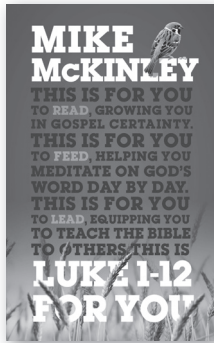




The kingdom has come

LUKE 1 – 12

by Mike McKinley



Luke 1-12 For You

If you are reading *Luke 1-12 For You* alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *Luke 1-12 For You*:

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

Find out more about *Luke 1-12 For You* at:
www.thegoodbook.com/for-you

The kingdom has come

The Good Book Guide to Luke 1 – 12

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Introduction: Good Book Guides

Every Bible-study group is different—yours may take place in a church building, in a home or in a cafe, on a train, over a leisurely mid-morning coffee or squashed into a 30-minute lunch break. Your group may include new Christians, mature Christians, non-Christians, moms and tots, students, businessmen or teens. That’s why we’ve designed these *Good Book Guides* to be flexible for use in many different situations.

Our aim in each session is to uncover the meaning of a passage, and see how it fits into the “big picture” of the Bible. But that can never be the end. We also need to appropriately apply what we have discovered to our lives. Let’s take a look at what is included:

- ↔ **Talkabout:** Most groups need to “break the ice” at the beginning of a session, and here’s the question that will do that. It’s designed to get people talking around a subject that will be covered in the course of the Bible study.
- ↓ **Investigate:** The Bible text for each session is broken up into manageable chunks, with questions that aim to help you understand what the passage is about. The **Leader’s Guide** contains **guidance for questions**, and sometimes ☑ additional “follow-up” questions.
- ⋮ **Explore more (optional):** These questions will help you connect what you have learned to other parts of the Bible, so you can begin to fit it all together like a jig-saw; or occasionally look at a part of the passage that’s not dealt with in detail in the main study.
- **Apply:** As you go through a Bible study, you’ll keep coming across **apply** sections. These are questions to get the group discussing what the Bible teaching means in practice for you and your church. 🗣️ **Getting personal** is an opportunity for you to think, plan and pray about the changes that you personally may need to make as a result of what you have learned.
- ↑ **Pray:** We want to encourage prayer that is rooted in God’s word—in line with his concerns, purposes and promises. So each session ends with an opportunity to review the truths and challenges highlighted by the Bible study, and turn them into prayers of request and thanksgiving.

The **Leader’s Guide** and introduction provide historical background information, explanations of the Bible texts for each session, ideas for **optional extra** activities, and guidance on how best to help people uncover the truths of God’s word.

Why study Luke?

The Gospel of Luke was written to give Christians certainty. That alone makes it a priceless part of Scripture, and a must-read for you and me.

But what *are* those things about which we are supposed to have certainty?

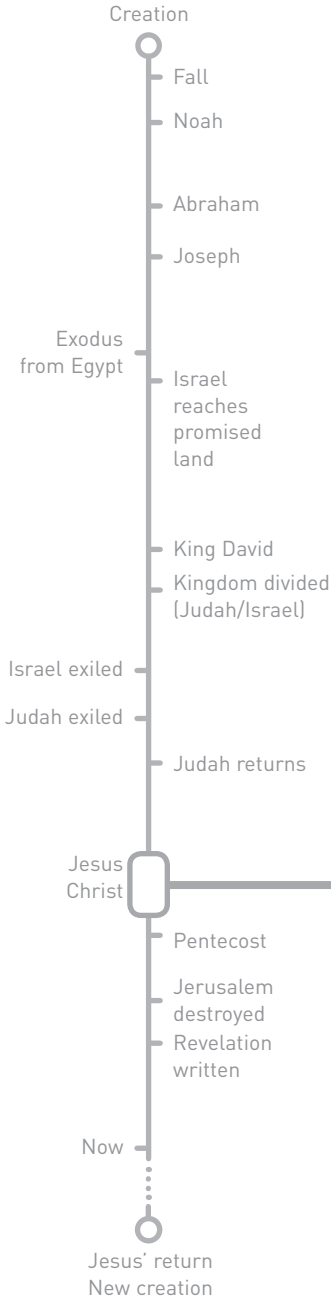
First, Luke offers us certainty about *who Jesus is*—he is the fulfillment of all God’s promises throughout history. Luke shows us that the life and death and resurrection of Jesus are all a part of a definite plan that God has revealed in the Old Testament and is now unfolding for the salvation of his people. We will listen in on Jesus standing up in his hometown synagogue, reading the Old Testament, and announcing that, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing” (4 v 21). God had promised to send a King to rule and rescue his people—and in Jesus, he kept his promise.

Second, Luke offers us certainty about *who Jesus came for*. Again and again, we will see that Jesus is not limited to the people that were valued and honored in the society of that day. In fact, we will be surprised by who it is who finds a home in the kingdom that Jesus came to bring; and by what kind of person walks away from him, confused and even offended by him.

