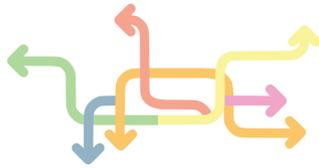


KNOW
JESUS



LUKE 9-13

BIBLE STUDIES



The Christian life is not one that we walk alone.

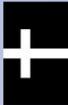
From Luke 9:51, Jesus turns towards Jerusalem for the long journey toward his crucifixion. Along the journey, he calls people to ‘follow me’.

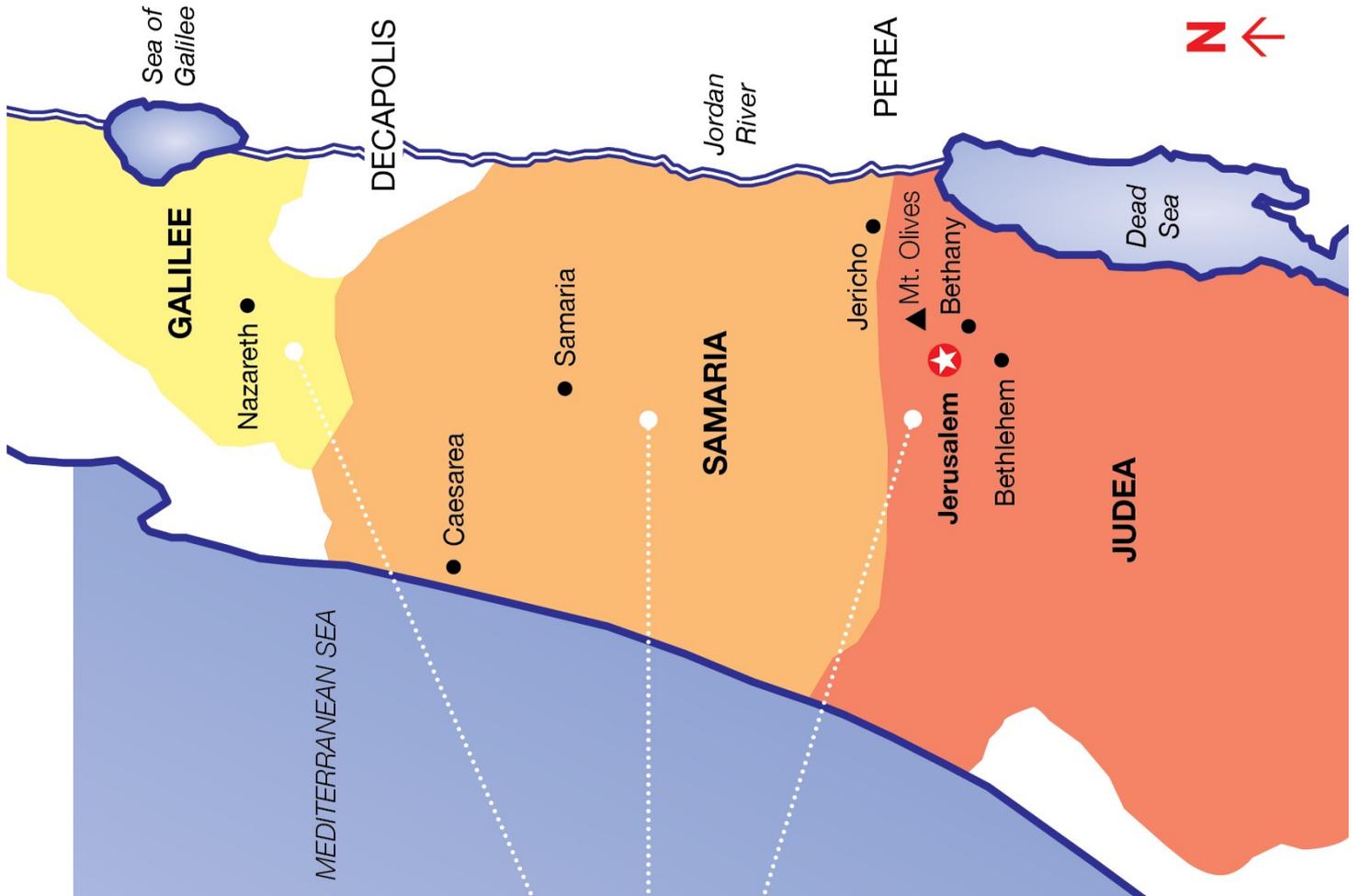
Following is vital. But we don’t follow complicated rules or a novel idea. Jesus says follow me. We follow a person. One who goes ahead of us, who instructs, equips and empowers us to live the life we have been designed to live. Come on this journey as we grow in knowing the one whom we follow.

