



Luke Bible study guide

A clear 6-session guide for personal study, small groups, and churches

Read Luke as a whole before working through the sessions. Let its own structure set the agenda.

Every question sends you back to the biblical text. The guide helps you observe the passage, follow the author's argument, interpret it in context, and respond faithfully.

CHOOSE YOUR DEPTH

- Short: Read the book overview and discuss the first and final question in a session.
- Study: Work through all 6 sessions and answer each question from the passage.
- Deep: Open the free chapter commentary and dictionary links while you study.

protos-app.com/commentary/luke

Luke at a glance

BIG IDEA

Luke describes the coming of Jesus as good news for the entire world—for people of every race, age, gender, ethnic group, and social position. [1]

HISTORICAL SETTING

Author: Luke, a physician and occasional companion of the apostle Paul. Date: Either around AD 59-63, during Paul's imprisonment in Rome, or between AD 70-90, using the Gospel of Mark as a source. Setting: Written during a time of increasing tension between Jews and Christians, in which Luke sought to demonstrate that those—both Jew and Gentile—who believed that Jesus was the Messiah made up the new people of God. [1]

HOW TO READ THIS BOOK

Read this Gospel as a coherent witness to Jesus. Notice scene order, repeated questions, fulfillment, conflict, and the movement toward the cross and resurrection.

MAJOR THEMES

- To write a reliable historical account of the life of Jesus that would confirm the truth of the Christian message
- The book's literary movement and central claims
- Faithful response within the people of God
- Hope, judgment, grace, and obedience in their proper context

INTERPRETIVE CARE

- Read each episode in the Gospel's unfolding portrait of Jesus.
- Do not turn miracles or encounters into techniques readers are promised they can reproduce.

Luke 1-3

170 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Mary · Zechariah · Elizabeth · Jesus · John · Jerusalem

Questions

- Before anyone explains it, walk through what actually happens here. Who does what, in what order?
- What does the writer repeat? Repetition is usually the point, not a habit.
- What surprised you, or what did you have to read twice?
- Zechariah turns up in this section. What does the passage actually show, as opposed to what you already assumed?
- The word angel is doing real work here. What did you assume it meant, and does the passage agree?
- What did the writer choose to include here, and why that detail?
- Where does this cut against something you already believe or already do?

[Stuck on a word or name? Open the free Bible dictionary.](#)

NOTES AND PRAYER

Luke 4-7

182 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Jesus · John · Sabbath · Pharisees · Judea · Andrew

Questions

- Tell the story back in your own words. What is easy to skip over?
- Who is being addressed here, and what do they already know that we do not?
- What is assumed rather than argued? Those assumptions are often the real claim.
- Read this section from where Andrew was standing. What changes?
- Define synagogue from this passage alone, without reaching for what you already know.
- This is a story, not a lesson with a moral attached. What is it showing rather than telling?
- What would actually be different this week if you took this seriously?

[Stuck on a word or name? Open the free Bible dictionary.](#)

NOTES AND PRAYER

Luke 8-11

214 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Jesus · John · Peter · Elijah · Jerusalem · Jonah

Questions

- What happens in this section that you would struggle to explain to someone who has never read it?
- Which single verse carries the weight of this section?
- What is left unsaid that you expected to be said?
- What does the writer tell us about Jonah, and what is deliberately left out?
- Where else have you heard kingdom used, and is it being used that way here?
- Whose perspective are we given, and whose are we denied?
- Who do you know who needs to hear this, and what stops you saying it?

[Stuck on a word or name? Open the free Bible dictionary.](#)

NOTES AND PRAYER

Luke 12-16

192 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Abraham · Sabbath · Pharisees · Jerusalem · Lazarus · Jesus

Questions

- Read it once more, slowly. What do you notice the second time that you missed the first?
- Where does the tone shift, and what causes it?
- What question does this section answer that you had not thought to ask?
- What would this section sound like if Lazarus were telling it?
- The word kingdom is doing real work here. What did you assume it meant, and does the passage agree?
- What would you have written differently if you wanted to make a point?
- What is the hardest thing in this passage to accept, and why that one?

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NOTES AND PRAYER

Luke 17-21

212 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Jesus · Jerusalem · David · Scribes · Lot · Abraham

Questions

- If this were the only part of the book you had, what would you conclude about Jesus?
- What does the writer repeat? Repetition is usually the point, not a habit.
- What surprised you, or what did you have to read twice?
- Lot turns up in this section. What does the passage actually show, as opposed to what you already assumed?
- Define kingdom from this passage alone, without reaching for what you already know.
- What did the writer choose to include here, and why that detail?
- If this is true, what have you been getting wrong?

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NOTES AND PRAYER

Luke 22-24

179 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Jesus · Pilate · Peter · Jerusalem · Passover · Judas

Questions

- Where does the pace change here, and what is the writer slowing down for?
- Who is being addressed here, and what do they already know that we do not?
- What is assumed rather than argued? Those assumptions are often the real claim.
- Read this section from where Judas was standing. What changes?
- Where else have you heard kingdom used, and is it being used that way here?
- This is a story, not a lesson with a moral attached. What is it showing rather than telling?
- What would you want to be reminded of from this section in six months?

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NOTES AND PRAYER

Sources, method, and reuse

Protos created this guide to help readers understand Luke in its literary and historical context. Questions are designed to be answered from the passage, not from guesswork or personal opinion alone.

REFERENCES

[1] Tyndale Open Study Notes

Tyndale House Publishers. Book background, purpose, setting, and structural orientation. CC BY-SA 4.0.

<https://tyndaleopenresources.com/>

[2] Protos study guide editorial

Protos. Reading structure, discussion questions, and application prompts. CC BY-SA 4.0.

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Background and context for Luke [__protos-app.com/commentary/luke](https://protos-app.com/commentary/luke)

A Bible dictionary, 1,129 entries [__protos-app.com/bible-dictionary](https://protos-app.com/bible-dictionary)

Printable Bible reading plans [__protos-app.com/reading-plans](https://protos-app.com/reading-plans)

Protos is also available on iPhone and Android, with verse-by-verse study help beside the passage you are reading.

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