

LUKE 1-6: SALVATION RISING

Term 1, 2012

Daily Reading Notes

Luke 1-6

(Salvation Rising)

Week	Passage
1	Luke 1:1-25
2	Luke 1:26-80
3	Luke 2
4	Luke 3:1-4:13
5	Luke 4:14-44
6	Luke 5:1-26
7	Luke 5:27-6:11
8	Luke 6:12-36
9	Luke 6:37-49

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for 3 friends, once a week, for 1 minute (3-1-1).

List the name of your family/friends here.

Luke 1-6 guide

How to use this book:

1. Personal Reading

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His Word.

2. Growth Groups

- Take this guide with you to your growth group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. Church

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.



looking into life with Jesus

1st series Begins Tues 7th Feb @ 7:15pm for dinner

2nd series Begins Wed 8th Feb @ 7:15pm for coffee and dessert

six part series: *food + talk + discussion + coffee + questions*

evchurch.info/life
solid hope - Jesus

Introduction to the book of Luke

Luke's gospel is about God's eternal plan being revealed in all its fullness in Jesus. In fulfilment of the Old Testament, God has sent His Son, Christ the Lord, the great prophet and servant, to establish God's Kingdom and save all who will follow Him. And this offer of salvation is for all people, whether Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, man or woman. However, it is especially for those who are the outcasts, the poor, the widows, the tax collectors and the Gentiles, all who are in the best position to receive the message of hope, because they know they need it and are willing to rely on God for their salvation. And as they respond by following Jesus they become part of Jesus' new community, the church, but at the same time there are many, especially among the nation of Israel, who reject Jesus as the Messiah and so stand in opposition to Him and His people.

Luke's gospel is likely written in the early to mid 60's AD. While the author of Luke's gospel is not mentioned we do know from the Bible that the person who wrote it and the book of Acts (see Acts 1:1-3) was not an eye-witness to the events of Jesus' ministry (see Luke 1:1-3) and was a travelling companion of the Apostle Paul, which can be seen by the sections in Acts where the author says "we" indicating that he was with Paul at these times. This leaves a small number of potential candidates for the writing of the book, the main possibilities being Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Timothy, Titus, Silas, Epaphras, Barnabas and Luke. This is all the evidence we can gather from the Bible, however, the early church unanimously attributed the books of Luke and Acts to Luke (Colossians 4:14) from the earliest times. Luke was a sometime companion of Paul. He was likely a medical doctor. Tradition tells us that he was from Syrian Antioch, which was possibly the case. He was likely a Gentile, though whether Syrian or Greco-Roman is unclear. Tradition indicated he lived a long time.

Luke's gospel has two unique features: it is the longest of the accounts of Jesus' life and ministry, and it is the only gospel that has a sequel, the book of Acts.

It appears that at the time of the writing of Luke's Gospel there were four major issues in the church. Luke seeks to address these in his gospel and in the book of Acts. The issues were: 1. How gentiles could be included in God's new community; 2. Why the Jews had rejected the Messiah and whether this meant God had been unfaithful to them; 3. How a crucified Christ fit into God's plan; and, 4. What it meant to respond to Jesus. These issues are dealt with in Luke and Acts, some only being fully developed in Acts, but all having a place in Luke's gospel too.

Luke writes his gospel to Theophilus (see Luke 1:1-4) who seems to be a Gentile, and who is a man of rank who has associated himself with

the church but has doubts. The church is racially mixed and experiencing tension between Jew and Gentile, the Jewish community is hostile to the followers of Jesus and there is strong persecution. This raises questions for Theophilus about the place of the Jews in God's plan and purposes, about God's faithfulness to the Jews and about the persecution that faced the early church.

Luke writes to give Theophilus assurance by dealing with these issues. He takes Theophilus through the life and ministry of Jesus to show how God has worked to show Jesus is the Christ who brings hope. Luke also defends God's faithfulness to Israel. It is not God who has rejected Israel but Israel who have rejected God by rejecting Jesus. Luke makes clear that the gospel is open to all, Jew and Gentile, and the offer of the gospel calls Theophilus to remain faithful and committed even in the midst of Jewish rejection and persecution. Luke's gospel is not for Theophilus alone, but for all who have similar questions. Any Gentile feeling out of place in the new church could find assurance in Luke's gospel. And any Jew troubled by the large Jewish rejection to the gospel and positive response of many Gentiles to the gospel could be assured of God's faithfulness in Luke's writing.

A Basic Outline of Luke's Gospel

1. Luke's preface (1:1-4)
2. Introduction of John and Jesus (Luke 1:5-2:52)
3. Preparation for Jesus' ministry: anointed by God (Luke 3:1-4:13)
4. Galilean ministry: revelation of Jesus (Luke 4:14-9:50)
5. Journey to Jerusalem: Jewish rejection and the new way (Luke 9:51-19:44)
6. Jerusalem: the Innocent One killed and raised (Luke 19:45-24:53)

Luke 1-6: Salvation Rising

The first six chapters of Luke's Gospel especially focus in on who Jesus is and what He has come to do, and begin to call for an appropriate response to Him. He is the Spirit anointed Christ who has come to bring salvation and freedom. There are hints in these chapters that this salvation will break beyond Judaism and into all the world, and there is the call for all people to make an appropriate response to the King.

