

# Luke Part 2



# 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 5:12-6:11

## Questions for Luke 5:12-32

1. Why do you think Jesus commanded the man healed of the skin disease not to tell anyone? Why do you think people still found out? Is there a pattern happening here?

2. Why did Jesus ask this man to still follow the law and go to the priest?

*It was law when someone was healed of a skin disease they were to go to the priest who would declare them "clean" and they would give an offering of thanks to God. You can find out more in Leviticus 14.*

3. Why do you think Jesus focuses on forgiving the paralyzed man when everyone else focuses on his illness? What does this tell you about what's important to Jesus

4. Why do you think Jesus' followers would not let this man in? Does the church still act like this today? How can you help change that?

5. Levi got up and left everything to follow Jesus. Would you be able to do this?

*As a tax collector, Levi was not very well liked. The Jewish people didn't like him because he took their money and gave it to Rome. The Romans saw him as a useless means to get their money. Also, to get paid, tax collectors would usually charge "interest" that would go in their pockets, he was probably a wealthy man.*

6. Why were the Pharisees upset with Jesus eating with tax collectors?

- Shouldn't the religious leaders have been happy that someone changed their ways, turned back to God, and now had the person who helped him change his life talking to his friends?

### **Questions for Luke 5:33-39**

1. What do you think Jesus meant when He said friends of the bridegroom don't fast while he is with them?

2. Both stories Jesus tells here refer to trying to fit something new into something old. What is the point Jesus is trying to make in regards to faith here?

3. What does Jesus mean when He says "the old wine is better"?



## **Questions for Luke 6:1-11**

1. Do you think the religious leaders were concerned for the law or just trying to find fault with Jesus here? Why?

- The Law prohibited “work” on the Sabbath. Examples of this would be gathering food or preparing food. Would you consider what Jesus did here “work”?

2. In verse 5 Jesus calls Himself the Lord of the Sabbath. What does this mean?

3. We have another story of Jesus “working” on the Sabbath. Why do you think Jesus healed the man? What would you have done?

## **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. Take a look at your life. Are you a stickler for the rules or do you live a life of grace?

# lesson 2: Luke 6:12-49

## **Questions for Luke 6:12-26**

1. This is the famous "Sermon on the Mount" Jesus gave. According to this list, would you consider yourself to be blessed or will it be terrible for you. Why?

*Look at the list carefully, maybe even go through them one by one.*

2. Are you treated the way Jesus warned because you follow Him? Do you consider yourself blessed because of it? Does it make you joyful?

- Do you see popularity here on earth as more important than an eternal reward?

## **Questions for Luke 6:37-42**

1. Do you have any enemies (personal or a group of people)? Why? Do you hate them or love them? Can they tell this by your actions?

2. Why do you think Jesus says to offer more than what is offered of you? Do you do this?

3. Think of all the people you have done something good for in the last week. Are they all people who treated you well or could pay you back? What does Jesus think of that attitude here?

4. What is the correlation between action and reaction here? If you want to be treated a certain way, how do you do it?

*Is how people treat you the action or the reaction?*

5. Would you say you are blind or someone who sees? Are you being led by people who are blind or those who see? Is it possible they see what you don't?

6. If you were to ask others honestly, would they say you help when you have the same problem to fix or would they be thankful for you "taking the dust out of their eye"? If you are the person Jesus is describing, how do you fix that?

## **Questions for Luke 6:43-49**

1. Are you a healthy tree or a bad tree? How can you tell? How do you keep/make a tree healthy?

2. Jesus talks again about actions. Do you see the connection between what we say we believe and how we act?

## **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. Looking honestly at your actions, is Jesus really your Lord?

# lesson 3 - Luke 7:1-35

## **Questions for Luke 7:1-17**

1. How would you describe the faith of this soldier? What makes his request different from most others who ask something of Jesus? Do you have faith like this?

2. His faith isn't the only difference. What about this man was different than all the others Jesus had helped so far? How do you think Jesus' Jewish followers felt about this?

3. He wasn't asked for help, so why did Jesus help this woman? Do you think there are times Jesus helped you even though you didn't ask? When?

4. This was the first time Jesus raised someone from the dead. Why is that miracle so much more powerful than healings? What would your reaction be to seeing that? Why?

5. Notice after this the people recognized Jesus as a prophet and as God come to earth. Why do you think the people saw Jesus as God after His miracles, but not necessarily after His teachings?

### **Questions for Luke 7:18-35**

1. Back in chapter 3, John baptizes Jesus and God calls Jesus His Son from heaven. Why do you think John is now doubting Jesus as the One he was to prepare a way for?

2. How does Jesus tell John's followers to judge if He is the Messiah? Is it fair to still judge Jesus and His followers like this? If so, how are we doing?

3. Jesus mentions that prophets are found in the wilderness, and the wealthy live in palaces. What group do you think we as American Christians look like? How do we show we are of God?



4. Did you notice in verse 29 it doesn't talk about people accepting Jesus' teachings, it says "God's teaching"? What is the weight behind that wording? Do we sometimes miss God because of who is giving the message?

5. Do you/the church put the same double standard on people who follow Christ that was put on John and Jesus in verse 34? How do we stop that? And what did Jesus mean by His statement in verse 35?

