

KNOW  
JESUS



**WHAT KING IS THIS?**  
**LUKE 5-9**

**BIBLE STUDIES**





We all have ideas about what a king is like.

Jesus came into the world as the Messiah—which means ‘God’s anointed King’. And yet, when he came, he was not the kind of king that people expected. He didn’t meet the ideas people had about a king.

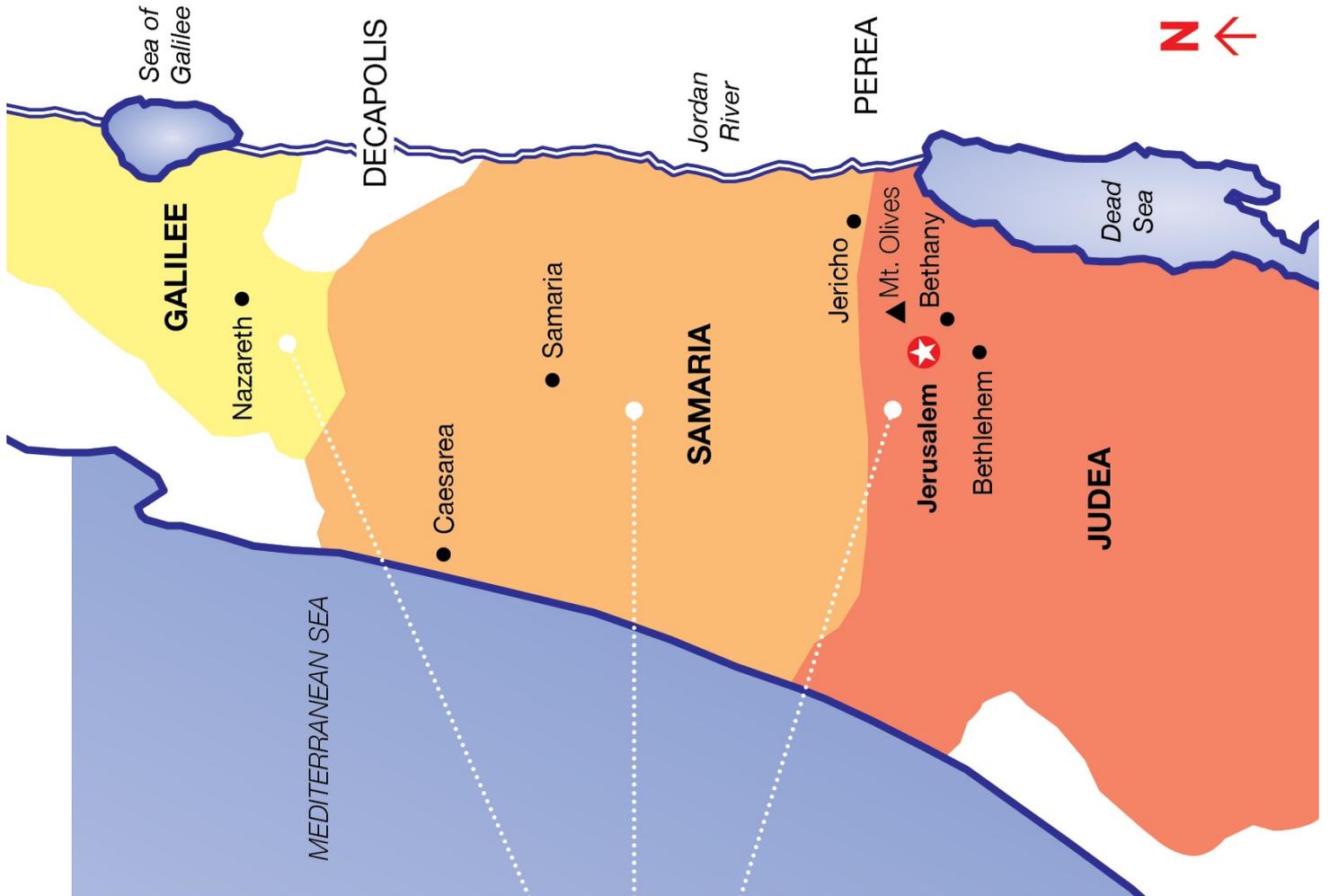
In chapters 5-9 of Luke’s Gospel, we discover what kind of king Jesus truly is. We see him overturn expectations, and show himself to be a far better king than anyone could imagine.

These Bible studies have been written to help you engage with this sermon series either in a small group, or on your own. My hope and prayer is that they encourage you in your knowledge and love of God, and your desire to please him in all that you do.

