

Mike McKinley

Luke 12–24

The Kingdom Is Opened



✓ 8-Session Bible Study

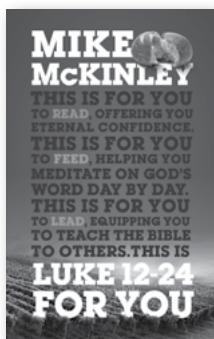
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✔ **8-Session Bible Study**



Luke 12–24 For You

These studies are adapted from *Luke 12–24 For You*. If you are reading *Luke 12–24 For You* alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *Luke 12–24 For You*:

Study One > Ch 1-2	Study Five > Ch 8-9
Study Two > Ch 3-4	Study Six > Ch 10
Study Three > Ch 5-6	Study Seven > Ch 11
Study Four > Ch 6-7	Study Eight > Ch 12

Find out more about *Luke 12–24 For You* at:
www.thegoodbook.com/for-you

Luke 1–12: The Kingdom Is Opened

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Introduction

One of the Bible writers described God's word as "a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105, NIV). God gave us the Bible to tell us about who he is and what he wants for us. He speaks through it by his Spirit and lights our way through life.

That means that we need to look carefully at the Bible and uncover its meaning—but we also need to apply what we've discovered to our lives.

Good Book Guides are designed to help you do just that. The sessions in this book are interactive and easy to lead. They're perfect for use in groups or for personal study.

Let's take a look at what is included in each session.

Talkabout: Every session starts with an ice-breaker question, designed to get people talking around a subject that links to the Bible study.

Investigate: These questions help you explore what the passage is about.

Apply: These questions are designed to get you thinking practically: what does this Bible teaching mean for you and your church?

Explore More: These optional sections help you to go deeper or to explore another part of the Bible which connects with the main passage.

Getting Personal: These sections are a chance for personal reflection. Some groups may feel comfortable discussing these, but you may prefer to look at them quietly as individuals instead—or leave them out.

Pray: Here, you're invited to pray in the light of the truths and challenges you've seen in the study.

Each session is also designed to be easily split into two! Watch out for the **Apply** section that comes halfway through, and stop there if you haven't got time to do the whole thing in one go.

In the back of the book, you'll find a **Leader's Guide**, which provides helpful notes on every question, along with everything else that group leaders need in order to facilitate a great session and help the group uncover the riches of God's light-giving word.

Why Study Luke 12–24?

Reading the Gospel of Luke is like climbing a mountain.

The first four chapters take us into the lower foothills, introducing us to Jesus, the promised Savior who will reign on the throne of David as King over God's people, and who announced good news for the poor, oppressed, and needy.

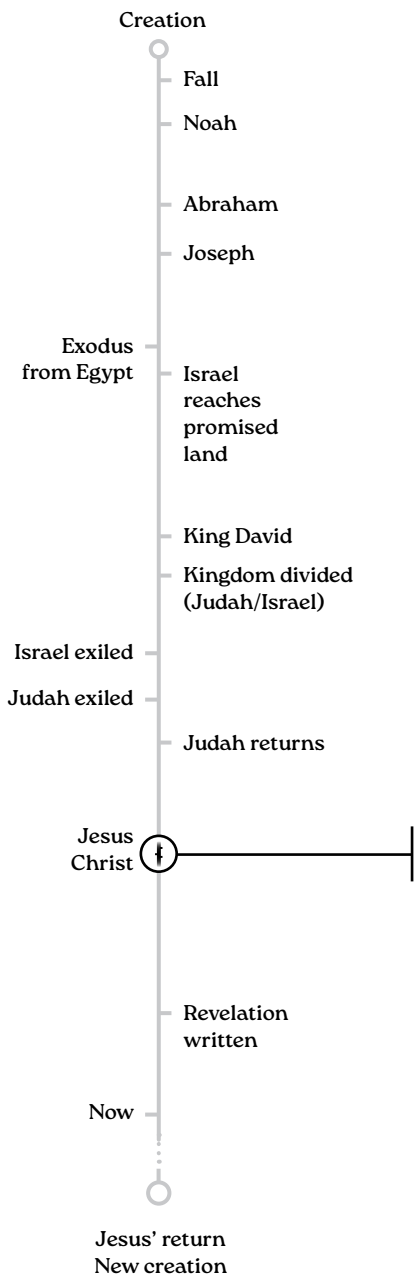
From there, the climb begins in earnest, as Jesus launches his public ministry of healing, exorcism, and teaching, revealing his divine power and explaining both the surprising nature of his kingdom and also what is required of someone who desires to be a citizen of it.

The first major peak in our climb comes in chapter 9, where Peter identifies Jesus as "God's Messiah," only to be told by the Messiah that he will suffer, be killed, and then rise to life three days later. From this point on, everything will be leading us toward Jesus' suffering in Jerusalem: "As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem" (v 51).

In this Good Book Guide, we join Jesus and the disciples on their long and steady approach toward Jerusalem, over something like a plateau extending from Luke 9 to Luke 19. Along the way, we will encounter some of Jesus' best-known and best-loved parables: stories of incredible love with surprising heroes. We will also see Jesus teaching about the nature of his return and intensifying his preparation for his disciples as the crisis of his crucifixion looms ever larger on the horizon.

