in verse 10. Do you live out that same mission? How?

Questions for Luke 19:11-27

1. What are your first reactions upon hearing this parable? Which of the servants are you most like? Why?

2. In verse 14 it says the king's servants hated him, so why would they do what he asked? Why would they do a good job of it?

3. Was the reward for the servants in proportion to their work? What does this tell you about how God feels about the little things?

The silver coins were Greek minas, a mina being worth about three month's wages. What does that money mean to a king? How does it compare to the budget of a city? Ten cities?

Questions for Luke 19:28-40

1. The beginning of the end for Jesus' ministry. How do you think He felt riding into the city, people praising His name knowing in four days those same voices would be yelling to crucify Him?

2. Why did the owners of the colt just let the disciples take it? Would you do that, just give up your car if someone said "The Lord needs it"?

3. Why were the Pharisees upset? Do you think they did not like God being praised? What did Jesus mean when He said if the people were quiet the stones would cry out?

Questions for Luke 19:41-44

1. Why do you think Jesus was so moved when He saw Jerusalem this time (he had been here many times before)?

Jerusalem had been the center of Israel, it's capital both politically and spiritually since David made it the capital a thousand years before (read about it in II Samuel 5), and Jerusalem was destroyed and Israel dispersed as a nation in 71 A.D., a few years after Jesus left.

2. What did Jesus mean when He said peace was hidden from Jerusalem's eyes? When He said they did not accept their opportunity for salvation? Do we still act this way?

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. If you knew you would die next week, would you be eating with people who need attention? Giving lessons on serving? Praying for the city that will kill you?

lesson 6 - Luke 19:45-20:40

Questions for Luke 19:45-20:8

1. This is the second time Jesus clears the Temple out of people selling animals for sacrifice (see John 2). Why did the people not learn their lesson the first time?

2. What does this short story say about the power of money?

3. What did you think of Jesus' answer to the question of His authority? How can you use this in handling conflicts of your own?

Questions for Luke 20:9-19

1. What is your reaction upon reading this parable? Are people really that selfish they would not pay what they owe? They would kill for it? Do you think you would do the right thing?

2. Why did Jesus quote that verse from Psalms (you can find it in Ps. 118:22)? Would you say that Jesus was rejected but the cornerstone?

The cornerstone (also called the keystone) was used in building arches or bridges. It was the most important piece, it took the entire weight of the arch upon itself. Without it, no bridge.

3. Do we still treat Jesus like the wicked farmers? How? How do we help those who follow Jesus not be "wicked farmers"?

Questions for Luke 20:20-26

1. Why do you think the religious leaders used this question? What hot-spots would it have hit for those listening?

2. Why are topics like money and politics so polarizing? How important are they to you? Your family? Do they ever trump God and His love?

3. It's now Tuesday, almost 48 hours from when Jesus would be arrested. How do you think He felt, what was going through His mind as these people tried to trap Him in His own words?

Questions for Luke 20:27-40

1. Do you think this was a legitimate question, leaders really asking, or were they also trying to trap Jesus (the Sadducees are not the same as the Pharisees, two different denominations of ancient Judaism if you will)?

2. Although marriage may be a long way off, do you ever think about how marriage is only for this world and not the next? What comes to mind?

3. What was the importance of Jesus saying God is the God of the living, not the dead? Is God a living God to you? How is that evident?

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. Jesus deals with a lot of people trying to tarnish His reputation, to ruin Him. What lessons can we learn from how Jesus dealt with them?