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

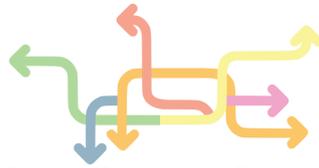


By Mark Barry © 2012. Adapted from *Early Narrative Christology: The Lord in the Gospel of Luke* by C. Kavin Rowe. Please do not republish without permission, but feel free to copy for personal use.



FOLLOW ME
LUKE 9-13

6	Luke 9:51-61	The Cost of Following
8	Luke 10:1-24	Follow the Leader
10	Luke 10:25-42	Following in Word and Deed
12	Luke 11:1-13	Following the Dependable
14	Luke 11:14-32	Following Greatness
16	Luke 11:33-54	Following the Light
18	Luke 12:1-34	Following with Confidence
20	Luke 12:35-59	Following in Anticipation
22	Luke 13:1-35	Following for Fruitfulness



THE COST OF FOLLOWING

LUKE 9:51-62

share

What people, musicians, teams or groups do you follow?

What does it cost you to follow them? (Money? Loyalty? Attendance? Merchandise? Something else?)

explore

Read Luke 9:51-56

Why do you think the people did not receive Jesus & his disciples? (v. 53)

Why might the disciples feel this is an appropriate response? (v. 54)

(You might also compare with Elijah's story, especially 1 Kings 18:38 & 2 Kings 1:10, 12)

Why does Jesus call his followers to live differently? (v. 55)

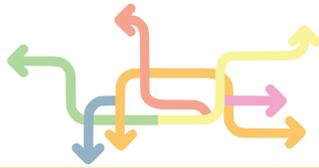
Read Luke 9:57-62

What do we learn about the challenges of following Jesus from these brief snapshots of conversation?

Why do you think Jesus emphasises the difficulty and cost of following him?

FUN FACT

Samaritans and Jews detested each other's holy sites. Samaritans were known to heckle pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem (v. 53).



TALKING POINT

“Following Jesus is hard, and you should think twice before doing so.”

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

Why might Christians be tempted to downplay the difficulty of following Jesus? How have you seen or experienced this?

What might a ‘balanced’ invitation to follow Jesus look like?

Live

Jesus contrasts a variety of clashes of priorities that people may have when they follow him (vv. 57-62). Which of these most resonates with you? Are there times you have felt a clash between your own priorities and those of Jesus?

What responsibility do we have toward one another when we notice these clashes of priorities? How could we carefully engage with a Christian brother or sister who appeared to be:

- genuinely struggling with their priorities?
- not concerned or aware of their clashing priorities?

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

In Jewish tradition, honouring your father and mother was one of the greatest commandments. The eldest son had responsibility for his father’s burial, and hence Jesus’ words (vv. 59-60) would sound heretical.



FOLLOW THE LEADER

LUKE 10:1-24

share

What attributes or practices have you seen or experienced in great leaders?

What can make it hard to respect leaders?

explore

Read Luke 10:1-20

What tasks were the 72 sent to accomplish? (vv. 1-12)

How does their mission connect to Jesus' mission? (cf. v. 9)

Why do you think the threat of judgement is included between the account of the 72 being sent out (v. 1) and returning (v. 17)? What might this suggest about the place of judgement in Jesus' mission?

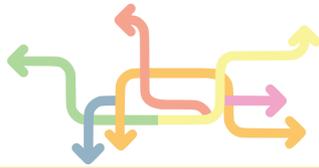
Read Luke 10:21-24

What do we learn here about Jesus' relationship to God the Father?

What makes Jesus a leader worth following?

FUN FACT

Although verse 18 is sometimes considered to be a comment about Satan's demise before creation, in context it is much more likely highlighting how Jesus is overturning Satan's power. Hence the disciples have experienced power over demons (v. 17) and over other symbols of evil (v. 19).



