

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

<b>Blessings (the Lowly)</b>	<b>Woes (the Lofty)</b>
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

## Bible Study 6: LUKE 7:18-35

### For Starters

- Do you ever have doubts about Jesus?

### Read 7:18-23

1. Why might John have had doubts about Jesus? (even with such clear moments of revelation, like 3:21-22)
  
2. Why should John be convinced by Jesus answer in v22? Check out some cross references (all from Isaiah) ...
  - Is25:6-12.
  - Is26:19.
  - Is29:18-19.
  - Is35:5-6.
  - Is42:7
  - Is61:1
  - Is65:17
  
3. What should we do with our doubts?
  - How *should* we process them?
  
  - How can we 'doubt our doubts'? Give examples.

### Read 7:24-34

4. In v24-27 Jesus affirms John as the last prophet. Who does that make Jesus? (Check out Isaiah 40:3-5)
  
5. In what sense could we be greater (v28) than John the Baptist? (Think about his privilege in contrast to ours rather than his status/office)
  
6. In v29-30 What was the purpose of God the religious leaders rejected? Have you rejected or accepted it? What is the evidence of either?
  
7. Why did many religious people in Jesus' time reject John and Jesus? (v31-35) What assumptions did they apply? Why do people reject Jesus now? What assumptions do we bring?
  
8. How should we move forward with Jesus if we find him doing/saying something we personally disagree with?



## Bible Study 7: LUKE 7:36-8:3

### For Starters

- You often hear Christians saying, 'Good works don't lead to salvation but are a response to salvation'. What is the actual relationship between salvation and good works?

### Read 7:36-50

1. How would you describe
  - What Simon is feeling/thinking and why?
  
  - What the woman be feeling/thinking & why?
  
  - What Jesus is feeling/thinking & why?
2. What's the point of Jesus little story (v41-42, v44-47)?
3. Those forgiven much, love much
  - Do you agree?
  
  - How can we appreciate the first half more? (forgiven much)
  
  - How can we develop the second half? (love much)

### Read 8:1-3

4. In contrast to the cultural norms of the time, Jesus raised the profile and dignity of women. Notice how they responded to him (7:44-47, 8:3). How can they inspire us in our response to Jesus?
5. How can we engage our time, talents, and treasure in the service of our generous saviour? What's one area you can work on?

Pray together

## Bible Study 8: LUKE 8:4-21

### For Starters

- Who is coming to our Prayer & Praise night next week (Weds, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 730-8:30pm)? We will have our first church wide Prayer & Praise event for 2025! It's going to be an exciting opportunity for us to look back with gratitude for the many ministries that have taken place and the many lives God has changed under the roof of our about-to-be renovated hall. It is right to reflect upon and celebrate all God has done, is doing and will do. We'll sing, pray, tell stories and hear testimonies, which will bring glory to God and be good for our souls.

### Read 8:4-21

1. Why does Jesus speak in parables according to v9-10? Does this seem strange? (Also read Is6:9)
  
2. What does Jesus implore us to do? (v8 & v18 & v21). What do you find hard about listening (to anyone)?

### Read 8:11-15

3. What ought we expect as we share the good news with people? What encouragement is there here?
  
4. What are the 3 things that can take God's word away from growing in our life? How can we protect against each one?
  
5. What is the key difference with the fourth soil? (v15) How can we be more like this?

### Read 8:19-21

6. How is your intentional bible reading (listening) going? Ask each other what has hindered and helped your personal reading, meditating, and living out of God's word ...

Pray for each other

## Bible Study 9: LUKE 8:22-56

This week we'll look at 4 stories demonstrating Jesus' authority (we are essentially including next week's sermon/study into this week, so that we get to chapter 9 before the holidays, because it's important!).

### For Starters

- In your experience/understanding, what is the relationship between fear and faith?

### Read 8:22-56

1. What are your initial impressions of these 4 stories? What is common to them all?
  
2. Who is fearful and why?
  - 8:24-25
  - 8:28
  - 8:35 & 37
  - 8:47
  - 8:50
  
3. Is Jesus response in v25 reasonable?
  
4. Who is Jesus demonstrating himself to be in v24? (Remember the people concluded that he was some kind of prophet from God in 7:16).
  - Psalm 89:8-9
  - Psalm 107:23-32
  
5. Do you think there is an appropriate sense of fear we ought to have before the Lord Jesus? In what sense? (Rev1:12-18).

### Read 8:26-29

6. How would you describe this mans 'before' (v27-29) and 'after' (v35) picture?
  
7. Read v39. How much has Jesus done for you? What do you think your biggest blockage is to sharing the gospel with people?
  
8. Describe the sort of shame and fear this woman experiences (v43 & v47). What three things does Jesus do/say to reverse her shame/fear? (v48)

9. In v50 Jesus encourages Jairus to have faith in him, *'Don't be afraid; just believe ...'* With that in mind, what do you think of the following statement: "If you fear you have no faith, if you have faith you'll have no fear" Agree?

10. What do you fear more: evil, sickness, or death? (or something else?) How can trusting Jesus, the one with power over those things, alleviate our fears?

Pray

## Bible Study 10: LUKE 9:18-27

### For Starters

- Have you ever met someone and initially formed (a false) impression of them which you've later upgraded by spending more time with them?

### Read 9:18-27

1. Who is Jesus ...
  - According to the casual bystander?
    - 7:16-17
    - 9:9
    - 9:19
  - According to eyewitness Apostles
    - 9:20

★ 'God's Messiah' (Messiah is the Hebrew version of the Greek word Christ, and means 'anointed'). The Kings of Israel were anointed with oil to rule. David is anointed with oil and the spirit (1Sam16:12-13). The anointed one is also called 'the Son of God'. He will be the God authorised ruler of the world forever. See Ps2:2, 7, 2 Sam 7:12-14

2. Everyone seems to have an opinion on who Jesus is, or who they would like him to be. Whose opinion should we pay the most attention to and why?

### Read 9:21-22

3. What did the Messiah come to do? Why is this surprising information?

### Read 9:23-27

4. How should we respond to Jesus' identity and mission? And why?
  - How would you respond to someone who said, "Christianity teaches self-denial, but I think you should be true to yourself"
  - What does it mean to 'take up your cross daily'?
  - What does it mean to lose your life? In what sense?
  - Can we gain the world and keep our life?
  - What sorts of things inhibit us from a growing devotion to following Jesus? What do we need to do about it?
    - Heb12:1-3

Pray together.