



JESUS in JERUSALEM

LUKE 19-21

rockypc SERIES COMPANION
2022

*growing
disciples*
sacrifice. serve. speak



“Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.”

LUKE 1v1-4

Luke’s Gospel is a first century biography, and the first of two volumes telling the story of how God fulfilled his plan to bring salvation to his people, Israel, and to the whole world. The second volume is called Acts and together Luke and Acts take us from the announcement of Jesus’ birth to his death and resurrection in Jerusalem (LUKE), and then on to the message about Jesus being proclaimed to the ends of the earth (ACTS).

Luke was a first century doctor who joined the Apostle Paul on his missionary journeys around the north-eastern Mediterranean, between ~50-70AD. He was not a Jew, but a Gentile from Antioch. Nor was he a firsthand “eyewitness” to Jesus, but he had access to a range of sources for his careful investigation into who Jesus was and why he is so important: letters, speeches, sermons, songs, travel accounts, trial transcripts, personal anecdotes and plenty of people living around that time who he could speak to, in order to confirm or deny what he wrote.

Luke’s Gospel was written around 62AD, when the Apostle Paul was imprisoned in Rome (and before 65AD when Nero began his terrible persecution of Christians.) Because of his relationship with Paul, Luke’s biography was given apostolic authority and endorsement by the early church with one early church historian named Eusebius reporting that Paul quoted from Luke by saying “according to my gospel” (Ecclesiastical History 3.4.7).

Luke wrote for a patron named Theophilus who was most likely a Roman official who wanted to know if there was any reason to doubt what he’d heard about Jesus. And that’s where this Gospel is so helpful for people like us, because we have lots of reasons to doubt what we’ve heard about Jesus.

- Can we trust the things written in the Bible?
- Aren’t these just made up tales of men with an agenda?
- What can Jesus actually offer me (that I don’t already have or can’t get for myself)?
- Why should I trust Jesus when it seems like God doesn’t care about what I’m going through?

If you aren’t yet a Christian, Luke’s story about Jesus is for you because it asks if you’re sure you can ignore Jesus.

If you’re doubtful that these things are true, Luke’s story about Jesus is for you because it says you can investigate the truth for yourself.

If you’re struggling with life and wondering if God cares for you, Luke’s story about Jesus is for you because it’ll renew your confidence in Jesus’ compassion and mercy and love.

If you’ve grown complacent, or even a little bit self-righteous, Luke’s story about Jesus is for you because it’ll call you to bear fruit in keeping with repentance as you live for Jesus.

Luke’s story about Jesus is for all of us, because it shows us Jesus’ glory and invites us to take hold of his grace and compassionate love.

At **rockypc**, we studied the beginning of Luke’s Gospel in first term 2021, in a series called Are You Sure? You can check out that series on [our rockypc website — Sunday Online! \(page 5\)](#)

Since then we’ve been working our way through the rest of Luke in small sections.

In these 5 talks, Jesus has reached Jerusalem for his final visit and we’ll see the different reactions of the people when the true king comes to town. We’ll be challenged to think about our own response to Jesus as he questions the dodgy religion of the Jewish leaders. And we’ll be invited to look to the cross, Jesus’ resurrection and the end, when he returns for all his people, when we’ll see him in all his glory.

We hope this series helps you take another step closer to Jesus, and we hope this SERIES COMPANION is useful to keep your thoughts in one place.

In the table below, you’ll see the plan for the next 5 weeks. Please note that the GROWTH GROUP STUDIES begin from week 3 and are intended to be discussed prior to each Bible talk.

19-23 September	School Holidays	No Study
Sunday 25 September	Luke 19v28-44	YOUR KING
26-30 September	School Holidays	No Study
Sunday 2 October	Luke 19v45-20v19	REJECTING JESUS
3-7 October	Term 3 Begins	Study for week #3
Sunday 9 October	Luke 20v20-44	QUESTIONING JESUS
10-14 October		Study for week #4
Sunday 16 October	Luke 20v45-21v4	FLOWING ROBES OR POVERTY?
17-21 October		Study for week #5
Sunday 23 October	Luke 21v5-38	THE KINGDOM IS NEAR