In these early chapters of Luke's gospel, in the coming of Jesus, salvation is rising like the sun to shine on those living in the darkness and in the shadow of death (see Luke 1:76-79).

ev START UP

MOVING INTO THE LIFE OF THIS CHURCH

1st series: 4 Tuesday nights beginning 7th Feb

2nd series: 4 Wednesday nights beginning 14th Mar

7:30pm Seminar Room, EV Church

ev STEP UP

BECOMING PARTNERS IN MINISTRY AND MISSION

Monday 26th March

7:30-9:30pm @ EV Church

Week 1: Luke 1:1-25

Day 1

Read Luke 1:1-4.

1. You often hear people say things like “Faith is believing in something you know isn’t true”. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
2. What sort of account is Luke writing? How does this help you to know the certainty of the things you have been taught?
3. Is it a problem that Luke was not himself an eye-witness of Jesus? Why?

Give thanks that we have such careful and accurate accounts of the life of Jesus. Pray that God would make you more certain of Jesus’ identity and work as you read through Luke 1-6.

Day 2

Read Luke 1:1-4.

1. What are the things that have been “fulfilled among us” and what does the word “fulfilled” indicate (see also Luke 24:44-47)?
2. Read Acts 1:3; 2:32; 3:15; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; 2 Peter 1:16-18; 1 Jn 1:1-4. What emphasis is there in the minds of the apostles, and why is this important for us?
3. What difference should it make to your life if the events of the gospels are truly real? Is this the case for you? How could it be more so?

Pray God would make it more and more clear to you that the events of Jesus' life, death and resurrection are truly real. Pray that this would radically change the way you live your life.

Day 3

Read Luke 1:5-25.

1. What people and events from the Old Testament does this account bring to mind (see Genesis 17:15-21 and Judges 13:2-24)?
2. What special signs or supernatural events take place surrounding the birth of John? What do these indicate?
3. How do we see God's faithfulness to His promises here?
4. Zechariah found God's promise to him hard to trust and so the angel made him unable to speak until the birth of his son, John. Which of God's promises do you find hard to trust, and why?

Ask that God would enable you to trust all His promises, even if they seem unbelievable.

Day 4

Read Luke 1:5-25.

1. What do verses 13-17 say John will do (see also Luke 1:76)?

2. At the very end of the Old Testament, in Malachi 3:1 and 4:5-6, God promised that before He came in person He would send another prophet to Israel. How is this the fulfilment of the promise to Malachi? In what way is John going to be like Elijah?
3. John is preparing people for the coming of the Lord. What is the appropriate way to respond to Jesus and the salvation He brings? Is this how you are responding to Jesus today?

Give thanks that John was born to identify Jesus and help us get ready for His message. Pray that each day God would enable you to turn back to Him in repentance and trust in the forgiveness Jesus has won for you.

Day 5

Read Luke 1:5-25.

1. Jesus will be introduced in the next passage. Considering who John is and what he is born into the world to do, what expectation are raised in this passage about Jesus?
2. How are the events experienced by Elizabeth and Zechariah an encouragement to us?

Give thanks that John has prepared the way for the Lord to come – Jesus the Christ. Give thanks for God's graciousness in dealing with us and His faithfulness to His promises.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 2: Luke 1:26-80

Day 1

Read Luke 1:26-38.

1. What is the significance of each of the things that the angel Gabriel reveals about Jesus?
 - His virgin birth (see Isaiah 11).
 - His descent from David, and how He will be different from David.
 - His name “Jesus”.
 - The titles Jesus is given.
2. What does Jesus’ virgin birth teach us about God (see verse 37)?
3. In a world that lives as if there were no God and no hope, what does this passage teach us?
4. What is Mary’s response and how is she a model for us (verse 38)?

Give thanks that the forever King in the line of David has come in fulfillment of prophecy to save His people. Pray that you would respond to God’s Word like Mary did.

Day 2

Read Luke 1:39-56.

1. What do we learn in verses 39-45 about Mary’s and Elizabeth’s sons?

2. From her song, how does Mary feel about how God has treated her? How do you feel about how the Lord has treated you?
3. From Mary's song, how does God treat people in general, and how does this prepare us for what Jesus will do in this gospel?
4. In what areas of your life are you in danger of being proud and self-sufficient?

Give thanks for how God has treated you. Pray that you might walk humbly before God all your days.

Day 3

Read Luke 1:57-80.

Again we see God's faithfulness to His promises in the birth of John.