So third, Luke offers us certainty about *what Jesus’ kingdom is like*. Jesus came to “proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God”—it was, he said, “why I was sent” (Luke 4 v 43). We’ll discover through what he says and does that his kingdom is a place of justice, of forgiveness, of trust and compassion and blessing and commitment. It’s why to welcome the King is to discover real joy—the Gospel of Luke uses the words “joy” and “rejoice” more than any other book of the New Testament.

In these eight studies you’ll see that the kingdom really has come because the King really did come. And you’ll appreciate what it means to be part of that kingdom, and how its citizens live and feel as they follow the One in whom all of God’s promises are kept.

Note: Some of the studies in this book cover large sections of Luke. Occasionally, you’ll be asked to read a short passage, with a longer passage following in brackets. If you want to read all of Luke 1 – 12 as a group, then read the passages given in the parentheses.



BIBLE TIMELINE

Where does the Gospel of Luke fit into the whole story of God's word?

LUKE written c.60AD

1

Luke 1 v 1 – 2 v 40

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE



talkabout

1. Whose promises do you most trust, and why? Whose promises do you least trust, and why?



investigate

▶ **Read Luke 1 v 1-4**

2. Why is Luke writing (v 4)? How do verses 1-3 give us confidence in what he is writing?

DICTIONARY

Fulfilled (v 1):
brought about;
completed.

▶ **Read Luke 1 v 26-56 (1 v 5-80)**

The angel tells Mary about two pregnancies—her own (v 31), and that of her relative Elizabeth (v 36).

3. Why are both impossible?

DICTIONARY

Jacob (v 33): the ancestor of every member of Israel.

Glorifies (v 46): recognizes the brilliance of.

Abraham (v 55): Jacob's grandfather.

- Why does Mary know they will happen (v 37-38)?

4. What is God like, according to Mary's "song" in verses 46-55?

- Mary's son is "the Son of the Most High," whose "kingdom will never end" (v 32-33). How does her song make us excited about her child's birth?

5. Track Mary's responses to what is going on in v 29-30, 38, 46-47. What does she show us about what true faith looks like?

 **apply**

6. Why, and when, do we find it hard to live with Mary-like faith?





getting personal

God can do what he says he will do. You can live each day confident that God will keep all of the promises he has made to his people, no matter how far removed they might seem from your daily circumstances and inner feelings.

How are you finding that hardest right now?

How will you use Luke 1 to help you?

What would it look like to rejoice in God, your Savior, instead of worrying or fearing?

DICTIONARY

Caesar (v 1): Roman emperor.

Messiah (v 11): the all-powerful, eternal King promised throughout the Old Testament.



investigate

▶ **Read Luke 2 v 1-20**



explore more

optional

Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem (v 1-5)?

In verse 4, Luke twice mentions King David. Bethlehem was his hometown, and Joseph was from his line.

▶ **Read 2 Samuel 7 v 11b-16 and Micah 5 v 2-4**

Why is Bethlehem significant? Who would be born there?

How does this show that Augustus is not quite as powerful as it appeared, and that his empire is not quite as important as it seemed?

The lowly circumstances of Jesus' birth show us that God's kingdom will come in ways that surprise and subvert our expectations about what true greatness and power look like—something we will see repeatedly as we walk through the Gospel of Luke.

7. On the night that Mary has her baby (v 6-7), what does an angel tell some shepherds nearby about who that baby is (v 10-12)?



8. What responses to God's work that night do we see here?

➤ **Read Luke 2 v 21-40**

9. What have Simeon and Anna been waiting for (v 25-26, 36-38)?

DICTIONARY

Law of Moses/Law of the Lord (v 22,23): the way God told his people to live before the coming of his Messiah.

Righteous (v 25): here, meaning seeking to live God's way.

Consolation of Israel (v 25): the time when Israel would be rescued and restored, as promised by God in the Old Testament.

Gentiles (v 32): non-Jews.

Redemption (v 38): freedom, bought at a cost.

- Both realize that, in the baby Jesus, they are looking at the end of their time of waiting. What does this tell us about what this baby has been born to do?

10. What does Simeon tell Mary in verses 34-35?

- How is this a jarring note amid all the joy surrounding Jesus' birth? What do you think it is talking about?



11. Imagine you had never heard of Jesus or read the Bible, and you had picked up Luke's Gospel and reached 2 v 40. What would you think about:

- who this baby is?
- what he has come to do?

➔ **apply**

12. What reactions of people who truly realize who Jesus is has Luke shown us? How would these look in our lives today?

🗣️ **getting personal**

Think back to your answers to the Getting Personal after Question Six. How do the events of Luke 2 give you greater cause to rejoice in God in areas where you struggle to believe his promises?

↑ **pray**

Thank God that “no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ” (2 Corinthians 1 v 20). Then use your answers to Question Twelve to fuel your requests to God.