



**KNOW
JESUS**

CRUCIFIXION + RESURRECTION

BIBLE STUDIES

Luke 18-24

Blacktown Anglican Church

www.bac.org.au

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CRUCIFIXION RESURRECTION

The final chapters of Luke's Gospel spend their time focussed on the events surrounding the crucifixion, and later resurrection, of Jesus.

Since chapter 9, Luke has been tracing Jesus' long journey toward Jerusalem. And now the story slows down to highlight many important details and fulfilled prophecies. It brings clarity to understanding what was to be the most significant event in all of human history.

I hope and pray these studies continue to encourage you through this incredible story of betrayal and forgiveness, judgement and hope, death and life, as we come to terms with all that Jesus is—and has done—for us.

Luke Thomson
Senior Minister

CRUCIFIXION RESURRECTION

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SALVATION HAS COME

LUKE 18:31-19:10

SHARE

Have you made a significant life change in the past five years?

What was it? What was the result?

EXPLORE

Read Luke 18:31-34

Why do you think Jesus explains what is going to happen?

Why do you think the disciples were confused?

Read Luke 18:35-43

How does the blind man contrast with the disciples in the previous passage?

In what ways does this story provide a glimpse of salvation for God's people?

Read Luke 19:1-10

How is Zacchaeus' place in society different from the blind man?

How do you think Zacchaeus would have felt when Jesus stopped to speak to him?

What surprises the crowd about Jesus' interaction with Zacchaeus?

In what ways does Zacchaeus provide a glimpse of salvation for God's people?

FUN FACT

Son of Man is a title Jesus often used to refer to himself (Luke 18:31). It is drawn from Daniel 7:13. The title alludes to a representative of God's people both ruling over the world and suffering for it.

CRUCIFIXION RESURRECTION

TALKING POINT

“It should be obvious that someone follows Jesus by the way that they live.”

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

In what ways are Christians obviously different in the way they live in our society?

In what ways is it difficult to live differently?

LIVE

Zacchaeus responds to Jesus' grace with a complete transformation of his life, repaying those from whom he had cheated. Were there any immediate changes in your life when you first began to follow Jesus?

What helps you to continue reflecting and repenting in order to live more obediently to God's design and commands?

In some ways, Zacchaeus has an over the top response to Jesus. Why might this be appropriate for Zacchaeus?

Is it appropriate for us to have a similar type of response? Why or why not?

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

Son of David is a title used to describe Jesus as the answer to the promise to King David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16. When the blind man uses this title, he is expressing his faith that Jesus is God's promised King and saviour.

SALVATION WILL COME

LUKE 19:11-27

SHARE

When do you most dislike waiting?

What are you more than happy to wait for?

EXPLORE

Read Luke 19:11

What is the reason for Jesus telling the following parable?

What does it suggest the point of the parable might be?

Read Luke 19:12-27

Jesus' parables are typically symbolic stories about the Kingdom of God.

In what ways does the king in the story represent Jesus? Where do you see differences?

If the third servant believed what he said about the master (v. 21), what ought he have done?

Do you think the judgement is fair (vv. 22-27)? Why or why not?

How does the story answer the issue raised in v. 11?

FUN FACT

A *denarii* was about a days wages for a labourer (Matt 20:2). A *mina* was worth around 100 *denarii*, or about 3 months wages. A *talent* was worth 60 *minas*, equivalent to about 15 years wages (Matt 25:15).

CRUCIFIXION RESURRECTION

TALKING POINT

“God requires faithfulness, not fruitfulness.”

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

To what extent do you think future reward should motivate us to be faithful?

What should we make of those who appear faithful, but not fruitful, in their service to God?

LIVE

If we knew that Jesus was returning in 50 days time, how do you think we should change our behaviour as individuals? As a church community?

If we knew that Jesus was returning in 500 years time, how do you think we should change our behaviour as individuals? As a church community?

Because we do not know how long it will be before Jesus returns, how do you think we can strike a healthy balance between these two?

How can we be good stewards of all that God has given us?

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 parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) is very similar to this parable. It is likely that Matthew and Luke each shaped their retelling of the story to serve slightly different purposes.

