

A person is walking away from the viewer on a beach at sunset. The sky is a gradient of colors from light blue at the top to deep red and orange near the horizon. The water is calm, reflecting the colors of the sky. The person is a simple silhouette, walking towards the horizon.

LOVE WALKED AMONG US

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

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LOVE WALKED AMONG US

The gospel of Luke is a rich book, and the whole book works together to show us the answer to the great mystery of all that God was doing through the Old Testament: of who Jesus was, of what he taught, and the surprising ending to his life. Luke can be a little bit more subtle than the other Gospel writers, but whenever you slow down and look closely, the richness of Luke's Gospel is staggering. At the same time, he is showing how Jesus fulfills all the hopes and promises of the Old Testament, how Jesus is reliving the story of God's people in the Old Testament, and how this gospel turns everyone's world upside-down.

Luke wants us to see how Jesus' mission is to outsiders: to the poor, and marginalized—the shocking, surprising people Jesus hung out with, and was constantly including.

“ In this series, we are hoping that you would meet Jesus, in all his confrontational, merciful, brilliant, surprising, world-overturning glory.’

Luke forces us to wrestle with the social implications of these kingdom communities that Jesus was forming. Love walked among us, and that should change the way that we see everything.

In this series, we are hoping that you would meet Jesus, in his confrontational, merciful, brilliant, surprising, world-overturning glory. This same Jesus who walked among us still lives among us today, and that should give us all the hope in the world.

DNA STUDIES

This term, we will be using a different format of studies. They are based on the DNA (discover, nurture, act) model of studying the Bible. In these studies, we will give you some general questions under these three headings, and your group might enjoy generally working through them. But if your group needs some more specific guidance, we will also provide some questions under these three categories to help that happen. But however your group likes to study the Bible, we hope these studies teach you, nurture your hearts, and help you obey the word in your lives.

Christian Standard Bible (CSB) is used in these studies.

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WEEK 1
Luke 1-2

“

It also seemed good to me, since I have carefully investigated everything from the very first, to write to you in an orderly sequence.

STUDY QUESTIONS

D ISCOVER **What's interesting here? What do you learn? What don't you understand?**

What do the first four verses of Luke tell us about his purposes and method?

Are you tempted to doubt your faith? What does Luke tell us here about the certainty he wants us to have?

How does Luke defend, define, declare the gospel in chapters 1–2?

N URTURE **What do you love in this passage? How can we see God's character here?**

How do you see God's bigger purposes in the world intersecting with your own life, your hopes and dreams and fears?

This isn't the first or last time that Jesus will surprise us. After all the promises from the Old Testament, who would've expected the Messiah to be born like this. How have you found that following Jesus involves the unexpected?

Do you ever look around the church and feel that you don't fit in? Do you ever feel that the characters in the opening two chapters of Luke would feel the same?

A CT **How should we live differently because of these words? What is one thing in this passage that really stirs you to act?**

What might it mean to "carefully investigate" the gospel of Jesus Christ for yourself?

WEEK 2
Luke 3

“

A voice of one crying
out in the wilderness:
prepare the way for
the Lord; make his
paths straight!

STUDY QUESTIONS

**DISCOVER**

What's interesting here? What do you learn? What don't you understand?

When there's a crisis like a flood, authorities give warning to people. What was the emergency that John was warning about in verses 3–9?

How is John using the image of a tree in verses 7–9 to confront the crowds about their own lives?

What are the common themes in John's answers to the people's questions in verses 10–14?

**NURTURE**

What do you love in this passage? How can we see God's character here?

John calls us to bear fruit in keeping with repentance, and his examples are all of generosity and integrity. Are there any ways that you need to repent of these things?

Verse 3:16 talks about Jesus baptizing with "the Holy Spirit and fire." In Luke 12:49–50, what does it mean for Jesus to be "baptized by fire"? Can we be baptized in the same way?

**ACT**

How should we live differently because of these words? What is one thing in this passage that really stirs you to act?