1. Once Zechariah is able to speak again, what are the first words to come out of his mouth and what does this show about him? Do you have the same focus?
2. Why do people want to see Jesus as a moral teacher but nothing more? Does what we learn about Jesus from Zechariah's song allow us to hold this view?
3. Do verses 74-75 and 78-79 describe your experience of salvation and living as a Christian? How/how not?

Thank Jesus for the incredible freedom He has won for you to serve God without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all your

days.

Day 4

Read Luke 1:67-80.

1. According to 1:68-75, which Old Testament promises will God fulfil as He rescues His people (see also Genesis 12:1-7 and 2 Samuel 7:11b-16)?
2. Words like 'redeemed', 'salvation' and 'rescue' come up in this passage. What is the focus of what Jesus has come to do and why is this important? What role will John play in this?
3. What does this passage say God is rescuing His people from and what do it say He is rescuing them for?

Give thanks that God has rescued you from the darkness, sin and death and put us on the path of light, righteousness and peace.

Day 5

Read Luke 1.

1. Luke chapter 1 jumps back and forward between John and Jesus. In what ways are they compared and contrasted?
2. Over this chapter what picture emerges of who Jesus is and what He has come to do?
3. Why do you need Jesus? Do you ever find that you forget the extent to which you need Him?

Praise Jesus, Son of the Most High, our Lord and Saviour who has come to rescue His people. Pray that He would graciously keep you mindful of how desperate a situation you were in without Him, and how great a salvation He has won for you.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 3: Luke 2

Day 1

Read Luke 2:1-7

1. What sort of power does the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, hold at the time of Jesus' birth? How does the Davidic kingship (Israel's kingdom ruled by kings descended from King David) compare at this point in history?
2. There is a lot in the first few chapters of Luke about Jesus' connection with David. What has Jesus got to do with David (see 2 Samuel 7:4-17; Isaiah 9:1-7; Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 1:32-33 and Luke 1:68-71)?
3. From a human perspective, how impressive and powerful does Jesus seem in the circumstances of His birth (see in particular verse 7), especially when compared to Caesar Augustus? What about from God's perspective?

Praise God that through the seeming weakness of Jesus' birth comes the incredible salvation of God's great and glorious King. Pray that more and more you would see things from God's perspective, understanding that God's mighty ways often work through seeming weakness.

Day 2

Read Luke 2:1-20

1. In chapter 1, a big deal was made of the fact that Jesus is the great King who will bring salvation, the Lord Himself come to us. What events surrounding the birth of Jesus seem appropriate to this and what events seem inappropriate, in fact almost shameful? What does this teach us about God?

2. From verses 10-11, who is Jesus and what has He come to do?
3. How do the shepherds respond to the visit of the angels? How are they a model for us?
4. Why do you think Mary responds to the event surrounding Jesus' birth as she does in verse 19 (see also verses 33 and 51)?

Praise God that in Jesus' greatness there is such vast humility that God would stoop in order to come to lowly people like us. Pray that we might be like the shepherds and spread the word concerning what has been told us about Jesus.

Day 3

Read Luke 2:21-40

In Simeon and Anna we get a snapshot of faithful Israelites waiting for the coming of the Christ.

1. What has been revealed to Simeon? How is what he has been waiting for described?
2. What do you learn about Jesus from the words of Simeon? What is the scope of the salvation that Jesus will bring (see also Isaiah 49:6-7 and Isaiah 60:1-3)?
3. Both Simeon and Anna are overjoyed to see God's plan for salvation coming about. Do you share their excitement?

Give thanks that God's great plan of salvation extends beyond Israel to

all nations, including to us. Pray that the Lord would give you great excitement in what He has done, and in what He continues to do to take His salvation to the ends of the earth.

Day 4

Read Luke 2:21-40.

1. In speaking to Mary, Simeon prophesies about how Jesus will be received by the nation of Israel (verse 34-35). How will He be received? Is this what you would expect?
2. What will the salvation that Jesus wins cost (see verse 35)?
3. How does Anna respond to seeing Jesus (verse 38)? How is she a model for us?

Praise God that Jesus would pay such a cost for our salvation. Pray that the Lord would enable you to be like Anna and speak about Jesus to everyone who will hear.

Day 5

Read Luke 2:40-52.

1. How is Jesus' childhood summarized by Luke in verses 40 and 52?
2. When Jesus' parents find Him in Jerusalem, what is He doing and how are people responding to Him?

3. What does verse 49 show about who Jesus understands Himself to be, and how should we respond to Him and His teaching?

Pray that God would enable you to receive Jesus teaching with amazement.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 4: Luke 3:1-4:13

Luke has given us the background to the birth of Jesus (and John). Chapter 3 is now 30 years later when Jesus and John are grown men.

Day 1

Read Luke 3:1-20.