Luke Thomson  
*Senior Minister*

# LUKE OVERVIEW

1-3		THE COMING LORD
1-2		THE BIRTH OF THE LORD
3		PREPARING FOR THE LORD
4-9		THE LORD'S MISSION IN GALILEE
10-19		THE LORD'S MISSION TOWARDS JERUSALEM
19-24		THE LORD'S MISSION IN JERUSALEM
19		THE ENTRY OF THE LORD
22-23		THE SUFFERING LORD
24		THE RISEN LORD



By Mark Barry © 2012. Adapted from *Early Narrative Christology: The Lord in the Gospel of Luke* by C. Kavin Rowe. Please do not republish without permission, but feel free to copy for personal use.



# WHAT KING IS THIS?

## LUKE 5-9

<b>6</b>	Luke 5:27-39	A new kind of king
<b>8</b>	Luke 6:1-11	A king of the sabbath
<b>10</b>	Luke 7:1-17	A king who saves
<b>12</b>	Luke 7:18-35	A king who surprises
<b>14</b>	Luke 7:36-50	A king who forgives
<b>16</b>	Luke 8:1-21	A king to listen to
<b>18</b>	Luke 8:22-56	A king of power
<b>20</b>	Luke 9:1-17	A king who provides
<b>22</b>	Luke 9:18-36	A king from God
<b>24</b>	Luke 9:37-50	A new kind of king



# A NEW KIND OF KING

## LUKE 5:27-39

### share

Who or what comes to mind when you think of a king?

What comes to mind when you think of Jesus as a king?

### explore

**Read Luke 5:27-32**

What do you find unusual about Levi's response? (vv. 27-29)

What are the Pharisees\* upset by? (v. 30) What might they expect a religious teacher like Jesus do instead? (\*Pharisees were considered the powerful religious leaders of their day)

How could you retell this story in the context of Blacktown in 2020?

**Read Luke 5:33-39**

Again, the Pharisee's are upset because Jesus is not acting in the way they expect him to. Why do you think they are so concerned? (v. 33)

---

#### **FUN FACT**

Israelite wedding feasts required seven days of festivity. You were not allowed to fast, mourn or work hard during the feast.

---



---

## TALKING POINT

“Fasting should be a regular practice for all Christians.”

To what extent do you agree with this statement? (1 = not at all; 10 = completely)

**1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10**

Has fasting ever been a part of your life following Jesus? If so, in what ways have you found it to be a helpful practice? How could it become unhelpful?

What has shaped your views on the role of fasting for those who follow Jesus?

---

In what ways does Jesus portray himself as a new kind of king? (vv. 36-38) Can you think of a modern example of the parable Jesus tells?

## Live

In verse 39, Jesus highlights the Pharisee’s reluctance to change. They are content with the old way of things, and they cannot appreciate the new and better things God is doing before them. In what areas do you find it most difficult to change to live the way Jesus calls us to live?

What opportunities do you presently have to build relationships and speak with those who don’t yet know Jesus? What could you do to create or embrace these opportunities?

## pray

Reflecting on the passage:

- What does it lead us to praise God for?
- What can we thank God for?
- What should we ask God for?

---

### FUN FACT

There are many feasts that are to be celebrated throughout the Old Testament. With a few exceptions, Israel typically only fasted regularly once a year, on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:29).

---



# A KING OF THE SABBATH

## LUKE 6:1-11

### share

If you could get rid of one rule that you currently have to obey in some area of your life, what would it be?

What does the idea of 'Sabbath' mean to you? What has shaped your understanding?

### explore

**Read Exodus 20:8-11 and Deuteronomy 5:12-15**

What do you notice about these two accounts of the fourth commandment? What does it tell us about the commandments intention?

**Read Luke 6:1-5**

What is the Pharisee's concern? (v. 2) How does Jesus defend the actions of his disciples? (vv. 3-4) (The story of David referred to here can be found in 1 Samuel 12:1-6)

How does Jesus suggest they have misunderstood God's design for the Sabbath? (v. 5; compare also with Exodus and Deuteronomy)

---

#### **FUN FACT**

'Son of Man' is a title Jesus often uses for himself. It's originally found in Daniel 7, referring to a special, exalted human being who has a unique relationship to God. Jesus' use of the title is a hint at him being God's King.

---



---

### TALKING POINT

“I know God’s rules for how to live life his way”

To what extent do you agree with this statement? (1 = not at all; 10 = completely) Why?

**1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10**

How important do you think it is for people to know all of God’s rules?

Do your actions agree with your beliefs on this matter?