In the middle of chapter 19, we find ourselves at the base of a final grand peak—a foreboding cliff that disappears into the clouds. As Jesus enters into Jerusalem, the unthinkable will begin to unfold—the Lord Jesus betrayed, arrested, tried, and crucified. Yet just when the darkness begins to seem overwhelming and our trip seems it might have been a terrible mistake, the clouds give way to the glories of the resurrection and the joy of the disciples in knowing that their Lord is alive forever.

So in these eight studies, Luke will mark out your path to the summit. In turns the climb will be surprising, challenging, reassuring, desperate, and thrilling. Expect to be transformed by Jesus as you see him on the road, follow him to the cross, and meet him beyond the empty tomb, risen and reigning.



Luke c. 60 AD

1

Get Ready and Come In

Luke 12:35 - 14:6

Talkabout

1. What future events affect your thinking, feelings, or actions right now?

Investigate

2. What do each of these passages from the first half of Luke tell us about Jesus the Messiah-King, Jesus' kingdom, and/or life as Jesus' subjects?
 - 1:30-33
 - 2:8-14
 - 4:42-44

- 9:20-26
- 9:28-35
- 11:20-23

Toward the end of chapter 9 Luke told us that “as the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51). The second half of Luke’s Gospel unfolds in light of that larger purpose, and each encounter seems to move Jesus closer to his death in Jerusalem. The tone of the second half also shifts noticeably, as Jesus spends more time preparing his disciples for life in the time between his departure and his return in glory and judgment.

 **Read Luke 12:35 – 13:9**

DICTIONARY

Son of Man (12:40): Jesus often used this title to refer to himself. (See Daniel 7:13-14).

3. What key piece of information about the future does Jesus give in verse 40?

4. How does the parable in verses 35-48 tell us to live in light of that future day?

Explore More | OPTIONAL

- What does Jesus say that he has not come to bring, and that he has come to bring (12:49, 51)?
- To what does “fire” refer (see 3:9, 17)?
- How will this be experienced and witnessed now, before the Son of Man returns in glory (12:52-53)?
- What will Jesus undergo before the final fire comes (v 50)?

In the Old Testament, God’s judgment is pictured as a flood of overwhelming water. (Read Isaiah 8:7-8 and Jonah 2:3-6.) Sometimes, it literally was one. (Read Genesis 6:11-22 and Exodus 14:26-30.)

- Why is it wonderful news that Jesus went through his “baptism” before he brings his “fire”?

-
5. How do these three sections tell us about what to expect of life now?

- 12:49-53

- 12:54-59

- 13:1-9

6. How do they tell us what to do in life now?

- 12:49-53

- 12:54-59

- 13:1-9

Apply

7. What difference should the truth of 12:40 make to our lives today?

- Which of these is most firmly established in your life? Which are lacking?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

The 18th-century American preacher Jonathan Edwards wrote as a young man, "Resolved, never to do any thing which I should be afraid to do if I expected it would not be above an hour before I should hear the last trump" at the Son of Man's return.

What would change tomorrow if you made the same resolution? How will you ensure you live in light of what you know the future holds?

Investigate

 Read Luke 13:10 – 14:6

DICTIONARY

Hypocrites (13:15): people who say one thing but do something else.

Mustard seed (v 19): is tiny!

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (v 28): the “patriarchs”—the forefathers of the people of Israel.

Herod (v 31): Herod Antipas, the king (under the Romans) of Galilee, in the north of Israel. He had already killed Jesus’ relative John the Baptist (9:9).

Pharisee (14:1): a member of a powerful religious group that took obedience to God’s commands extremely seriously—and added many extra rules to ensure they did not break those commands.

Law (v 3): God’s law in the Old Testament.

Luke bookends the next section with accounts of two miraculous healings.

8. When do they take place?

- And what are the responses to Jesus’ actions?

The Greek text of 13:18 contains the word “therefore,” so we should interpret Jesus’ words in verses 18-21 in light of the healing that came immediately before it. The demonstration of a power that could deliver the bent-over woman from the power of Satan raised the question that Jesus responds to in verses 18 and 20: if Jesus is establishing the kingdom of God, what will it look like? Will it be characterized by spectacular displays of spiritual might and triumphant conquest?

9. How do verses 18-21 provide Jesus’ answer to that question?

- To what extent does the history of the church bear out Jesus' description of his kingdom, do you think?

10. How are verses 22-30 both a promise and a warning?

- Is it easy to reach Christ's eternal kingdom?

11. How does Jesus feel about those who reject him (v 34-35)?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

When Jesus quotes Psalm 118:26 in Luke 13:35, he is likely referring to his future return in judgment. At that time Jerusalem will have no choice but to acknowledge Jesus as the Lord's King.

The same is true for us—we will either hail Jesus as King now and so enter the great feast through the narrow door, or we will gnash our teeth as we are forced to acknowledge him after the door has shut.

Check your heart. Are you acknowledging Jesus as your King now, and living in light of the future arrival of his kingdom—or not?

Apply

12. How can we use verses 18-21 to encourage ourselves when it does not seem that God is at work in the world around us, or at work through us?

13. In what ways should verses 34-35 shape our thinking about and talking with those who are not taking refuge under Jesus' wings?

Pray

Thank God...

- *that Jesus is coming back, and that he has given you work to do and people to serve as you wait for that future event.*
- *that his kingdom is growing, and that it includes you.*

Ask God...

- *to show you any ways you are not living now with your future in mind.*
- *to enable you to let the future coming of Christ shape your perspective on the highs and lows of this life.*