# LUKE'S GOOD NEWS

## The Life of JESUS

WHY DO YOU LOOK FOR THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD? HE IS NOT HERE. HE HAS RISEN

## Life Group Studies & 40 Days Through Luke

JESUS PRESENTED IN THE TEMPLE... LUKE 2:21-40

CALLING THE FIRST DISCIPLES: SIMON... LUKE 5:1-11

HEALING THE DEMON-POSSESSED MAN... LUKE 8:26-29

PARABLE OF THE TREWAT BANQUET... LUKE 14:15-24

ZACCHAEUS THE TAX COLLECTOR... LUKE 19:1-10

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS... LUKE 24:13-3

# What has GOD Been saying to me through HIS WORD Today?

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| M | 3/7 | ☐ | Luke 1:1-38 |
| T | 3/8 | ☐ | Luke 1:39-66 |
| W | 3/9 | ☐ | Luke 1:67-2:20 |
| TH | 3/10 | ☐ | Luke 2:21-40 |
| F | 3/11 | ☐ | Luke 2:41-3:22 |
| S | 3/12 | ☐ | Luke 3:23-4:30 |
| SU | 3/13 | ☐ | Luke 4:31-44 |
| M | 3/14 | ☐ | Luke 5:1-26 |
| T | 3/15 | ☐ | Luke 5:27-6:5 |
| W | 3/16 | ☐ | Luke 6:6-23 |
| TH | 3/17 | ☐ | Luke 6:24-42 |
| F | 3/18 | ☐ | Luke 6:43-7:10 |
| S | 3/19 | ☐ | Luke 7:11-50 |
| SU | 3/20 | ☐ | Luke 8:1-18 |
| M | 3/21 | ☐ | Luke 8:19-56 |
| T | 3/22 | ☐ | Luke 9:1-17 |
| W | 3/23 | ☐ | Luke 9:18-36 |
| TH | 3/24 | ☐ | Luke 9:37-62 |
| F | 3/25 | ☐ | Luke 10:1-37 |
| S | 3/26 | ☐ | 10:38-11:28 |
| SU | 3/27 | ☐ | Luke 11:29-53 |
| M | 3/28 | ☐ | Luke 12:1-34 |
| T | 3/29 | ☐ | Luke 12:35-13:5 |
| W | 3/30 | ☐ | Luke 13:6-19 |
| TH | 3/31 | ☐ | Luke 13:20-35 |
| F | 4/1 | ☐ | Luke 14:1-24 |
| S | 4/2 | ☐ | 14:25-15:10 |
| SU | 4/3 | ☐ | Luke 15:11-32 |
| M | 4/4 | ☐ | Luke 16:1-31 |
| T | 4/5 | ☐ | Luke 17:1-18:8 |
| W | 4/6 | ☐ | Luke 18:9-30 |
| TH | 4/7 | ☐ | 18:31-19:10 |
| F | 4/8 | ☐ | Luke 19:11-44 |
| S | 4/9 | ☐ | 19:45-20:19 |
| SU | 4/10 | ☐ | 20:20-21:4 |
| M | 4/11 | ☐ | Luke 21:5-22:30 |
| T | 4/12 | ☐ | Luke 22:31-53 |
| W | 4/13 | ☐ | 22:54-23:25 |
| TH | 4/14 | ☐ | Luke 23:26-56 |
| F | 4/15 | ☐ | Luke 24:1-52 |

**Luke 2:21-40** **JESUS PRESENTED IN THE TEMPLE**

**LOOKING INTO THE SCRIPTURE/20 Minutes.** Read Luke 2:21-40 and discuss.

1. What does this story reveal about the perents of Jesus?
   a. they were very poor
   b. they were religious
   c. they were very young
   d. they knew their son was very special

2. Why do you suppose this was such a meaningful occasion for Simeon?
   a. he had waited so long for this moment
   b. he expected to see the Christ (God's Annointed One)
   c. God had not forgotten his promise
   d. he marvelled at how God could use a baby to bring his salvation

3. Put yourself in Joseph and Mary's shoes. How would you have felt if two old people came to you and gave startling predictions about your son?
   a. proud
   b. scared
   c. confused
   d. overwhelmed

4. In Simeon's prophecy about the child, what was he predicting?
   a. Roman Empire would collapse
   b. Israel would reject God's Messiah
   c. national bloodshed
   d. the parents would experience pain

5. Do you think the parents of Jesus understood what was going to happen to their son?
   a. maybe a little
   b. probably not
   c. not at first
   d. his mother probably did
   e. I would like to think so

6. What strikes you as significant about Anna and Simeon?
   a. they were both old
   b. they both spent all their time at the temple
   c. they were very close to their God
   d. they lived life expecting to see God at work
   e. they were both concerned about the welfare of Israel
   f. they recognized their need for a Savior