---

### Read Luke 6:6-11

How does Jesus describe the intention of God’s commands about the Sabbath? (v. 9-10)

In what ways might you be distracted by rule-keeping at the expense of loving God?

## Live

Why is it sometimes hard to obey God’s rules?

How could Community Groups be places where we help each other trust and keep God’s rules out of love for God? What could we do to encourage this to happen?

## pray

Reflecting on the passage:

- What does it lead us to praise God for?
- What can we thank God for?
- What should we ask God for?

---

### FUN FACT

There are understood to be a total of 613 commandments in the Old Testament.

---



# A KING WHO SAVES

## LUKE 7:1-17

### share

What makes a person trustworthy? How can someone earn your trust?

### explore

#### Read Luke 7:1-10

How do the Jewish elders feel about the Centurion? (vv. 3-5)

How does the Centurion feel about himself? (vv. 6-7)

What kind of authority does the Centurion have? (v. 8)

What kind of authority does Jesus have? (v. 7, 9-10)

#### Read Luke 7:11-17

As in other accounts of Jesus raising the dead, Jesus had the power to prevent the whole experience of death and grief before it happened. Why do you think he waits until this particular moment to save the dead man?

What responses do the crowd have? (v. 16-17)

---

#### **FUN FACT**

Centurion's were commanders of a 'century' (ie. 100), which in practice meant about 60-80 troops.

---



---

## TALKING POINT

“If God truly cared about me he wouldn’t have...”

Have you ever said or thought something like this?

What can make this an appropriate response to certain circumstances? What can make it an inappropriate response?

How could you respond to someone who raised this kind of response with you?

---

What do these stories tell us about Jesus’ care for people? What do they tell us about the kind of King that Jesus is?

## Live

In both of these stories, we see examples of Jesus’ power and authority, showing him to be trustworthy in who he says he is. What can make it difficult for you to trust Jesus?

What makes Jesus trustworthy?

How have you expressed your trust in Jesus in the past week?

## pray

Reflecting on the passage:

- What does it lead us to praise God for?
- What can we thank God for?
- What should we ask God for?

---

### FUN FACT

According to Jewish law and custom (Numbers 5:2-3), touching a dead body made you ritually unclean for a week. However, whenever Jesus touched ‘unclean’ people, we see that they become ‘clean’, instead of Jesus becoming ‘unclean’

---



# A KING WHO SURPRISES

## LUKE 7:18-35

### share

Do you like surprises? Why or why not?

What is a memorable surprise you have experienced in life?

### explore

#### Read Luke 7:18-23

Why do you think John might be uncertain about who Jesus is?  
(vv. 19-20)

What does Jesus' answer tell us about the kind of king that he is?

---

#### FUN FACT

Jesus' response to John's question is a reference to the promises of what the Messiah (God's promised King) would do in Isaiah 35:5-6 and 61:1-2.

---

#### Read Luke 7:24-35

What was surprising about John the Baptist's ministry? (vv. 24-27; see also Luke 3:2-9ff)

Why did the Pharisees and religious leaders reject John the Baptist? (vv. 28-33)

What was different between John's ministry and that of Jesus? What was common to both?



---

## TALKING POINT

John came 'eating no bread and drinking no wine'. Jesus came 'eating and drinking' (vv. 33-34). They presented a consistent message in very different ways.

Do you tend to think of the Christian life as being authentic if it is more like John's life or more like Jesus' life?

What is helpful about your typical way of thinking? What potential dangers are there?

---

## Live

The Pharisee's stumbled at Jesus' message because it meant they had to admit their need to repent and seek God's forgiveness. When do you find this most difficult?

What do you find most surprising about Jesus' mission as God's king?

What do we learn from this passage about the task of people who partner with Jesus in his mission?

## pray

Reflecting on the passage:

- What does it lead us to praise God for?
- What can we thank God for?
- What should we ask God for?

---

### FUN FACT

John was seen as 'more than a prophet' (v. 26) because he fulfilled the prophecy of Malachi 3:1. This role makes him 'the greatest of all people' (v. 28).

---



# A KING WHO FORGIVES

## LUKE 7:36-50

### share

What have you recently been especially thankful for?

When do you find it hardest to forgive someone?

### explore

**Read Luke 7:36-50**

How do you think this woman might feel in the presence of the other banquet guests? (vv. 37-38)

What is Simon's main concern? (vv. 39) Why would he be concerned by this? What might this tell us about Simon's view of himself?

How does Jesus compare Simon and the woman? (vv. 44-46)

What does Jesus suggest is a natural response to his forgiveness? (v. 47)

What do we learn about the type of king Jesus claims to be? (vv. 48-50)

---

#### **FUN FACT**

In the 1st century, religious people would often allow the poor to attend a banquet in their homes. They were, however, required to remain quiet and away from the main table of guests.