1. What is John's role in God's plan of salvation (see Isaiah 40:3-5; Luke 1:14-17, 1:76, 3:3-6 and 3:18)?
2. How does John say the people are to prepare for the coming of the Lord (see especially verse 3)? How are various groups of people to do this practically (verses 10-14)?
3. What specific things did you repent of when you became a Christian? What things do you need to repent of today?
4. John strongly warns the Jews. What is his warning to them? How is this a warning to us too?

Pray that the Lord would protect us from trusting in our heritage, our religiosity or anything else and so fail to produce fruit. Pray that the Lord would enable us to be people who live in ongoing repentance.

Day 2

Read Luke 3:1-20.

1. According to John, how does Jesus compare to him?
2. What does it mean that Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit and

with fire? What two sides to Jesus' ministry will there be (see also verse 17; Luke 2:30-34 and 38)?

3. How should the fact that Jesus' judgment is coming affect your life?
4. What does John get for his preaching ministry? What does this teach us about what it means to follow Jesus?

Give thanks that Jesus brings us salvation from the judgment to come. Pray that we would treat the coming judgment seriously for ourselves and others.

Day 3

Read Luke 3:21-22; Psalm 2 and Isaiah 42:1-9.

1. What is different about the baptism of Jesus from the baptism of everyone else by John? What does this show us about Him?
2. What do you think is the purpose of Jesus baptism?
3. When God the Father speaks to Jesus at His baptism He uses words that are tied to a couple of key old testament passages: Psalm 2 and Isaiah 42. Read Psalm 2 & Isaiah 40. What is the Son of Psalm 2 like? What will the Servant of Isaiah 42:1-9 do (for more about The Suffering Servant read Isaiah 49:1-6; 50:4-9 and 52:13-53:12)?
4. In light of this, how was Jesus a surprising figure for the Jews? How is He a surprising figure for your average person today?

Give thanks that Jesus is both the conquering messiah and the suffering servant, and that He is the perfectly obedient Son who is dearly loved by

His Father.

Day 4

Read Luke 3:21-37.

1. What key characters from the old testament do you recognise here and how are they important to the claims already made about Jesus in this gospel (see Luke 1:32-33, 69, 73 and 2:11)?
2. How does this passage help us to speak to people who claim that the Bible is make-believe?
3. Adam is called the son of God, and so is Jesus. How is Jesus different and why is this important for us (see Luke 3:22 & 4:1-13)?

Give thanks that God has sent another Son, Jesus, who will rescue us from the curse caused by the disobedience of the first son, Adam, and his descendants.

Day 5

Read Luke 4:1-13.

1. Jesus is full of the Holy Spirit (verse 1), just like other great saviours in the Bible. How does He differ from them?
2. How is Jesus tempted and how does Jesus combat these temptations? How is this different from how Adam and Eve responded to temptation (see Genesis 3:1-7)?

3. How is Jesus' experience in the desert similar and how is it different to Israel's experience? What does this show us about Jesus?

4. What do the words "he left Jesus until an opportune time" indicate?

Give thanks that Jesus lived in perfect obedience to God where no one else was ever able. Give thanks that His perfect obedience wins us salvation.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 5: Luke 4:14-44

From the events surrounding Jesus' baptism we see that Jesus is the Kingly Son of Psalm 2 as well as the Servant of Isaiah 42, the Servant who will bring forth justice to the earth and release the oppressed. The baptism acts as a 'commissioning service' for Jesus' ministry. In this next section, Jesus returns to Galilee and launches into His public ministry. The beginning of chapter 4 fills out Jesus' commissioning as it helps us understand what Jesus' future ministry will be about and how people will respond to Him.

Day 1

Read Luke 4:14-30.

1. In Luke 4:21, Jesus, referring to the Old Testament quote from Isaiah 61:1-2 says; "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." What is Jesus claiming about Himself? What is His mission?
2. In Isaiah 61, who are the poor and oppressed and what is the 'year of the Lord's favour' (see also Isaiah 49:8 and 2 Corinthians 6:2)?
3. Considering Jesus has just come from a confrontation with the devil, should we understand the release of the prisoners, sight to the blind and good news for the poor, spiritually or literally? How will this shape the way we read the rest of Luke's gospel?
4. What is the significance of the reference to the Spirit in 4:14 (see also Luke 3:22, 4:1 and 18)?

Give thanks that God has sent His Son, the Spirit-empowered Christ, the suffering servant, to free us from spiritual blindness, captivity and oppression.

Day 2

Read Luke 4:14-30.

In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus stops quoting from Isaiah just before the point where Isaiah speaks of judgement. It is possible that this is because Jesus is emphasising His role in salvation, but it is also likely that judgment is present in the background. In Jesus' ministry there is both salvation and judgment; those who will not accept Jesus' salvation will face His wrath. Luke 4:22-30 begins to look at this.