TALKING POINT

“Christians are the presence of Jesus to those around them.”

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 connection between people’s attitude to Christians and their attitude to Jesus? (v. 16)

How should this affect our attitude to our families, neighbours or work colleagues?

Live

Where can you be tempted to doubt God’s power and authority in the world?

How does this passage help us understand the challenging task for Christians living in the world?

What will it look like to follow Jesus as a leader of your life this week?

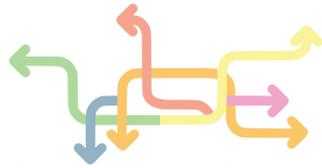
pray

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

Pious Jews returning to holy ground would not want the dust of pagan territory clinging even to their sandals (v. 11).



FOLLOWING IN WORD AND DEED

LUKE 10:25-42

share

How would you describe your relationship with your physical neighbours? (those who live nearby)

What can make it easy to get along with neighbours? What can make it difficult?

explore

Read Luke 10:25-37

What does the lawyer want to know? (vv. 25-29)

In what ways does Jesus' parable answer the lawyer? In what ways does Jesus avoid answering the lawyer? (vv. 30-37)

What makes it hard to be a neighbour to someone?

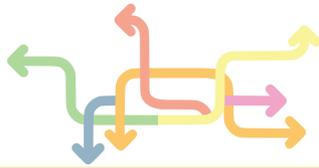
Read Luke 10:38-42

Why might Martha have felt she was doing the right thing? (vv. 38-40)

Why does Jesus suggest that Mary has made a better choice? (vv. 41-42)

FUN FACT

Priests were supposed to avoid becoming impure from contact with a corpse. Rules for Levites were not as strict, but they would also want to avoid becoming defiled.



TALKING POINT

“Christians should concern themselves with global issues.”

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 can global issues distract us from engaging with needs more local to us?

How can local issues distract us from looking beyond our immediate circumstances?

Should Christians strive to balance between these two? If so, what would it look like?

Live

Are there ways that you can be distracted like Martha? Are there ways our church can be distracted? When is appropriate to be more like Martha than Mary?

Instead of answering ‘Who is my neighbour?’, Jesus turns the question around to explore what it means to *be* a neighbour to someone. Where do you find it hard to *be* a neighbour to others?

How does Jesus help and enable us to be a neighbour to others?

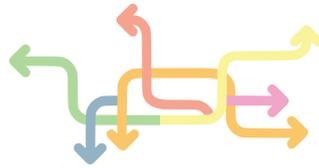
pray

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

The lawyer would have hated Samaritans, and hated even more being forced to admit that his behaviour should be like the Samaritan in Jesus’ story.



FOLLOWING THE DEPENDABLE

LUKE 11:1-13

share

Who has taught you how to pray? Did they talk it through with you, or did you learn by listening and imitating them?

What do you wish you had been taught about prayer?

explore

Read Luke 11:1-4

In what ways do you think this prayer teaches us how to pray? (v. 1)

Imagine someone wrote a book to teach people how to pray. In what ways do you think it might differ from this prayer? Why?

Read Luke 11:5-13

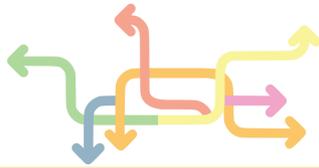
How is God different from the friend in this story? (vv. 5-10)

How is God different from the father? (vv. 11-13)

What does Jesus want us to understand about prayer from these stories?

FUN FACT

The familiar ending to the Lord's prayer ("For the kingdom...") does not appear here in Luke's account. It does appear in some records of the similar passage in Matthew 6:9-13, but our most reliable sources don't include it. They are, however, still great words to prayer.



TALKING POINT

“Christians should regularly pray the Lord’s Prayer.”

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 would be a blessing of regularly using this prayer?

What might be a danger?

Live

What topics or themes in this prayer (vv. 2-4) do you regular use in your own prayers? Are there topics or themes in the Lord’s prayer that you tend to neglect in your own prayers?

How could you include these topics or themes more regularly in your own prayer life?

How does this passage encourage us to see God as dependable? How clearly do your prayers reflect your dependence on him?