---



---

## TALKING POINT

“You cannot truly forgive someone until they have asked for forgiveness”

To what extent do you agree with this statement? (1 = not at all; 10 = completely) Why?

**1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10**

What is the relationship between forgiving and forgetting?

Can you forgive someone without forgetting what they did?

---

## Live

Which character in the story do you more quickly feel you identify with? Why?

How might you measure the amount of love a person has? (cf. v. 47) Would others describe you as someone who ‘loves much’? Why or why not?

Do you find it harder accepting the love of others or showing love to others?

What would it mean for you to love Jesus like the woman in this story?

## pray

Reflecting on the passage:

- What does it lead us to praise God for?
- What can we thank God for?
- What should we ask God for?



## A KING TO LISTEN TO LUKE 8:1-21

### share

When are you most likely to ignore a warning label or message?

### explore

#### Read Luke 8:1-8

Jesus often spoke in parables (short stories) using commonly understood ideas to explain a spiritual truth. Without hearing Jesus' explanation, in what different ways might the crowd have understood this parable? (Be creative!)

#### Read Luke 8:9-10

What reason does Jesus give for speaking in parables? How does Jesus want people to respond to his parables?

#### Read Luke 8:11-21

Why do you think Jesus only explains this parable to his disciples? (vv. 9-11)

Which of the soils produces the correct response? Which of the four soils might look like it is producing the correct response for a season?

What is the meaning of the second parable? (vv. 16-18)

---

#### FUN FACT

For the women to travel with the group (vv. 2-3) would have been scandalous. The fact that women were learning from Jesus just like the men would have bothered many at the time.

---



---

## TALKING POINT

“Anyone who reads the Bible should understand who Jesus is”

To what extent do you agree with this statement? (1 = not at all; 10 = completely) Why?

**1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10**

Have you ever seen someone completely misunderstand what the Bible says about Jesus?

What is necessary for someone to truly know Jesus?

---

What is the true marker of someone who belongs to Jesus? (vv. 19-21)

## Live

What can make it easy to live like one of the first three soils?

Which of these soils do you most identify with at present?

What could you do this week to help you listen to Jesus?

## pray

Reflecting on the passage:

- What does it lead us to praise God for?
- What can we thank God for?
- What should we ask God for?

---

### FUN FACT

Jewish teachers normally used parables to explain points. But if a story was told without stating the point (as this one is for the crowd), only those who listen most carefully could figure out the meaning. (see v. 10)

---



# A KING OF POWER

## LUKE 8:22-56

### share

What people or groups have power in your life? Which of these are you comfortable with?

### explore

#### Read Luke 8:22-25

How would you have felt if you were in the boat?

#### Read Luke 8:26-39

Who does the demon think Jesus is? (v. 28) What does this suggest to us about the power of demons?

What does the demon fear? (vv. 28, 31)

After the demons are cast out, how would you have felt if you were the (now freed) man?  
The pig farmers?

Is the response of the people justified? (v. 37) How do you think you would have responded?

#### Read Luke 8:40-56

What do think is most surprising in this story?

---

#### FUN FACT

For Jews, pigs were forbidden, unclean animals, and would be considered a very appropriate 'home' for a demon.

---



---

## TALKING POINT

“Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

To what extent do you agree with this statement? (1 = not at all; 10 = completely) Why?

**1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10**

Where do we see power (and its pursuit) corrupting people around our world?

Where do we see power used for good?

---

What do the characters in the story find most surprising?

What do each of these stories tell us about Jesus' power?

## Live

Where do you most tend to doubt God's power in your life?

What would it look like for you to trust God's complete power and control?

“Return to your home and declare how much God has done for you”. (v. 39) What would this look like in your life?

## pray

Reflecting on the passage:

- What does it lead us to praise God for?
- What can we thank God for?
- What should we ask God for?

---

### FUN FACT

Luke seems rather unconcerned for the economic loss of the pig farmers in the story, likely because he is much more concerned with the spiritual issues of the story.

---



# A KING WHO PROVIDES

## LUKE 9:1-17

### share

Have you ever been provided something unexpectedly?

### explore

#### Read Luke 9:1-6

Why do you think Jesus gives the 12 apostles a special power and authority to heal and cast out demons? (v. 1)

Why might Jesus tell his disciples not to take any supplies on their journey? (v. 3)

What is their task on the journey? (vv. 2, 6) How could these be related?

#### Read Luke 9:7-9

What does this tell us about Herod's knowledge of Jesus?