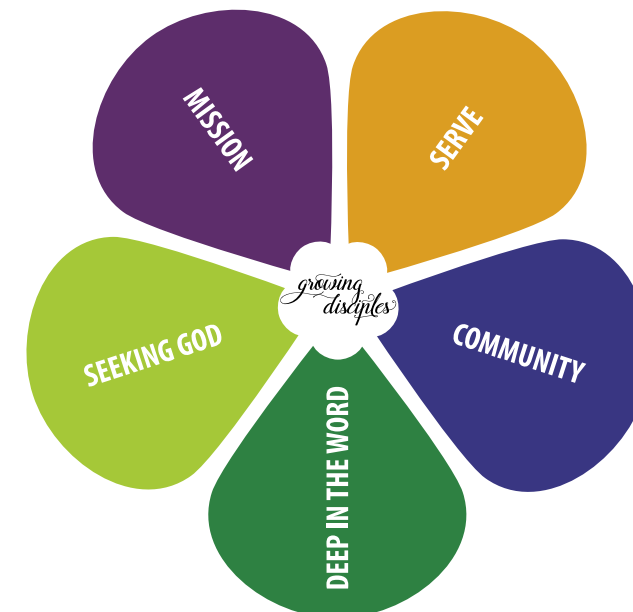
HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS SERIES COMPANION

ON YOUR OWN—Take your time reading through the passage. If you have time, work through the questions before your GROWTH GROUP so that you’ve started thinking about the topic before you arrive.

WITH YOUR GROWTH GROUP—As you talk through the questions, think together about the way Jesus challenges false religion and see how we should respond to him.

ON SUNDAY—Make sure you bring your series companion along with you, so that you can keep track of any questions you have and record the way that God’s Spirit is helping you to understand His Word and grow in your love for Jesus.

These series companions are designed to be used as either a print version, or interactively on a device. Use whichever method is most helpful for you.





YOUR KING

LUKE 19v28-44

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:



REJECTING JESUS

LUKE 19v45-20v19

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Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

GETTING STARTED

How do you handle tough questions? Can you think on the spot?

In Chapter 19, Jesus entered Jerusalem to joyful singing, but he wept at the disaster about to fall on the city because they failed to recognise him. Tension builds with the religious experts as they question his authority and look for ways to kill him. Jesus responds by telling a pointed parable about the way that they've treated God, his prophets and ultimately his son.

READ LUKE 20v19-26

1. What is the latest plan to get Jesus arrested?

2. How is Jesus' response astonishing? How does he answer them while implying their failures?

READ LUKE 20v27-40

3. Another subset of Jewish leaders also try to trap Jesus. What's their question? (see also Deuteronomy 25v5-10) Why is it ironic?

4. What does Jesus say they've failed to understand about the age to come?

READ LUKE 18v15-30

5. What has Jesus already been teaching about the way to enter the age to come?

READ LUKE 20v41-44 & PSALM 110

Jesus quotes Psalm 110 which starts off 'The **LORD** said to my lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." **LORD** in all capitals (YHWH in Hebrew) is the personal name for Israel's covenant God as he spoke it at the burning bush to Moses (Exodus 3v6). In Psalm 110, YHWH God speaks to another person, whom David addresses as his Lord.

6. What is Jesus' point about the Messiah?

7. The religious experts have been asking tricky questions of Jesus, why do you think he asks one of his own?

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are **DEEP IN THE WORD**, **SEEKING GOD**, on **MISSION**, as we **SERVE** in **COMMUNITY** together.

How does your life give God the glory, honour and thanks he's due?

How can you know you're worthy to take part in the age to come?

SEEKING GOD

Jesus says that our priorities will be re-ordered in the resurrection age to come. What influence does that have on your priorities and loves now?

SERVE

Do you think you're more clever than Jesus? Do you know someone who thinks they are? How can you talk to them about the one who is Lord over all?

MISSION

PRAYER IDEAS

- Give God honour, glory and thanks. Praise him that he has made Jesus the Messiah, the Lord who rules over all.
- Pray for friends and family who think they're more clever than Jesus. Pray that they would see he can't be trapped or outsmarted. Pray they'd have the humility to see his authority and power.
- Pray that we'd be like little children, coming to Jesus in humble dependence, that we might have confidence in the age to come. Pray that our priorities would reflect an understanding that this current age is passing away. Praise God that he will raise us to life because he is the God of the living.



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GETTING STARTED

How do you know when someone is doing something for show instead of genuine motives?

READ LUKE 20v45-47

Last week, we saw various religious leaders trying to entrap Jesus by asking tricky questions. But he couldn't be trapped. And now Jesus points out their flaws in warning to his disciples.

1. What do the teachers of the law value?
2. What will be the consequences of these attitudes?

This is not the first time that Jesus has issued this warning.

READ LUKE 11v39-44

3. What does the Pharisees' hypocrisy show about their spiritual state?

READ LUKE 21v1-4

4. What comparison does Jesus make about gifts at the temple?
5. Is this story about giving to church? Why or why not? (see also 20v20-26)

This widow embodies Jesus' earlier teachings about this age and the age to come.

READ LUKE 6v20-26

6. Fill in the tables below. (Sorry these aren't interactive)

Verse	Who is blessed?	With what, in the coming age?
20		
21a		
21b		
22		

Verse	Who is cursed?	With what, in the coming age?
24		
25a		
25b		
26		

7. With this earlier teaching in mind, why do you think Jesus points out the widow's actions? (cf. 12v13-21 & 18v9-14)

8. In summary, what does Jesus teach in this section about humility, love for others and wealth?



FLOWING ROBES OR POVERTY?