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**MY OWN STORY/25 Minutes.**

1. Briefly tell your "roots," what your parents were like when you were born:
   a. financially
   b. religiously
   c. socially

2. What do you know about your baptism or dedication as an infant?
   a. don't know anything about it
   b. I have a certificate/pictures in my baby book
   c. we did not go to church then
   d. it was a big family affair

3. Do you think your parents understand what is going on in your life now?
   a. I hope not
   b. probably
   c. maybe a little bit
   d. for sure
   e. no, but I'd like them to

4. Do you think God has a plan and purpose for your life like he did for Mary and Joseph?
   a. not at all
   b. in a way
   c. maybe, but not the same plan
   d. definitely

5. How open are you to God's will for your life at the moment?
   a. a little bit
   b. a whole lot
   c. just don't send me to Africa
   d. ask me tomorrow

6. What would be the crowning joy for you in your old age?
   a. to see my children's children
   b. to strike it rich
   c. to look back on a life full of surprises
   d. to leave the world a better place in which to live
   e. to feel I have done God's will

**Luke 5:1-11** **CALLING THE FIRST DISCIPLES: SIMON**

**LOOKING INTO THE SCRIPTURE/20 Minutes.** Read Luke 5:1-11 and discuss.

1. What gets your attention about this first meeting of Jesus and Simon?
   a. it was a terrific coincidence
   b. it was more than coincidental
   c. Jesus trusted a stranger to help him
   d. how Jesus showed his interest in Simon's work

2. If you had been Simon Peter when Jesus asked him to "put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch," what would you have done?
   a. what Peter did
   b. made some excuse
   c. politely told Jesus to stick to his preaching
   d. suggested another time when the fish were biting
   e. gone ahead grudgingly
   f. wondered who this person thought he was

3. When they "caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break," how do you think Simon Peter felt?
   a. overjoyed
   b. terrible about what he had said to Jesus
   c. dumbfounded
   d. aware of who Jesus was

4. When Simon Peter said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" what did he mean?
   a. you embarrass me because you know more about fishing than I do
   b. I feel uncomfortable being around you because of my sinful life
   c. I know you are all that you say you are, but I am not ready to follow
   d. stop bugging me and get out of my life
   e. I'm confused. If I say "yes," I know that it will mean changing my life and I don't think I can measure up

5. "They left everything and followed him." Why?
   a. they wanted Jesus to become their fishing partner
   b. they followed him in blind faith
   c. they were confused and needed time to figure him out
   d. they were attracted to his message
   e. they were intrigued by the thought of be coming "fishers of men"
   f. they were irresponsible
   g. they knew then and there that he was the Messiah

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**MY OWN STORY/20 Minutes.** Share some of your own spiritual journey with your group.

1. In comparison to Simon Peter's call, how would you explain your spiritual beginning?
   a. tame
   b. more intellectual
   c. just as confusing
   d. even crazier
   e. different, but just as real
   f. not sure

2. What is the condition of your spiritual boat right now?
   a. sinking
   b. out for repairs in dry dock
   c. dead in the water
   d. sailing at a fast clip
   e. sailing in the wrong direction
   f. battered by the heavy waves

3. Where do you think Jesus is, in relationship to your spiritual boat?
   a. on the shore watching
   b. swimming out to meet me
   c. climbing on board
   d. aboard, but not doing anything
   e. casting out the nets
   f. pulling in the catch

4. How does the idea of "putting out into deep water and letting down your nets for a catch" sound to you?
   a. scary
   b. crazy
   c. okay, but...
   d. fine, if someone will join me
   e. just the invitation I've been waiting for
   f. not sure what you mean

5. What is it going to take to get you going?
   a. time to consider the cost
   b. a little support from others
   c. a good kick in the pants
   d. time to get myself together
   e. help to clean up my life
   f. frankly, I don't know

**Luke 8:26-39** **HEALING OF A DEMON-POSSESSED MAN**

**LOOKING INTO THE SCRIPTURE/25 Minutes.** Read Luke 8:26-39 and discuss.

1. Stepping off the boat, how do you think Jesus reacted to the demon-possessed man?
   a. kindness
   b. fear
   c. uncertainty about what to do
   d. instant recognition of the Enemy
   e. confidence in God's power

2. Why didn't Jesus banish the demons to the Abyss ("locked up" once and for all)?
   a. he didn't have the power
   b. it wasn't time yet
   c. they begged him not to
   d. the pigs were a satisfactory solution

3. What impresses you about the Legion?
   a. their power
   b. their number
   c. their path to destruction
   d. their fear of Jesus

4. After the Legion left him, the man felt:
   a. empty
   b. hopeful
   c. changed
   d. a desire to belong again
   e. healthy
   f. committed to Jesus
   g. in control of his choices

5. What question do you think bothered the bystanders the most?
   a. what just happened here?
   b. who is going to pay for the pigs?
   c. is this healing for real?
   d. who is this man Jesus?
   e. can any person see God and live?