Why would Herod want to see Jesus?

#### Read Luke 9:10-17

This story appears between Herod's question about who Jesus is (v. 9) and Jesus' own question to his disciples (v. 20). What answer does this story provide to the questions of Jesus' identity?

---

#### FUN FACT

Luke never mentions John's death until this point (v. 7). Likely, it is believed that the 'spirit' of John has passed on to Jesus.

---



---

### TALKING POINT

“Physical healing was a special gift for the Apostles, but is no longer available today.”

To what extent do you agree with this statement? (1 = not at all; 10 = completely) Why?

**1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10**

How does a passage such as this (Luke 9:1-6) help us understand the role of healing?

Why was healing a part of the ministry of Jesus and his disciples?

---

## Live

In what ways in your life has God most clearly provided for your needs?

When do you most feel that you have to depend on Jesus?

In these stories, Jesus provides for people in a variety of ways to help people understand what kind of king he is, and what kind of kingdom he rules. In what ways could you help people to ‘taste and see that the Lord is good’ (Psalm 34:8)? How important is it for Christians to pursue living this way?

## pray

Reflecting on the passage:

- What does it lead us to praise God for?
- What can we thank God for?
- What should we ask God for?

---

### FUN FACT

It would have taken 200 days of the average wage to feed the multitude that had gathered (v. 13).

---



# A KING FROM GOD

## LUKE 9:18-36

### share

If you were King or Queen for a day, what would you do?

How do you feel about the British Royal family?

### explore

**Read Luke 9:18-27**

What do you think has helped Peter to recognise that Jesus is God's promised king? (v. 20)

What surprising things does Jesus mention about his own kingship, and those who follow him? (v. 21-24)

In verse 27, Jesus is hinting again at his crucifixion and resurrection. How will this help people see the kingdom of God?

**Read Luke 9:28-36**

What do you think is most strange about this account?

---

#### **FUN FACT**

Messiah (Hebrew word) and Christ (Greek word) literally mean 'God's anointed one', which typically is referring to the anointing of a king.

---



---

### TALKING POINT

“A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse.”

*C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity*

In what ways is this a helpful way of describing the possibilities of who Jesus is?

Why do you think many people simply describe Jesus as a good moral teacher?

---

In what ways does this story help us identify who Jesus is? (See also Luke 3:21-22)

## Live

When do you find it most difficult to ‘deny yourself’? (v. 23)

What does it mean to ‘lose your life’ for Jesus’ sake?

Jesus says that following him means taking up your cross daily (v. 23). What would it look like to choose to do this each day in the week ahead?

## pray

Reflecting on the passage:

- What does it lead us to praise God for?
- What can we thank God for?
- What should we ask God for?

---

### FUN FACT

Moses and Elijah are two of the greatest Old Testament prophets who represent different periods in Israel’s history. Moses is typically associated with the Law and Elijah with the prophets, possibly suggesting here that both the Law and Prophets point to Jesus, who is greater than them both.

---



## A NEW KIND OF KING

### LUKE 9:37-50

## share

What makes someone 'great' in our society? Are there commonly held ways of measuring 'greatness'?

## explore

**Read Luke 9:37-45**

How does this story highlight the uniqueness of Jesus? (vv. 38-40)

Jesus appears to rebuke the crowds, including his own disciples (v. 41). What does this story tell us about the lack of understanding of the people? What reasons do you think Jesus has to be so critical?

Why do you think the disciples didn't ask Jesus to clarify what he meant? (v. 45). How might this relate to Luke 8:10?

**Read Luke 9:46-50**

What makes the disciples arguing especially ironic in this context? (v. 46)

What makes someone great in Jesus' kingdom? (v. 48)



---

### TALKING POINT

“Christians can have differences of opinion and belief whilst still being true to Jesus.”

To what extent do you agree with this statement? (1 = not at all; 10 = completely) Why?

**1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10**

Are there non-negotiable beliefs that must be held in order to call yourself a Christian?

If so, what determines what is non-negotiable?

---

It appears that the disciples were especially concerned with building their own kingdom (v. 49). How does Jesus rebuke their fear of those they don't personally know?

### FUN FACT

In verse 49, John is most likely talking about other Christians who are not known to or friends with the disciples themselves.

---

## Live

Over chapters 5-9, what has Luke sought to show us about Jesus as a king? What has particularly stood out to you through these studies?

In what ways could others presently see that Jesus is king in your life?

Are there particular areas of your life that you have not allowed Jesus to be king?

## pray

Reflecting on the passage:

- What does it lead us to praise God for?
- What can we thank God for?
- What should we ask God for?