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

Most Israelites would have believed that the Holy Spirit had either already gone away, or was only for the holiest people. Verse 13 is a profound promise for God to make them all prophets; that is, anointed spokespersons.



FOLLOWING GREATNESS

LUKE 11:14-32

share

What can make it hard to believe a claim that someone makes is actually true?

Can you think of a time where you doubted the truth of a claim, and needed proof to be convinced it was right?

explore

Read Luke 11:14-26

What do you find challenging to understand as you read this story?

Why do you think some people would accuse Jesus of casting out demons on behalf of the prince of demons? (v. 15)

How does Jesus explain his superiority over demons? (vv. 17-22)

Why is it impossible to be neutral toward Jesus? (vv. 23-26) What is the warning against complacency?

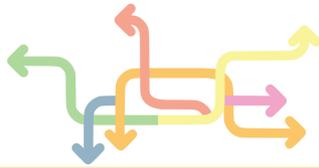
Read Luke 11:27-32

What point do you think the woman is trying to make? (v. 27)

How does Jesus overturn her expectations? (v. 28)

FUN FACT

Beelzebul is related to the name of the pagan god 'Baal-zebul' (2 Kings 1:2), and was once a common Jewish name for Satan.



TALKING POINT

“Christians are not aware enough of spiritual forces.”

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 should cause Christians to pay more attention to the ‘spiritual realm’?

What might be a danger in focussing too much on spiritual forces?

Why do you think Jesus rebukes those looking for a sign of proof? (v. 29) Where should people be looking instead?

Live

What do you find hardest about hearing and obeying the word of God?

What habits or practices have you found helpful in developing a habit of listening to God speak through the Bible?

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

The Queen of the South is a reference to the Queen of Sheba, who had heard great things of Solomon and wanted to see for herself (1 Kings 10).



FOLLOWING THE LIGHT

LUKE 11:33-54

share

Can you think of a time when someone regretted ignoring a warning of danger?

Why are people sometimes sceptical about warnings of danger?

explore

Read Luke 11:33-36

How can Jesus' ministry be described as a shining light? (v. 33)

How might our eyes reveal what we truly desire in our hearts? (v. 34)

Read Luke 11:37-54

What stands out to you in this passage?

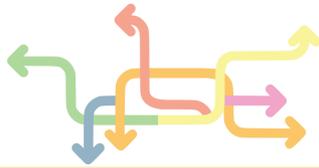
In what ways have the Pharisees appeared to do the right thing?

In what ways have the Pharisees revealed that their hearts are full of darkness?

Why do you think Jesus gives such a stinging rebuke?

FUN FACT

Woe is a declaration that God's wrath is coming, rather than his blessing.



TALKING POINT

“Christians should focus on the positives when telling people about 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

Do you think people are more motivated by love or by fear?

What is the place of warning people of God’s wrath in evangelism?

How do you think he would have wanted his listeners to respond?

Live

Are there ways you feel you might be tempted to follow the hypocrisy of the Pharisees?

What might be some areas of danger for our church community to be like the Pharisees?

How can we support and encourage one another to pursue the light instead of the darkness?

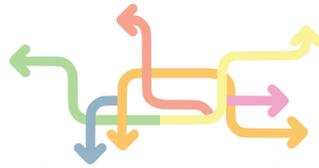
pray

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

The final book in the Hebrew Bible is 2 Chronicles (it is arranged in a different order than our Old Testament), and Zechariah is the last martyr in their Bible (24:20-22). Hence ‘Abel to Zechariah’ (Luke 11:51) covers the whole Hebrew Bible.



FOLLOWING WITH CONFIDENCE

LUKE 12:1-34

share

What makes you feel confident in life?

What can make you quickly lose confidence?

explore

Read Luke 12:1-12

How does this connect with the previous passage? (vv. 1-3)

What things ought to give us confidence in trusting God? (vv. 4-12)

Read Luke 12:13-21

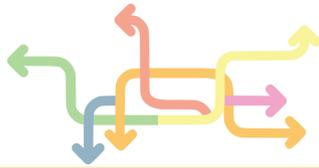
Where does the rich fool place his confidence?

In what ways can we be tempted to be like him?

Read Luke 12:22-34

Why do people typically worry about these things? (vv. 22-26)

What examples have we seen in the previous chapters of Luke of people seeking first God's kingdom? (cf. v. 31)



TALKING POINT

“Worrying is a sign of a lack of trust in God.”