6. Why did the bystanders want Jesus to leave town?
   a. he didn't belong there
   b. they needed time to think things through
   c. they were afraid he might send more pigs into the lake
   d. they didn't want him to cast out *their* demons
   e. they were afraid he might be God

7. Jesus wanted the healed man to return home:
   a. because there was no room in Jesus' boat
   b. to be restored to his family
   c. to fulfill the requirements for ritual cleansing
   d. because they needed to hear his story
   e. because nobody else would believe his story

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**MY OWN STORY/20 Minutes.**

1. If I could be free of just one thing, it would be:
   a. fear of failure
   b. bad feelings toward another person
   c. spiritual doubt
   d. unfulfilling work
   e. worry
   f. physical limitations
   g. _____

2. If my worst affliction were lifted from me, I would most likely feel:
   a. surprised
   b. overcome with fear
   c. peaceful
   d. excited
   e. thankful
   f. I'm not sure

3. At the present moment I am:
   a. isolated in solitary places
   b. crying out to Jesus
   c. experiencing God's healing
   d. sitting at Jesus' feet
   e. telling everyone what Jesus has done for me

4. The most helpful thing my small group can do for me is:
   a. get excited about what God is doing in my life
   b. help me to see what God is doing in my life
   c. be part of what God is doing in my life
   d. tell me what God is doing in their lives
   e. help me see what God could do in my life

**Luke 14:15-24** **PARABLE OF THE GREAT BANQUET**

**LOOKING INTO THE SCRIPTURE/20 Minutes.** Read Luke 14:15-24 and discuss.

1. How do you feel when someone declines your invitation to dinner?
   a. no problem
   b. hurt feelings
   c. wonder what the real reason is
   d. resentment for the trouble I went to
   e. embarrassment
   f. understanding

2. To what is the "great banquet" referring?
   a. the kingdom of God
   b. deeper spiritual things
   c. Jesus himself
   d. the marriage banquet at the return of Christ
   e. restoration of the Jewish nation

3. Why did the three people who were originally invited refuse to come?
   a. they didn't like banquets
   b. too busy with other things
   c. not interested in being with God
   d. unaware of what they were missing
   e. they didn't realize this was the last invitation

4. "Go out quickly into the streets and alleys...bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame." Who are these people?
   a. the losers
   b. outcasts of society
   c. people hungry for spiritual things
   d. Gentiles outside of the covenant
   e. everybody who knows they do not deserve God's grace

5. "I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet." Why?
   a. they blew their chance
   b. committed the "unforgivable sin"
   c. chose not to receive God's grace
   d. rejected Jesus as the Messiah

6. If God invited you to a banquet as his special guest (to spend time together), what would you do?
   a. probably make some excuse
   b. ask who else is coming
   c. wonder what God was up to
   d. go reluctantly
   e. jump at the chance
   f. don't know

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**MY OWN STORY/25 Minutes.**

1. How would you describe your spiritual diet right now?
   a. baby food
   b. TV dinners
   c. meat and potatoes
   d. junk food except on Sunday
   e. dehydrated food (dried out)
   f. gourmet feast
   g. pure Bread and Wine

2. What can you expect at God's banquet?
   a. all my needs will be met
   b. the company will be interesting
   c. it's a once-in-a-lifetime event
   d. it will take commitment to stay and eat
   e. I will always be welcome
   f. in order not to get fat I will be asked to share the banquet with others

3. When it comes to experiencing God's spiritual feast, what will help you enjoy it more?
   a. spiritual hunger
   b. recognition that it is not a pot-luck—God provides all the food
   c. eating on a regular schedule rather than gorging once a week
   d. assurance that I can eat whenever I'm hungry

4. What would it take to get you to come to the banquet of God's deeper things?
   a. an adjustment in my schedule
   b. an invitation direct from God
   c. a few friends to join me
   d. lively entertainment and fun
   e. a little more spiritual hunger

**Luke 19:1-10** **ZACCHAEUS THE TAX COLLECTOR**

**LOOKING INTO THE SCRIPTURE/20 Minutes.** Read Luke 19:1-10 and discuss.

1. What impresses you about Zacchaeus?
   a. his wealth
   b. his agility
   c. his curiosity
   d. his flexibility
   e. his change of heart

2. What was it about Zacchaeus that Jesus singled him out?
   a. the worst sinner in town
   b. sold out to Roman authorities
   c. guilty of fraud and thievery
   d. hungry for something more in life
   e. he was so short

3. What do you suppose was Jesus' facial expression when he said, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately..."?
   a. stern
   b. delighted
   c. relieved to find a dinner companion
   d. sympathetic
   e. matter-of-fact