THE KING IS ACCEPTED

LUKE 19:28-48

SHARE

Can you think of a memorable grand entrance made by someone (perhaps from a story, movie or real life)?

EXPLORE

Read Luke 19:28-40

Do you think Jesus pre-arranged the colt (a young donkey) to be available, or that he supernaturally knew it would be there? Are there any clues in the text?

What do the crowds celebrate about Jesus? (vv. 36-38)

(You might also like to read Zechariah 9:9 and contrast it with this passage)

Compare this arrival with the angels at Jesus birth in Luke 2:13-14. What do you notice?

What motive do you think the Pharisees have in trying to silence the disciples? (v. 39)

Read Luke 19:41-48

For what reason should Jerusalem expect to face judgement? (v. 44)

How is the crowds response to Jesus different from the religious leaders? (vv. 47-48)

FUN FACT

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem fulfills a messianic prophecy in Zechariah 9:9. It's possible that the crowds did not recognise this at the time, but the disciples (and Luke writing this account) later saw this connection.

CRUCIFIXION RESURRECTION

TALKING POINT

“No-one has an excuse for not responding 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

What is the role of Christians to take the news of Jesus to unreached people groups?

What is the role of Christians to take the news of Jesus to the people of our city?

LIVE

How natural does it feel for you to praise Jesus? What helps you to do it? (e.g. songs, prayer, art, writing)

Are there aspects of Jesus that make it difficult for you to accept him as king in parts of your life?

How does the life of our church help you to praise Jesus? How could our church community improve the ways we do this?

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

Offering sacrificial material at the temple was not itself wrong. There was obviously a degree of greed and corruption in how it was done, which leads Jesus to call it “a den of robbers” (Luke 19:45-46).

THE KING IS REJECTED

LUKE 20:1-19

SHARE

Are there positions of authority (e.g. police; politicians; principals) that you think are losing the respect of society today? Are there positions of authority that you think are growing in how society respects them?

EXPLORE

Read Luke 20:1-8

What surprises you about this encounter?

Why do you think Jesus neglects to answer their question directly?

Read Luke 20:9-19

How do you think the religious leaders knew this parable was about them?

How does this parable relate to the events of Jesus arrival in 19:28-48?

In verse 17, Jesus quotes from Psalm 118. Have a read of the entire Psalm.

Why do you think Jesus quotes this Psalm?

What could we learn about how the Old Testament points to Jesus from the way that he uses this Psalm?

FUN FACT

The cornerstone (v. 17) refers to the important stone in a building's construction that bore the weight and stress of the two walls built upon it.

CRUCIFIXION RESURRECTION

TALKING POINT

“It is harder to be a Christian in Western Society today than ever before”

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 new challenges are there for Christians today?

Are there things that perhaps make it easier to have faith in Jesus today than in the past?

LIVE

In your experience, what are some of the obvious barriers to people putting their faith in Jesus today?

How could church communities change to help overcome these barriers?

What could you do personally to help those you encounter to overcome these barriers?

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 70AD, the Roman army attacked and captured the city of Jerusalem and burned the city and temple to the ground. The promise of judgement in Luke 20:18 is seen as one of many hints about this future catastrophic event.

LIFE IN THE LAST DAYS

LUKE 20:20-47

SHARE

What do you really enjoy about living in Australia?

EXPLORE

Read Luke 20:20-26

Why do you think Jesus (again!) neglects to answer their question directly?

How might Jesus' teaching here shape our understanding of the need to be good citizens of our society?

Read Luke 20:27-40

The Sadducees refer to what is known as 'levirate law' (See Deuteronomy 25:5-10). How do you think they are trying to trap Jesus? What problems might they be attempting to highlight? (vv. 27-33)

What surprises you about Jesus' answer? (vv. 34-38)

Read Luke 20:41-47

The first line of the quote from Psalm 110 should be understood as: "The LORD [God] said to my [David] Lord [The Messiah]." What does this tell us about Jesus' relationship to David?

How does Jesus distinguish himself from the religious leaders of the day?