LUKE 20v45-21v4

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growing disciples

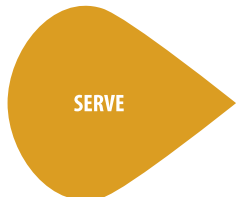
At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY together.



When are you tempted to value praise from people? What will it look like for you to value humility and seeing Jesus honoured instead?



How can you grow in love for others, rather than selfishly taking from them - among your family, friends, colleagues and **rockypc** community?



How can you give your all to Jesus? Think about more than just money.

PRAYER IDEAS

- Confess when you have been doing good things for show and praise from others. Ask God's forgiveness and grace to grow in humility instead. Pray that your life would honour Jesus, not yourself.
- Pray that God would forgive our hypocrisy, selfishness and lack of concern for others. Ask that we would be a community that loves one another.
- Pray that we'd give our all to Jesus - in riches and poverty. Pray that we'd understand that true riches are in the age to come and so we wouldn't love money, possessions or importance in this age.

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GETTING STARTED

What makes you think it's the end of the world? Does it worry you?

After entering Jerusalem, Jesus goes to the temple and is teaching there for some time (21v37-38).

READ LUKE 21v5-7

1. Jesus echoes his earlier, sad warning that the whole of Jerusalem and its temple will be destroyed (19v41-44). What do the disciples want to know?

READ LUKE 21v8-18

2. What will happen before the temple is destroyed?

3. What encouragement does Jesus give in the midst of these events?

READ LUKE 21v19-24

4. What will happen to Jerusalem? What will be the impact on the inhabitants?

Similar language is used in the Old Testament to describe the first destruction of the temple and Jerusalem.

READ 2 CHRONICLES 36v15-21

5. What happened to Jerusalem in 587 BC? Why?

The fall of Jerusalem was a cataclysmic event that was predicted, lived through and mourned by numerous prophets in the Old Testament. They often describe it in cosmic terms, as Jesus does here.

READ LUKE 21v25-28

6. What will be the cosmic signs of Jerusalem's impending destruction?

READ JOEL 2v10-11; 3v30-32

7. What does the prophet Joel say will happen when the sun stops shining?

Jesus says a new day of judgment is coming that isn't just for Jerusalem, but for the world. He then draws on imagery from another prophet, Daniel. Note that the Son of Man is not coming on a cloud to earth, but to heaven where God is seated, in his blazing glory (v9-10).

READ DANIEL 7v13-14

8. What picture do we get of the Son of Man?

Jesus repeatedly calls himself the Son of Man in Luke. He is the one who is receiving all power and glory as he approaches God in heaven. This will be the day of judgment for some and redemption for others

READ LUKE 21v29-32

9. Jesus has been describing signs of what is to come. How can they know that it's soon?

READ LUKE 21v34-36

10. How should the disciples respond to Jesus' warnings? Why?

READ LUKE 23v44-46, ACTS 1v6-11 & 7v54-60

11. How does Luke show Jesus' predictions coming to pass in that same generation? (Luke also wrote the book of Acts)

There is no record of the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in the Bible, but there is historical evidence that Jesus' words came to pass. In 70AD the Roman army, led by Titus, besieged the city for 5 months, eventually destroying much of it, with many being killed and enslaved.

Jesus says there are multiple signs for the kingdom of God. Beginning with his death and ascension, and followed by the persecution of his disciples and the fall of Jerusalem and the temple. These are warnings of a future worldwide judgment and redemption day. We're asking along with Joel, who can stand before the Son of Man on that day?

How can we have confidence, rather than fear, to stand before the reigning, glorious Son of Man? (see Luke 9v23-27)

SEEKING GOD

Look back through the passage and see how Jesus tells the disciples to respond to the signs and events. How does this passage help you not to be frightened and to stand firm?

How can you be watchful and prayerful? (see also 2 Peter 3v10-15)

SEEKING GOD

Jesus wept over Jerusalem's future (Luke 19v41). Are you moved by knowing some of your friends and family are facing judgment from the Son of Man? Pray for them now.

MISSION

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that a day is coming when he will bring justice for those who reject Jesus and redemption for those who follow him. Pray for those you know who are facing judgement to turn before that dreadful day comes. Ask for opportunities to speak of the hope we have in Jesus.
- Pray that we wouldn't be frightened as we see and experience persecution. Ask that we'd stand firm and lift our heads to see the Son of Man reigning now. Ask God's help to live watchful and prayerful lives while we wait for his redemption.



THE KINGDOM IS NEAR

LUKE 21v5-38

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