4. Why do you think Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus' house for dinner?
   a. he felt sorry for him
   b. he wanted to talk to him about his shady business
   c. he needed a spectacular miracle to gain credibility in the town
   d. he knew he had what Zacchaeus was seeking

5. What do you think they talked about over dinner?
   a. the weather
   b. how Zach was really feeling
   c. God's plan for his life
   d. how to pay back what he had stolen from the people

6. "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham...." What is Jesus saying about Zach here?
   a. Zach is a newborn person
   b. accept Zach as a brother Jew
   c. Zach has followed in the tradition of Abraham's faith
   d. Zach is no worse than any of you
   e. give Zach a chance to pay back what he has stolen

7. Do you think the meeting between Zacchaeus and Jesus was coincidental or all part of the plan and purpose of God?
   a. coincidental
   b. more than coincidental
   c. don't know

8. How do you think Zacchaeus felt when he left Jesus?
   a. loved and accepted
   b. relieved and restored
   c. clean and beautiful
   d. a part of God's family again

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**MY OWN STORY/20 Minutes.**

Suppose Jesus were to invite himself to your house. Bob Munger, in his little booklet "My Heart—Christ's Home," describes the areas of life as the rooms of a house. Take an inventory of your own life, then give yourself a grade on each room as follows: A = excellent rating; B = good rating; C = passing, but needs a little dusting; and D = barely passing, needs a lot of cleaning.

☐ LIBRARY: This room is your mind—what you allow to go into it and come out of it. It is the "control room" of the entire house.

☐ DINING ROOM: Appetites, desires, those things that your mind and spirit feed on for nourishment.

☐ DRAWING ROOM: This room is where you draw close to God, seek time with him daily, not just in times of distress or need.

☐ WORKSHOP: This room is where your gifts, talents and skills are put to work for God...by the power of the Spirit.

☐ RUMPUS ROOM: The social area of your life—the things you do to amuse yourself and others.

☐ HALL CLOSET: The one secret place that no one knows about, but is a real stumbling block in your walk in the Spirit.

**Luke 24:13-35** **ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

**LOOKING INTO THE SCRIPTURE/20 Minutes.** Read Luke 24:13-35 and discuss.

1. Why did the two men take off for Emmaus?
   a. scared stiff
   b. work the next day
   c. running away
   d. disillusionment over the events of the last week

2. Why didn't the two men recognize Jesus when he joined them?
   a. they refused to believe their eyes
   b. they were too occupied
   c. Jesus was invisible in his resurrection body
   d. they didn't look up to see who it was
   e. they were kept from recognizing him

3. When they heard the report from the women about the empty tomb, what did they assume?
   a. the worst
   b. Jesus was alive
   c. someone had stolen the body
   d. the authorities were arresting every body

4. Why did Jesus begin with Moses and the prophets in explaining what happened?
   a. the guys knew about them
   b. Moses gave the Law and the prophets predicted the coming Messiah
   c. to understand Jesus, you have to understand the Old Testament
   d. to show them they were on the right track about Jesus

5. What opened the eyes of the two men?
   a. burst of insight
   b. the way Jesus "took bread...and broke it"
   c. the Holy Spirit
   d. putting two and two together

6. Why did the two men want to return to Jerusalem?
   a. to join the party
   b. to confirm the women's report
   c. to make amends
   d. to be with their friends
   e. to tell everybody the good news
   f. to rejoin Jesus' team they had quit

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**MY OWN STORY/25 Minutes.**

1. Take a moment and indicate from 1 to 10 how you would cope with the following stress situations. 1 is NO ANXIETY; 10 is HIGH ANXIETY.

_____ DEATH: Your closest friend suddenly dies
_____ SECURITY: One day your boss tells you that you are fired
_____ HOPE SHATTERED: The dreams you had for the future are dashed
_____ LODGING: You don't have a place to sleep tonight
_____ REPUTATION: You risked everything and the cause you believed in turns sour
_____ FRIENDS: The old gang breaks up, including most of your friends
_____ SUICIDE: One of your best friends hangs himself
_____ BETRAYAL: You feel let down by the one person in the world you trusted
_____ SHAME: The people in town laugh at you and think you've wasted your life

2. Have you ever felt like running away or throwing in the towel spiritually?
   a. maybe once or twice
   b. often
   c. never

3. What is the thing that triggers a spiritual crisis in your experience?
   a. financial panic
   b. anger with God over personal tragedy
   c. disappointment in a relationship
   d. domestic problems/hassles
   e. questions/doubts about my faith
   f. disillusionment with my church
   g. lack of direction from God

4. What has helped you recognize Jesus walking alongside you when you are down spiritually?
   a. time alone with God
   b. talking it out with someone
   c. fellowship with other strugglers
   d. getting away from the situation
   e. Communion
   f. reading familiar Scripture passages
   g. a favorite hymn