1. Jesus knows what the people of Nazareth are thinking. In verse 23, we see that Jesus is aware that they want Him to perform for them the miracles that He performed in Capernaum. What does verse 24 show is wrong with their desire? How does their behaviour in verses 22-30 show that Jesus was right in His evaluation of them?
2. In Luke 4:25-26 Jesus is referring to 1 Kings 17:7-16. In this passage, God sent Elijah to miraculously feed a widow and her son during a famine in Israel. But they were not Israelites, and all of Israel was suffering in the famine. What point is Jesus making in Luke 4:25-26? Why are his original hearers so angered by this?
3. What is the significance of the attempt to murder Jesus? Is it significant that it occurred in His home town?
4. What is the trap that these Jews have fallen into? How is this a warning to us?

Pray that God would protect us from being like the Jews here – having God's very words and yet not heeding them. Pray that we would listen carefully to Jesus' words and apply them in our lives.

Sin, sickness, demon possession, death and fruitless labour frustrate us and the world we live in. They frustrate us and hinder us from being the

way we were created to be. It is important to remember that these frustrations are not random or simply the forces of nature, but they are the work of Satan in destroying God's good creation. However, when Jesus quotes Isaiah 61 in Luke 4:18-19, He announces that He has come to defeat Satan. He has come to overthrow Satan's destructive work and bring in the time of salvation for those who long for release from Satan's power. In chapters 4 and 5 we see Jesus at work releasing people from the frustrations of the world, from Satan's power. We see his Kingdom breaking into the world and from this we get a 'foretaste' of what life in his Kingdom promises. It is a life that is on offer to those who respond to him rightly.

Day 3

Read Luke 4:31-37.

1. What sort of authority does Jesus possess, and in what ways is it seen in this passage?
2. What does the evil spirit's response to Jesus teach us about Jesus?
3. What seems to be a clear priority in Jesus' ministry (see Luke 4:15, 21-22, 31-32, 36 and 43-44)? Why do you think this is?
4. In what ways could you better let Jesus' words have authority over your life?

Pray that the Lord would enable you to recognize Jesus' authority over all things. Pray that you would sit under the authority of His Word more and more.

Day 4

Read Luke 4:38-44.

1. What sort of authority does Jesus possess and in what ways is it seen in this passage?
2. Why did Jesus not allow the demons to identify him?
3. What is Jesus' top priority and why?
4. Why is performing miracles not Jesus' top priority, and how should this affect our approach to ministry?

Pray that God would change us so that more and more Jesus' top priority would become our top priority.

Day 5

Read Luke 4:14-44.

1. How do Jesus' actions in this passage show Jesus to be the Christ?
2. How do Jesus' actions in this passage begin to fulfil His stated mission (verses 18-19)?
3. How do all the various parties respond to Jesus in this passage? Which are you most like and why?

Ask the Lord to help you respond appropriately to Jesus and His Words.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 6: Luke 5:1-26

Day 1

Read Luke 5:1-11.

1. What does Jesus do in this passage and what impact does it have on Peter? How did you come to the same realisation that Peter did about who Jesus is and your position before Him?
2. What mission does Jesus give Peter (and by extension us)? How can you fish today? What is your net?
3. How do Peter, James and John show that they accept Jesus' authority over them? How does your life show that you live under Jesus' authority?

Pray that you would leave behind your old life and follow Jesus. Ask that the Lord would make you effective as you seek to bring people into the kingdom.

Day 2

Read Luke 5:12-16.

1. There are a couple of ways in which it is significant that Jesus touched this man (see Leviticus 13:45-46). What are they?
2. Why does Jesus send the Leper to the priest?
3. What does this episode show about Jesus and what He has come to do?

4. Jesus shows deep compassion in this account. How could you show greater compassion to others?
5. If Jesus is the Son of God why does He pray? How could you work at being more prayerful?

Give thanks that Jesus has come in great compassion and willingness to cleanse those who are unclean. Ask that the Lord would make you more prayerful.

Day 3

Read Luke 5:17-26.

1. What were the paralyzed man and His friends hoping that Jesus could do for him, and what is it that Jesus actually does for him?
2. What do people on the central coast think is a person's greatest needs? What does Jesus think?
3. Why are the Pharisees and teachers of the law so upset?
4. How does Jesus show that He has authority to forgive sins, and what does this authority show about who Jesus is?

Praise Jesus as the Lord God Almighty who is able to forgive sins. Pray that the people of the coast would recognize their greatest need is to receive forgiveness from Jesus.

Day 4

Read Luke 5:27-32.

1. Again, how do we see Jesus' authority in how He deals with Levi? What is confronting about what Jesus calls people to do?
2. What sort of things do people today say that Jesus came to do? What does Jesus says that He has come to do in verses 31-32 (see also Luke 19:10)? Do you think "the righteous" exist?
3. Are you happy to call yourself a sick sinner in need of Jesus' rescue? Why/why not?

Pray that the Lord would enable you to see yourself rightly so that you would always see your great need for Jesus.

Day 5

Read Luke 5:1-32.

1. How do the four episodes in this passage show Jesus' authority?
2. What do the four episodes in this passage show about Jesus' mission?
3. What are Jesus' miracles demonstrating (see especially Luke 4:42-44)?