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

Is it ever appropriate to worry?

What does Jesus focus on in the passage when he warns against worrying?

Live

Throughout this passage, Jesus emphasises his concern for his followers to be wise stewards of the resources at their disposal. Where do you find it easier to be selfish and harder to be generous ?

What can cause you to doubt God?

How does this passage challenge your personal priorities in life?

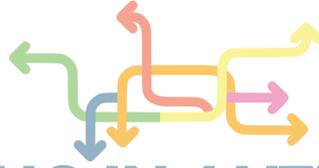
pray

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

Blasphemy (v. 10) uses a word that is translated elsewhere as ‘insulting’ (NIV; e.g. Luke 22:63, 23:39). Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is concerned with a hardened attitude more so than a single act of rebellion.



FOLLOWING IN ANTICIPATION

LUKE 12:35-59

share

What do you hate waiting for? What helps you to be patient when waiting?

explore

Read Luke 12:35-48

How does Jesus instruct his followers to live while they wait for his return?

What makes it hard to wait for Jesus to return as he has promised?

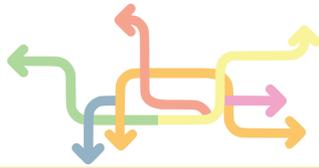
Would you prefer that Jesus comes back tomorrow, or at the end of your life? What can influence your preference?

Why might it be worse to know the master's will and not obey, rather than not know the master's will at all?

Read Luke 12:49-53

Jesus highlights that his coming will divide people, even within families. How might you reconcile this with other passages that speak of Jesus bringing peace? (e.g. John 14:27, 16:33)

What is Jesus preparing his followers for?



TALKING POINT

“Live each day as if it were your last.”

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’s helpful about this approach? What is unhelpful?

How might you word a better phrase that captures Jesus’ warning to be prepared?

Read Luke 12:54-59

How does Jesus suggest that the crowd has misread the times?

Live

What does it look like to live a life in anticipation of Jesus’ return?

How do you think our church life would change if we knew Jesus was returning in a week?
A year? Fifty years?

How would it affect your personal actions and decisions?

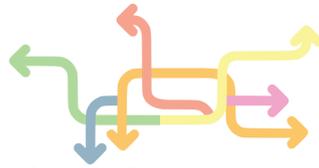
pray

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

Jesus’ baptism that awaits him (v. 50) is a reference to his suffering and death on behalf of others (see 3:16, also Mark 10:38-39).



FOLLOWING FOR FRUITFULNESS

LUKE 13:1-35

share

Have you ever trained or practiced for something and enjoyed the fruit of your hard work?

explore

Read Luke 13:1-9

How do these two episodes provide us with a warning to be prepared for God's judgement?

What does it look like to be prepared?

Read Luke 13:10-20

Why would the Pharisees be against healing on the Sabbath? (v. 14)

How does Jesus suggest that healing is part of God's design for the Sabbath? (vv. 15-16)

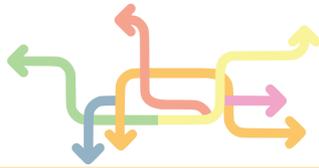
So far this chapter has highlighted the need for Jesus' followers to be prepared and live according to God's good design. As time goes by, what should be the result of living this way? (vv. 18-20)

Read Luke 13:22-35

Why do you think many will not be able to enter the narrow door? (v. 24)

FUN FACT

Luke never suggests that illness is always the work of demons (v. 11), but sometimes they are directly related.



TALKING POINT

“A church or ministry that is not producing fruit should close.”

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

Is it appropriate to measure the effectiveness of a church or ministry? If so, what should we measure them by?

What factors are important to consider but difficult to measure?

How does this last passage (vv. 31-35) draw us back to the start of Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem (9:51)?

Live

As you look back over chapters 9-13, what has particularly stood out to you through these studies?

What has challenged your attitude to following Jesus?

What has encouraged you to persist in following 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

This passage (vv. 22-35) provides an end to the first part of Jesus’ journey toward Jerusalem. Luke draws our attention back to the larger task at hand in both reminding us of the destination (v. 22), and of the result coming at the end of the journey (vv. 32-35).