FUN FACT

Israelites despised paying taxes to Caesar, and thereby supporting the Roman occupation of Israel. Some believed it was an insult to God to pay taxes, as God was the true ruler of Israel.

CRUCIFIXION RESURRECTION

TALKING POINT

“Christians should be the best citizens of their country”

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 being a good citizen enhance the message of the gospel? How might it detract?

How might the promise of a future resurrection impact how we live as citizens now?

LIVE

How important is it for Christians to honestly pay their taxes to the government?

What role do you think Christians and churches have in campaigning for political change?

To what extent do you think governments should base their laws on Christian principles?

How ought the humility of Jesus shape the way that we live as citizens?

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

Sadducees were a strong political group in Israel, with ties to the Priests and other upper class members of society. They were generally hostile to the Pharisees, who were much more respected by the people. They disappeared after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD.

JUDGEMENT IN THE LAST DAYS

LUKE 21:1-38

SHARE

Do you have a favourite “end of the world” type movie or story?

Why do you think so many stories are written on this theme?

EXPLORE

Read Luke 21:1-38

What surprises you about this passage? What is hard to understand?

Why do you think many would come claiming to be God’s promised Messiah? (v. 8)

How would you describe the experience Jesus warns about? (vv. 12-19) How can he say that “not a hair on your head will perish”? (See also Luke 12:4-5)

Jewish writing often identifies patterns of God’s grace and judgement. How God judged in one era resembled how he would judge in another. How does the description of the God’s judgement on Jerusalem (vv. 5-24) compare and contrast with the description of God’s judgement at the end of time (vv. 25-36)?

Why do you think Jesus continued to draw crowds? (v. 38)

FUN FACT

A series of wars between the Jews and Romans occurred from 66-135AD (cf. Luke 21:9-10). Ancient Jewish historian, Josephus (37-100AD), spoke about unusual heavenly signs (Luke 21:11) appearing before the destruction of the temple in 70AD (cf. Luke 21:20).

CRUCIFIXION RESURRECTION

TALKING POINT

“The Christian life is difficult and unattractive”

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 examples have you heard people give for why the Christian life appears unattractive?

How could you respond to such objections?

LIVE

To what degree do you think God’s judgement should be emphasised when talking to non-believers about Jesus?

What temptations are there to doubt the value of following Jesus?

How can a church community help one another to be careful and always on the watch? (vv. 34-36)

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 21:5-24 speak specifically about the future destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, which would come about in 70AD.

THE LAST SUPPER

LUKE 22:1-38

SHARE

What is your favourite meal for dinner?

Have you ever had a meal that was so special, you will never forget it? What made it memorable?

EXPLORE

Read Exodus 12:1-13

What food did the Israelites eat at this special meal? (vv. 3, 8)

How were they dressed when they ate this meal? (v. 11)

What did God do to the people who shared this meal? (vv. 12-13)

Read Luke 22:7-23

What meal is Jesus sharing with his disciples? (v. 7)

Jesus knows that he is about to die (vv. 15-16, 21-22). What does Jesus want his disciples to remember?

V. 19 -

V. 20 -

What is the connection between Jesus' death and the Passover meal? (See also 1 Corinthians 5:7)

FUN FACT

The terms *Lord's Supper* and *Eucharist* (a Greek word meaning 'thanksgiving') are both used in 1 Corinthians 11. *Holy Communion* comes from a latin word, meaning 'sharing in common', and came about during the Protestant Reformation (1500's AD).

CRUCIFIXION RESURRECTION

TALKING POINT

“You cannot be Christian if you do not share in the Lord’s Supper.”

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 dangers might there be in celebrating the Lord’s Supper infrequently or not at all?

How could celebrating the Lord’s Supper become a misused part of church life?

LIVE

What habits and practices of the church help you to remember what God has done for you?

Are there personal habits and practices that you have used to regularly remind you of an aspect of God’s love?

Are there unhelpful habits you may have developed that work against remembering the good news of 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 is my body.” Much has been debated over this phrase throughout history. It was a key issue during the Protestant Reformation (1500’s), specifically around whether the bread becomes Jesus’ literal body, or is simply symbolic (an ongoing difference between Catholics and Protestants today).