4. People responded to Jesus' authority in one of two ways. What were they? What does the right response involve (see especially Luke 5:8, 11,12, 28)?

Pray that you would continue to respond rightly to Jesus, trusting Him to save you from your sins and following Him as your Lord.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 7: Luke 5:27-6:11

Day 1

Read Luke 5:27-32.

1. Why are the Pharisees and teachers of the law upset with Jesus in verse 33? How does Jesus show that they are wrong to think this way?
2. How do they think of themselves, and why is this a problem? When is this sort of thinking a danger for you?
3. How could you approach a conversation about people's need for Jesus when speaking to someone who feels like they are good, moral and worthy of God's acceptance?

Pray the Lord would continue to protect you from self-righteousness. Ask that you would be able to bring the gospel to people who trust in their own goodness in such a way that the Lord would bring them to humble repentance.

Day 2

Read Luke 5:33-39.

1. What problem do the Pharisees have with Jesus?
2. Why is it appropriate that His disciples don't fast and pray at this point in Jesus' ministry? What do we learn here about who Jesus is and what He is going to do?
3. Jesus here takes upon Himself the Old Testament bridegroom

imagery (see for example Isaiah 54:5-6) that usually refers to God, and seems to suggest that all of history is shaped around His coming. If this is the case how should it shape the way we live and structure our life?

Give thanks that our bridegroom has come bringing salvation and joy. Pray that He would enable you to live faithfully as His bride until He comes again bringing salvation and joy in all it's fullness.

Day 3

Read Luke 5:33-39.

1. What do the different garments and wineskins represent here in Jesus' little parables? What is He challenging the Pharisees to do?
2. Verse 39 seems like a sad pronouncement about the fate of many Pharisees and Jews. What is Jesus concluding here?
3. The Pharisees were living for the present life, so when they saw the Kingdom breaking in they rejected it. They preferred the world the way it was. When are you at risk of preferring your world the way it was before Jesus impacted it?

Pray that you would be willing to let Jesus shape your thinking and living in every regard.

Day 4

Read Luke 6:1-11 and 1 Samuel 21:1-11.

1. In verses 1-5, what problem do the Pharisees have with Jesus and His disciples?

Jesus could argue with the regulations that Pharisees had set up around the Old Testament Sabbath law but He doesn't. Instead He chooses to make a bigger point.

2. Jesus responds by telling a story about King David. What is His point in speak of this story?
3. Jesus' speaks with great authority, but the question is whether He really has the authority to speak as He does. Who does Jesus say He is in verse 5, and what does He mean (see also Daniel 7:13-14)?

Pray that more and more would come to see Jesus as He actually is, in all His splendor and glory.

Day 5

Read Luke 6:1-11

1. In verses 1-11, what does Jesus teach about the Sabbath in particular and the law in general?
2. How do verses 6-11 show the truth of the claim Jesus made in verse 5?
3. How should the Pharisees have responded to this display of power consistent with the authority that Jesus claimed to possess?
4. What escalation do we see in the Pharisees' attitude in verses 7 and then verse 11? Why are they so hostile to what He is doing, and what

does this teach us about humanity and what we can expect as we share Jesus with others (see also John 15:25)?

Pray that the Lord would enable you to be someone who does good on all occasions. Ask for the ability to stand up under hatred and persecution, and to be a loving and godly witness to Christ even under opposition.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 8: Luke 6:12-36

Day 1

Read Luke 6:12-49.

1. Sum up in your own words the three or four big points Jesus is making in this passage.
2. Which of these points challenges you the most? What is one practical way that you will let them change the way you think and live?
3. What do we learn about God from this chapter?

Give thanks that the Lord is a God of compassion, mercy, generosity, a lover of enemies, a forgiver of sins, a refuge for the helpless and kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

Day 2

Read Luke 6:12-26.

1. Why does Jesus spend the night praying to God? What does this show about Jesus (see also Luke 5:16; 9:18, 28; 11:1; 22:32 and 22:39-46)?
2. Prayer was central to Jesus' life. What place does prayer have in your life? How is this demonstrated?
3. What is an apostle, why do you think Jesus chooses twelve, and why do you think they are named?

Give thanks that Jesus has formed the 'new Israel' of which you can be a part. Ask that the Lord would continue to reform your prayer life to be more honouring to Him and dependent on Him.

Last week we saw that many of the Jews prefer their old religion and will not accept Jesus and the 'new thing' He is bringing, a new people of God or 'new Israel' centred around Him, their Messiah. Who will accept what God is doing? In this passage we see Jesus begin this process by calling 12 apostles as a symbolic parallel to the 12 tribes of the nation of Israel.

Having called His 'new Israel', Jesus begins to teach His disciples what it means to be part of the Kingdom.

Day 3

Read Luke 6:12-26.

This is often called Jesus' 'sermon on the plain'.