### **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. Would your faith be able to withstand anything (like being sent to jail like John)? How do you strengthen your faith?

# lesson 4 - Luke 7:36-8:25

## **Questions for Luke 7:36-50**

1. How would you have reacted seeing this?

An expensive jar of perfume used at once on one person

Someone washing Jesus' feet with tears

Someone you know to be a sinner kissing Jesus feet (and Him letting her)

2. Do you take your salvation for granted like Simon? Or have you been forgiven of such a huge debt you can never repay it? Is it evident by how you treat Jesus and His followers?

3. Jesus told the woman she was saved because she believed. What did she believe? Do we have a hand in our own salvation? Do you believe you have truly been saved?

## Questions for Luke 8:1-15

1. What did the four types of seed represent? Where do you fall?

- Seed on the road
- Seed on the rock
- Seed in the thorny weeds
- Seed on the good soil

2. Jesus quotes Isaiah 6:9 saying God purposely uses things people don't understand. Why would God do this?

## **Questions for Luke 8:16-25**

1. Are you hiding a light like Jesus talks about in verse 16-17? What about the church in general, do we hide "the light"? What is the light?

2. Why did Jesus warn us to be careful how we listen? Like salvation, do we play a part in our spiritual growth? How?

3. What did Jesus mean when He said who is mother and brothers are? What two things did Jesus say we need to do to be in His family?

4. How do you feel knowing that Jesus slept through the storm? Is that confidence or not caring? Why? Do you feel like Jesus is sometimes sleeping through your storm?

5. Why were the disciples so amazed by Jesus telling the weather to calm? Jesus then asks the disciples where their faith is, do you have faith to stand up and tell the storms to calm? Do you have faith Jesus can 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. What are you going to do to help your spiritual growth be real to yourself and others?

# lesson 5 - Luke 8:26-9:9

## **Questions for Luke 8:26-39**

1. Why do you think the demons cried out when Jesus showed up? If they thought He was going to torture them, why didn't they shut up and hide?

2. Why did these demons not leave right away when Jesus commanded them? And why were they so mean to the one whom they were living in?

*The name "Legion" literally means many. In the Roman Army, a legion of soldiers could be up to 5000 fighters!*

3. Why did Jesus let the demons go into the pigs, why not banish them to hell where they can do no more harm?

4. Why were the people there herding pigs?

*In the Law, pigs were considered an unclean animal, the Jewish people were not allowed to eat them. They were literally farming food that they were forbidden to eat!*

5. Why did the people ask Jesus to leave? Would they not have been happy someone was healed? Was money that big of a concern to them (they just lost a herd of income). Do you/the church sometimes act this way, not looking to the greater good?

6. Before, Jesus told people He healed to be quiet. Why is He now telling this man to tell of the good God did for him?

## Questions for Luke 8:40-56

1. What is the significance of Jesus feeling power going out from Him?

2. We see two very different stories of faith here, one who will crowd in just to touch Jesus' clothes, the other saying Jesus Himself can't do something. If you were honest with yourself, where do you fall?

3. Why did Jesus only let the three disciples and the girl's parents in with Him when He healed her? Wouldn't everyone know what happened in a few minutes anyway?



## **Questions for Luke 9:1-9**

1. Verse 1 says Jesus gave the apostles the ability to cast out demons and heal sickness. Do we as followers of Christ have this? Why or why not? Have you ever seen either of these?

2. Why did Jesus send the disciples, why didn't He go to these places Himself? Are we still supposed to be going in Jesus' name as the disciples did? How?

## **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. Which of the miracles in this section spoke most to you? Why?

# lesson 6 - Luke 9:10-45

## **Questions for Luke 9:10-17**

1. This is one of the most popular miracles Jesus performs. Why do you think that is?

*This is the only miracle that is mentioned in all four gospels.*

2. What is the point Jesus is trying to make with this miracle?

3. Have you ever thought about how many people were there to be fed (5000 *men*, also women and children!)? What do you think was done with the leftovers?

### **Questions for Luke 9:18-27**

1. What would your reaction be to hearing what Jesus is saying here, that the religious leaders would kill Him, but He will rise again in three day?

2. List below the things Jesus said His followers must give up. Look at the list, how are you doing at being one of Jesus' followers?

## **Questions for Luke 9:28-36**

1. What do you think Jesus talked about with Moses and Elijah?

2. Peter's first reaction was to build tents and let Jesus live there forever with Moses and Elijah. What was wrong with this idea? Do you think the church thinks like this sometimes? How do we stop this thinking?

3. Again God tells people from Heaven Jesus is His Son. Why did He do this again with so few people there, people that were already dedicated followers?

## **Questions for Luke 9:37-45**

1. Why did Jesus say the people have no faith? Do we sometimes do this, view our prayers as not as good as say a pastor or religious leader's? Why?

2. is there a connection between our faith and what we actually do? How? Why?

3. How come the followers did not know what Jesus meant about His death? Didn't He just say it a few verses ago? Why would they have forgotten or lost understanding about it already?

## **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 one who likes to be comfortable with where God is at or go with Him to new places? Why? Which would you rather be?