

LUKE 5-9 BIBLE STUDIES, St Andrews Roseville

Welcome back to another year of engaging with God and one another through Small Groups. 2025 is going to be an interesting year in the life of St Andrews! We are in a period of transition between one senior minister and the next, and we are about to undertake a significant building project. These factors (among others) will bring about unexpected changes and will highlight the need to help each other persevere patiently, flexibly, and faithfully!

I believe in a season of uncertainty our Small Groups can function as hubs of loving connection, stability, and encouragement. They will help hold us together as a community of disciples, seeking to honour the Lord Jesus, despite the potentially unsettling variables around us.

As life throws various curved balls at us, how can we keep our focus on Jesus?

I think Lukes' gospel will help us stay on track & keep the main thing the main thing! Why? Because we come face to face with our great Lord and Saviour, Jesus. Together we will sit at his feet, listening to his powerful and assuring words, observing his compassionate and life changing deeds, and be renewed in our devotion to following him in every way, and in every season of life.

My prayer for our whole church is to see this next season as an opportunity for growth rather than an irritable inconvenience. And that as we meditate deeply on God's word in Luke, we would have a life changing encounter with Jesus, which leads to a greater devotion to him and one another.

- *"Follow me," Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him (Luke 5:28)*

Don't forget to come along to our **Dr David Peterson** lecture where he'll orient us to the meaning of Luke 5-9 especially.

- **Monday 10th Feb. 7:30-9:00pm. @Church.**

Grace & Peace

Scott Warner

Bible Study 1: LUKE 5:27-32

For Starters

- “I’m not perfect, but I’m also certainly not a ‘sinner’” Discuss.

Read Luke 5:27-32

- What are your initial impressions?

- What does it mean to leave all and follow Jesus? (v28) What does this assume about Jesus and our other commitments in life? What stops us from taking this challenge to heart? What are legitimate and illegitimate ways of applying this?

- Jesus is clearly happy to associate with those the powerful and privileged look down on (v29-30). By welcoming the likes of tax collectors is Jesus tolerating their sinful tendencies? (they were widely known as greedy crooks). How is it possible to love someone and not endorse everything they stand for?

- What does v31-32 mean? Are the scribes/pharisees really righteous/healthy? What is their sin?

- What is the problem with the religious? Do we share their mindset in any way? In what way can we be self-righteous and judgmental?

- What do we learn about Jesus here?

- How should we respond? What area can we work on?

Bible Study 2: LUKE 5:33-6:16

For Starters

- How do you cope with change? Why is it often an exciting ideal but a difficult reality?

Read Luke 5:33-39 (NB: Jesus is still at Levi's party which began in 5:29)

- In v33-35 Who is the bride groom and who is the bride?
 - o To help, check out Is54:5, 62:4-5, Hos2:16
- What is Jesus basic point in v33-35?
- Given the surrounding context, what seems to be the point of the 2 stories Jesus tells in v36-39

Read 6:1-11 (NB: 2 stories about the sabbath. 6:1-5 & 6:7-11).

- What idea unites these 2 stories?

★ The Pharisees objection in v2 is questionable. The law actually allowed eating some fruit of the field while passing through (Dt23:25). However, reaping was forbidden on the Sabbath (Ex34:21). But it seems unfair to categorise picking a few heads of grain as reaping/ploughing! They are being ultra conservative and pedantic! Plus, they are missing the point of the sabbath ...

- In 6:1-5, what does Jesus' approval of the disciples actions, his use of King David's example (1Sam21:1-6), and his claim about himself (v5) indicate about the purpose and point of the sabbath?
- How does Jesus question in v9 get to the nub of the issue? Who is doing evil & harm on the sabbath? (v11)

Implications

- In what ways can we uphold our conventional traditional way of doing things as a litmus test of orthodoxy? How do we subtly or overtly judge those who differ on various customs, traditions, and religious forms? What matters most?
- In what ways could our Christian/church 'ways' obscure the liberating, restorative and joyful reality of what Jesus brings
- How might/should Christian's practice/express the sabbath today? (Rom14:5-6). Do you have renewing moments in your weekly routine?

Bible Study 3: LUKE 6:17-26

For Starters

- Finish the sentence: 'You know you have a blessed life when you ...'

Read Luke 6:17-26

- What are your initial impressions?

- Who is Jesus primarily addressing?

- The table below helps highlight the obvious contrast. It's just here for your viewing convenience.

Blessings (the Lowly)	Woes (the Lofty)
V20 "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.	V24 "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.
V21 Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.	V25 Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry.
Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.	Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.
V22 Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. 23 "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.	V26 Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

- Is Jesus glorifying a life of scarcity and condemning a life of abundance? Are those socially and economically less fortunate automatically saved? Are those with wealth and joy automatically condemned? Why? Why not?

- Who are the lowly and the lofty in Luke's gospel and how are they depicted? The following references will help ...
 - LOWLY (poor, hungry, weeping, hated)
 - 1:50-54
 - 4:17-19 (Is61:1-3)
 - 7:12-15 & 7:37-38, 48
 - 14:15-24
 - 18:28
 - 18:35-43

 - LOFTY (Rich, fed, happy, liked)

- 12:16-21
 - 14:15-24 (as above)
 - 16:13-15
 - 18:24
- What is the critical difference between the two categories?
- Why are does the gospel seem to draw the lowly more than the lofty? And why do the lofty become more lowly-like when they are converted?
- What do you think of the following scripture?
 - Proverbs 30:8 “... Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. 9 Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonour the name of my God.”
- Is it possible for the rich to enter the kingdom?
 - 18:24-27
 - 5:27-28
 - 7:1-11
 - 19:1-10
- Is it wrong to want to be liked? What danger does wanting to be liked present for the believer? (v26)
- What does Jesus want from his followers? How can you foster this attitude in your life?
- What has it cost you (in different ways) to follow Jesus? In what sense to ‘the benefits outweigh the cost’?
- “A short-term mindset of instant gratification is incompatible with discipleship”
Discuss
- Pray together

Bible Study 4: LUKE 6:27-49

For Starters

- What do you like and not like about Christian love?

Read 6:27-36

- How does this immediately relate to what Jesus has just said in 6:20-26

- How do v27-31 illustrate the father's mercy? What would this look like practically, for us to live like this at home, work, & church?

- What action does Jesus expect of his followers in v32-36? What would this look like practically, for us to live like this at home, work, & church?

- In your treatment of friends, kids, employees do you learn more towards justice or mercy?

- How can we treat others as they don't deserve? What thoughts and attitudes and feelings need to go through our heart and mind when this opportunity arises?

Read 6:37-49

- How would you respond to an acquaintance who said, 'Christians are so judgmental. They think everyone else is wrong. They even judge each other!'

- How often do we say 'Lord, Lord' but not do as he says (v46)?

- What is one thing you've heard the Lord say to you today/tonight and need to put into practice? What's your next step in that?

- Pray together.

Bible Study 5: LUKE 7:1-17

For Starters (You have a choice)

- Where in your life do you hold power and how do you express it?

OR

- 'Most of the people Jesus called and befriended were not very churchy.' Discuss.

Read 7:1-10

- What are your initial impressions?

- What does the Centurion recognise about Jesus and about himself?

- What does Jesus want from us?

- What does the conversion of this tough and accomplished pagan soldier tell us about evangelism?

- When do you sense your unworthiness before God? What encouragement for you is there in this story?

Read 7:11-17

- What truths are repeated in this story?

- What comfort in this second story is there for us?

- What does it mean to respond in glorifying God? What can help us grow in this response?

- Pray together