Is there any place you look for security before God, other than Christ (a ritual, being related to someone)? What might it look like to give this trust to Christ?

How can you be showing repentance through your money this week?

WEEK 3
Luke 4

“

The Spirit of the
Lord is on me,
because he has
anointed me
to preach good
news to the poor.

STUDY QUESTIONS

D ISCOVER
What's interesting here? What do you learn? What don't you understand?

Read Luke 4:1–13. How does this story echo the story of Adam and Eve?

How does Jesus defeat Satan in this temptation story?

How do Jesus' listeners react when he begins his public ministry by quoting Isaiah 61:1–2?

How do verses 31–44 offer a taste of Jesus fulfilling Isaiah 61:1–2?

N URTURE
What do you love in this passage? How can we see God's character here?

In what areas of your personal life and the world around you do you long to see Isaiah 61:1–2 fulfilled by Jesus?

We will never be tested in the same way as Jesus was, but every Christian will be tested at the most important times in their lives. How can we learn to recognise and defeat the voices that whisper attractive lies to us?

How is this idea of grace for all people, even those we disagree with or fight against, a challenge to you today?

A CT
How should we live differently because of these words? What is one thing in this passage that really stirs you to act?

What patterns of thought often lead you to sin? Write them out as thoroughly as you can. How are these thoughts lying to you about the character of God?

Think of someone in your life whom you instinctively think is beyond the grace of God. How can you show the love of Christ to them this week?

WEEK 4
Luke 5:1-6:16

“

When daylight came,
he summoned his
disciples, and he chose
twelve of them, whom
he also named apostles.

STUDY QUESTIONS

D ISCOVER **What's interesting here? What do you learn? What don't you understand?**

Why does the huge catch of fish cause Peter to react the way he does in verses 1–11?

What do we read about Jesus' priorities in 5:15–16?

Every Jewish person knew that Israel had twelve tribes. What was Jesus implying by choosing twelve disciples to be with him and do ministry with him (6:12–16)?

N URTURE **What do you love in this passage? How can we see God's character here?**

In light of what we read about Jesus' priorities, how would you assess your own schedule and the demands on your time?

Think about what you do day after day. Imagine Jesus suddenly appearing and telling you what to do, in your own area of expertise, and showing that he knows far better than you ever have. How would you feel about him?

A CT **How should we live differently because of these words? What is one thing in this passage that really stirs you to act?**

The challenge of the fifth chapter of Luke is to see where people are living as though the old age was still normal, and as if the new life in the gospel had never burst in. Where in your life do you still live as if the old age was in effect?

What would it look like for you to live in the promise of the new kingdom?

WEEK 5
Luke 6:17-49

“

After coming down with them, he stood on a level place with a large crowd of his disciples and a great number of people.

STUDY QUESTIONS

D ISCOVER **What's interesting here? What do you learn? What don't you understand?**

Read verses 17–26. What are the four promises, and what are the four warnings?

Jesus was not trying to create a new rule book. What kind of heart and spirit was Jesus seeking for his followers?

What are the four vivid word-sketches in verses 39–45? What does each say about following Jesus?

N URTURE **What do you love in this passage? How can we see God's character here?**

How would you like your heart and spirit to be more like the kind Jesus seeks?

Can you think of a time when someone treated you like verses 27–36? Or a time when you've seen someone living like this? What was it like?

A CT **How should we live differently because of these words? What is one thing in this passage that really stirs you to act?**

In what areas of your life are you so focused on looking for specks in other people's eyes that you miss them in your own?

WEEK 6
Luke 7:1-8:3

“

Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that's why she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little.”

STUDY QUESTIONS

D ISCOVER
What's interesting here? What do you learn? What don't you understand?

What do we learn about Simon, the woman, and Jesus in the story of verses 36–50? (it might be helpful to write three columns and write everything we find out about each of them).

What does true faith look like in this story?