THE ARREST

LUKE 22:39-65

SHARE

If you could remove one law from our society, what would you choose?

EXPLORE

Read Luke 22:39-46

Last study, we saw that Jesus knew what was going to happen to him. How does Jesus respond to the future? (vv. 39-42)

Why do you think he does this?

How does Jesus feel about what is going to happen? (vv. 42, 44)

Mark on the scale below where you think is most accurate: (are there verses in the passage that can help you?)



Jesus does not want
to go to his death

Jesus is very willing
to go to his death

Read Luke 22:47-53

Why might Jesus heal the servant's ear? How does this help us understand Jesus' willingness to go to the cross?

Read Luke 22:54-65

What emotions do you think Peter was feeling through these events?

FUN FACT

Verses 43-44 are heavily debated as to whether they were written by Luke, or added in later. It is difficult to determine which is right, but ultimately makes little difference in meaning of the overall passage.

CRUCIFIXION RESURRECTION

TALKING POINT

“The crucifixion of Jesus is an example of divine child abuse”

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 might lead people to this conclusion?

How would you respond to someone who raised this as a matter of concern?

LIVE

In what area do you find it most difficult to obey God?

Why do you think it is sometimes very hard to obey God?

What should we do when we find obedience difficult?

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 had earlier spoken about Judas' betrayal in Luke 22:21-22.

THE CRUCIFIXION

LUKE 22:66-23:56

SHARE

Have you ever faced intense scrutiny or questioning? (Perhaps by a parent, a boss, a friend)

How does it feel to be put in the 'spotlight' in this way?

EXPLORE

Read Luke 22:66-71

How was Jesus treated upon his initial arrest? (vv. 63-65) How do you think he felt?

What is Jesus being put on trial for? (v. 67)

How does Jesus respond to the charges? (vv. 67-71)

Read Luke 23:1-25

How do the following view Jesus:

- The assembly (vv. 2, 5)
- Pilate (vv. 3-6)
- Herod (vv. 8-11)
- The crowd (vv. 13-25)

Read Luke 23:26-56

How do Jesus' words in verse 34 impact the way we read this story?

FUN FACT

Son of God is a title that emphasises a unique and close relationship with God. A similar phrase is also used to describe Israel's relationship with God (e.g. Exodus 4:22).

CRUCIFIXION RESURRECTION

TALKING POINT

“Jesus was killed because he was overturning the power of the Jewish elite”

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 does Luke’s account suggest is the main reason for Jesus being crucified?

Does the reason for Jesus’ crucifixion make any difference to its significance?

LIVE

Imagine a friend shares with you that they don’t believe God can forgive them because of their past. How could the story of Jesus’ interacting with the criminal (vv. 40-43) help you to respond?

How does reading the story of Jesus’ death make you feel? How do you think Luke wants us to feel when reading it?

Before we get to the resurrection account, what hope can we find in this story of Jesus’ death?

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

Israelites would measure time by the number of hours since the sunrise. The ‘sixth hour’ is about midday, while the ‘ninth hour’ would be around 3pm.

THE RESURRECTION

LUKE 24:1-12

SHARE

Do you have a surprising fact about yourself that people often struggle to believe is true?

We live in an age full of misinformation. What gives you confidence to believe when you hear surprising news?

EXPLORE

Read Luke 24:1-12

What were the women expecting to find when they went to the tomb? (v. 1)

What did they find instead? (vv. 1-2)

What surprising things do the angels tell the women? (vv. 5-7)

How did Jesus' disciples respond when the women told them what they saw? (vv. 11-12)

What details does Luke include in telling this story that surprise you?

FUN FACT

Mary Magdalene and Joanna (v. 10) also appear in Luke 8:2-3, and were long-term followers of Jesus.

CRUCIFIXION RESURRECTION

TALKING POINT

“It doesn’t matter if the resurrection really happened”

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 would the Christian faith be affected if there was no physical resurrection of Jesus?

Is it necessary to believe in the resurrection of Jesus to be a Christian?

LIVE

Many people find it hard to believe that someone would come back to life from the dead. How does Luke’s account of events encourage those of us who have doubts?