1. According to Jesus, for whom will there be blessing and for whom will there be woe?
2. Are the poor, hungry and weeping or the rich, well fed and laughing merely those who are these things in a physical sense, or is there more to it? Why do you say this (see also Luke 1:53 and 4:18)?
3. When will this take place? How does this compare with the view of life that people generally hold? How could you let this reshape your attitude to life in this world?
4. What attitude do we need to have in order to come to God?

Pray that you would continually recognize your spiritual helplessness and need, and trust Christ as your only hope. Pray that the Lord would

protect you from self-sufficiency and the things in life that can lure us into an attitude of self-sufficiency.

Day 4

Read Luke 6:27-36.

1. Who does your average person who lives on the coast love?
2. What sort of love does Jesus call us to here? How is this radical?
3. From verses 27-31, what are some practical outworkings of this sort of love?
4. Does this passage mean Christians are to always allow themselves to be walked over? Why or why not?

Pray that the Lord would enable you to love your enemies, to love everyone in such a sacrificial way and to have the wisdom to know the best way to love others in each circumstance.

Day 5

Read Luke 6:27-36.

1. From verses 32-35, how are Jesus' disciples to live?
2. If we are to love people in such a way that we get no payback from people, where is our reward coming from? When will this be?

3. Where are you looking for your reward and how is this seen in your life?

Pray that the Lord would continue to lift your eyes heavenward, knowing that that is where your great reward lies.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 9: Luke 6:37-49

Day 1

Read Luke 6:37-42.

1. Does Jesus forbid making judgements of any kind (see verses 43-45)? What kind of judgement does Jesus forbid?
2. There are four commands in verses 37-38, two pairs and a promise. How do the commands fit together, and what is the promise?
3. Identify relationships where you have in the past, or you are currently, breaking these commands and so need to repent.
4. What is meant by the “good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, that will be poured into your lap”? How is this an incentive for you to be merciful, forgiving and generous?

Pray that the Lord would take away from you judgmental, unforgiving, harsh and tight-fisted attitudes and make you more and more merciful, forgiving and gracious.

Day 2

Read Luke 6:37-42.

1. In verses 39-40 are two little pictures conveying related points. What points are they making?
2. What is Jesus seeking to convey by using the illustration of the speck and plank? How is this a challenge to you?

3. The word hypocrite (verse 42) is a descriptive word, meaning “play-actor”. In what sense are those who look at the speck in their brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in their own eye hypocrites? In what areas of your Christian life do you risk being a hypocrite?

Pray that the Lord would enable you to see the serious consequences of who you and others follow, and ask that He would enable you to be self-critical before even thinking of being critical of others.

Day 3

Read Luke 6:43-45.

1. When Jesus is talking about trees and fruit, what is He illustrating?
2. What is the real difference between the two types of people? How is this a comfort to you and how is this a challenge?
3. What relationship is there between our hearts and mouths? What has your mouth been showing about your heart in recent days?

Thank Jesus for the new heart that He gives us when we come to follow Him. Pray that the Lord would continue to reshape your heart so that more and more ‘good things’ would flow out into your life and speech.

Day 4

Read Luke 6:46-49.

1. What is Jesus saying about Himself in this parable?

2. What is the right way and what is the wrong way to respond to Jesus' teaching, and what is the result of each?
3. In what areas in your life could Jesus be saying, "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" What would it take to be obedient in these areas?

Ask Jesus for forgiveness for all the times that you have not put His Word into practice. Pray that more and more in every area of life you would do what Jesus says.

Day 5

Read Luke 1-6.

1. According to these chapters, who is Jesus?
2. According to these chapters, what will it mean to follow Him?
3. How have chapters 1-6 increased your confidence in Jesus?

Thank God for what you have learned about Jesus over the last term. Pray that you would have growing confidence in Him and that you would be continuing to grow in your trust in Him and obedience to Him.

Prayer Points and Notes

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saturdayev
church

MISSION PARTNERS

EV is committed to the proclamation of the gospel all over the world. For you and your group's prayers, here are SaturdayEV's Mission Partners.

Chris and Sharon Ekins (Coast Evangelical Church, Forster)



Chris and Sharon moved up to Forster to begin a church there in early 2009. They were convicted of the great need up there for more Bible teaching churches, especially ones that are accessible to those with little or no church background.

Praise God that they now have about 60 adults and 30 kids who call Coast EC home.

Pray that God would continue to grow His church and save many, as they pray, invest in relationships, share the gospel and teach the Bible. Check out www.coastec.net.au/category/prayer/ for more.

Derek and Anna (Southeast Asia)

Derek and Anna (Liam & Jasmine) have come from Crossroads, one of our sister churches in Canberra, where Anna did MTS. They are in Southeast Asia, engaged language and culture learning. Derek is teaching in a local college, training workers who will go back to their towns as leaders who will bring the message to those with whom they live. Pray that Derek will be able to settle into this new role, especially in the area of language. Anna will be looking for ways to minister to local women who live in their community.