N URTURE
What do you love in this passage? How can we see God's character here?

How much does Jesus seem to know about Simon and the woman? What does he do with his understanding of them?

Which character in this story do you most identify with? What might Jesus say to you as this character?

A CT
How should we live differently because of these words? What is one thing in this passage that really stirs you to act?

Spend some time to personally reflect: What's the most shameful sin of your life? What's the most valuable possession you've ever had? Imagine what it would look like for you to give them both over to Jesus (like the woman in this story).

Have you ever made a deep commitment of faith in Jesus like this woman? What would prevent you from doing that?

WEEK 7
Luke 8:4-21

“

The secrets of the kingdom of God have been given for you to know, but to the rest it is in parables.

STUDY QUESTIONS



DISCOVER

What's interesting here? What do you learn? What don't you understand?

How does the parable of the sower give an overview of Jesus' ministry with various kinds of people?

Where do you hear the echoes of the parable of the sower in verses 16–21?

How do these three parables work together?



NURTURE

What do you love in this passage? How can we see God's character here?

How do you see the Word producing growth and fruit in your own life?

When are some times that you've really loved the word of God? What made those times so special?



ACT

How should we live differently because of these words? What is one thing in this passage that really stirs you to act?

What would it look like for you to live out verse 15 this week?

What would it look like for you to live out verse 21 this week?

WEEK 8
Luke 8:22-56

“

He sent him away and said, “Go back to your home, and tell all that God has done for you.” And off he went, proclaiming throughout the town how much Jesus had done for him.

STUDY QUESTIONS



DISCOVER

What's interesting here? What do you learn? What don't you understand?

Describe the different reactions to Jesus in 8:26–39.

Why do you think the healed man longed to stay with Jesus?

Read 8:40–56. What are the similarities and differences between the two stories in these verses?



NURTURE

What do you love in this passage? How can we see God's character here?

How can we see wholeness and hope in these verses?

In what places of fear and suffering do you need Jesus to come alongside you?



ACT

How should we live differently because of these words? What is one thing in this passage that really stirs you to act?

How can we embrace wholeness and hope in these verses?

What does Jesus tell all these people to do after he saves them? What does he tell us to do?

WEEK 9
Luke 9

“

Then he said to them all, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.

STUDY QUESTIONS



DISCOVER

What's interesting here? What do you learn? What don't you understand?

What do we learn about discipleship in this chapter?

Read verses 1–17. What might be the purpose of sending the disciples into ministry with these restrictions?

Read verses 23–26. How does this fit with your view of the Christian life?

All of the Gospel writers follow the story of the transfiguration (verses 28–36) with the story of a boy who is desperately ill. How do these two stories go together?



NURTURE

What do you love in this passage? How can we see God's character here?

Jesus says that those who follow him must pick up their cross. How have you seen sacrifice and suffering because of following Jesus?

The more we are open to God, and to the different dimensions of God's glory, the more we seem to be open to the pain of the world. In what ways have you seen this truth in your own life?



ACT

How should we live differently because of these words? What is one thing in this passage that really stirs you to act?

As you think about your journey of faith, when are you tempted to look back instead of moving forward?

In those times of temptation, what helps you to move forward?

WEEK 10

Luke 9

“

It is necessary that the Son of Man suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and be raised the third day.

STUDY QUESTIONS

D ISCOVER **What's interesting here? What do you learn? What don't you understand?**

Read Luke 9:18–23. Knowing what we know now, how does Jesus' death shape our understanding of this passage?

Peter seems to constantly misunderstand what Jesus says. What are a few examples from the chapter?

What do verses 45–47 tell us about God's power over our thoughts?

N URTURE **What do you love in this passage? How can we see God's character here?**

Who's someone you've seen live out the truths of this chapter?

How do you feel when you think about living like this?

A CT **How should we live differently because of these words? What is one thing in this passage that really stirs you to act?**

From this passage, what does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?

What might it look like to "take up your cross" where you're at right now?



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