Have you encountered people who struggled to accept the story of the resurrection? What was your experience? How might you respond in future?

How does Jesus’ resurrection help us to trust everything else that he said and taught?

If Jesus really did rise from the dead and is alive again, how should that impact our response to him today?

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 is notable that the women went to the tomb expecting a body, not a resurrection (v. 1). The disciples were also hesitate to believe (v. 11), and later again when Jesus appears to them (24:41).

THE OLD STORY OF JESUS

LUKE 24:13-35

SHARE

What movies or stories come to mind where the ending completely changes the way you look at the whole movie/story? (Perhaps be careful about spoilers!)

EXPLORE

Read Luke 24:13-24

How were the two men feeling about Jesus' death?

What did they hope Jesus was going to do? (v. 21) How much hope did they have now?

Read Luke 24:25-27

What does Jesus say should have given them hope even after he had died? (v. 25)

What does Jesus say the Old Testament is all about? (v. 27)

Read Luke 24:28-35

What did the men do when they realised Jesus was alive? (vv. 33-35)

Why do you think they did this?

FUN FACT

"Moses and all the Prophets" (v. 27) is another way of referring to the Old Testament, and the different parts that make it up.

CRUCIFIXION RESURRECTION

TALKING POINT

“It is possible to become a Christian by only reading the Old Testament”

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 found it difficult to read the Old Testament? What has made it difficult?

What might we be missing if we were unfamiliar with the Old Testament?

LIVE

How much of the Bible do you think you have read? How much do you feel familiar with?

How does this story encourage us to read all the of the Bible regularly?

What habits or practices have you found helpful in reading the Bible?

How often do you share the news of Jesus with others? What would encourage you to share it more?

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 story of Jesus appearing to Simon Peter (v. 34) is not told in the gospel accounts, though it is referred to in 1 Corinthians 15:5. John’s story of the miraculous catch of fish (John 21) is a later event, occurring in Galilee.

THE NEW STORY OF JESUS

LUKE 24:36-53

SHARE

When someone makes a promise to you, how do you know that you can trust them?

EXPLORE

Read Luke 24:36-43

How do you think you would feel if you were in the room when Jesus suddenly appeared?

How did the disciples feel? (v. 37) What does this tell us about their expectations?

Read Luke 24:44-49

What does Jesus say that the disciples should have known? (v. 44)

What does Jesus say can happen now that he has been raised from the dead? (v. 47)

Read Luke 24:50-53

What emotions do you think the disciples were feeling by this point?

Why do you think Luke finishes by telling us that the disciples worshipped Jesus? (See also Luke 4:8)

FUN FACT

“This is what is written” (v. 46) refers not so much to a specific passage in the Old Testament, but to the overall teaching on this. Jesus’ point is that they could learn this from the Old Testament (see also Luke 24:25-27).

CRUCIFIXION RESURRECTION

TALKING POINT

“The resurrection promised to us is a physical resurrection”

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 we view as unique to Jesus’ experience of resurrection that would not be true for us? What could we understand about his experience that would be true for us?

What would be the implications if our resurrection was only spiritual, and not physical?

LIVE

How does Jesus’ resurrection help us to know that our sins are forgiven?

Why is it important for people to know they can be forgiven?

What has stood out to you from this series? What has encouraged you?

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 Gospel of Luke is part one of Luke’s writing. The book of Acts continues the story, telling of how Jesus worked through his Apostles in the early life of the church.

RESOURCES

Online Commentaries

<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/ivp-nt/Luke>

A short, accessible commentary for insight into the passages.

<https://journeythrough.org/courses/luke/>

A series of short devotional readings through Luke's Gospel by Mike Raiter (the Director of the Centre for Biblical Preaching).

Books

Luke—The New American Commentary. Robert H. Stein. Broadman & Holman, 1992.

An excellent, short commentary which helps to draw out the main theme of each passage.

A useful resource for drawing attention to the key ideas of Luke's gospel, with some helpful, brief comments along the way.

Videos

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/luke/>

Some great videos to visually represent the themes and flow of the story.

CRUCIFIXION RESURRECTION

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