The Geneva Push



Geneva has been set up to provide a means by which we can pool our energies to fuel a whole new generation of church planting that might see thousands of Australians saved to know Jesus. Geneva is seeking to achieve this outcome by communicating the vision and need of planting so more and more young people think to give themselves to planting. It then has set in place a high quality assessment process to find the best guys, and provides ongoing support and training through coaching structures, mentoring and ongoing conferences to best ensure planters have the biggest impact they can as planters. Investing financially in Geneva will serve to create a whole new generation of vibrant churches across the country.

www.thegenevpush.com

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Jono and Amy Vink (Tanzania)



Jono and Amy, along with their children Lili, Isaac, Brie and Abe, are working in Musoma, Tanzania. Jono helps to train church leaders by grounding them in Biblical theology and in practical exegetical skills. The aim is to equip locals to teach the Bible and pastor God's people in Tanzania. Amy home schools and is involved in running various groups and Sunday School at the local church. Amy is also working with local women in the new Rhema Coffee Shop, which provides not only income and training for local women but is a base for evangelism and discipleship.

Paul and Sandra King (Strasbourg, France)



Paul and Sandra have been working in university ministry in France since the 1990s. They are currently in Strasbourg, working with the University Bible Group (GBU). Their ministry with university students involves evangelism, discipling, and training students. They coordinate a ministry apprenticeship program called RELAY, which gives people the opportunity to be equipped for full time Bible ministry. France is a very secular country, with less than 1% being Christian. Paul and Sandra long to see French students commit to full time Bible ministry in order to grow Christ's kingdom in France. Pray to this end. Email: prayerpoints@cms.org.au for more info.

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Colin and Jill Bakon



Colin and Jill Bakon now living on the Central Coast after 12 years of ministry in Ecuador with mission agency SIM, gained an understanding of Latin American culture and mission in that context. Their new role, based here, involves training, mentoring and pastoral care of Latin Americans in mission.

SIM is responding to the growing desire of Latin American Christians to be an active part of world mission. They have asked Colin to develop a network of local Christian volunteers in Latin American countries who

will help churches and prospective missionary candidates fulfill their call to worldwide mission. *The role involves a relational style of training and mentoring in line with Latin culture. The Bakons will work with a multimedia team based in Peru to develop easily accessible Spanish materials that can be used with volunteers, candidates and churches.* Jill is aiming to provide pastoral support and encouragement to Latin American missionaries already serving around the world with SIM. Colin and Jill will use SKYPE/email to fulfill these roles but Colin will occasionally travel to South America to provide face-to-face training and support for volunteers.

Pray for them as they establish this ministry and form the necessary networks with Latin Americans. Pray as they develop a relationship with their colleagues, Obed and Juanita Cruz in Guatemala. Pray for patience and wisdom as they work out how best to enable the volunteers to be effective. Pray for Jill as she gets to know those Latin American missionaries currently serving in SIM countries (India, China, Nigeria, Kenya, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guatemala and Uruguay). Pray for their increased need of financial support due to being based here.

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Martin & Jen Shadwick (AFES Newcastle Uni)



Martin and Jen are both graduates of our EV MTS program. They work full-time with AFES at Newcastle Uni, engaging in evangelism as well as discipling and training Christian students. Martin leads the AFES staff team which oversees two groups – one for Australian students and one for international students.

Chris and Sharon Ekins (Coast Evangelical Church, Forster)



Chris and Sharon moved up to Forster to begin a church there in early 2009. They were convicted of the great need up there for more Bible teaching churches, especially ones that are accessible to those with little or no church background. Praise God that they now have about 60 adults and 30 kids who call Coast EC home. Pray that God would continue to grow His church and save many, as they pray, invest in relationships, share the gospel, and teach the Bible. Check out www.coastec.net.au/category/prayer/ for more.

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Kirsten Hawkshaw (CMS Missionary in Nepal)

After five months full-time language and culture learning, Kirstin has begun working part time while continuing language study. She is working as an occupational therapist in Pokhara, Nepal where she hopes to be salt and light as she cares for people with disabilities and supports the local Church. One of the poorest countries in the world, Nepal is a particularly hard place to live if you are disabled or suffering from an injury. Christians in Nepal have the opportunity to stand out by caring for all people regardless of disabilities or health problems, caste or social standing.

For giving to NiteEV Missionaries

Direct Deposit labeled 'NiteEV Shadwicks' or 'NiteEV Ekins' or 'NiteEV Hawkshaw'

Bank: CBA

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The New Testament teaches us to give generously, regularly and joyfully. Please join with us in bringing solid hope to the coast - Jesus.

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Please label your giving for your congregation. Label with one of the following:

“for Breakfast EV”

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For tax deductible giving to our new church building, please use the following account details:

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If you require a receipt put your name and SBF (School Building Fund) as your reference on the direct debit please.

