

Mike McKinley

Luke 1–12

The Kingdom Has Come



 8-Session Bible Study

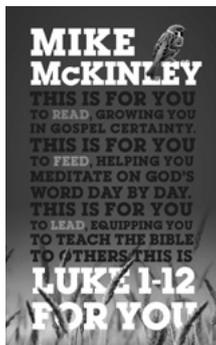
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✔ **8-Session Bible Study**



Luke 1–12 For You

These studies are adapted from *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

Luke 1–12: The Kingdom Has Come

A Good Book Guide

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Introduction

One of the Bible writers described God’s word as “a lamp for my feet, a light on my path” (Psalm 119:105, NIV). God gave us the Bible to tell us about who he is and what he wants for us. He speaks through it by his Spirit and lights our way through life.

That means that we need to look carefully at the Bible and uncover its meaning—but we also need to apply what we’ve discovered to our lives.

Good Book Guides are designed to help you do just that. The sessions in this book are interactive and easy to lead. They’re perfect for use in groups or for personal study.

Let’s take a look at what is included in each session.

Talkabout: Every session starts with an ice-breaker question, designed to get people talking around a subject that links to the Bible study.

Investigate: These questions help you explore what the passage is about.

Apply: These questions are designed to get you thinking practically: what does this Bible teaching mean for you and your church?

Explore More: These optional sections help you to go deeper or to explore another part of the Bible which connects with the main passage.

Getting Personal: These sections are a chance for personal reflection. Some groups may feel comfortable discussing these, but you may prefer to look at them quietly as individuals instead—or leave them out.

Pray: Here, you’re invited to pray in the light of the truths and challenges you’ve seen in the study.

Each session is also designed to be easily split into two! Watch out for the **Apply** section that comes halfway through, and stop there if you haven’t got time to do the whole thing in one go.

In the back of the book, you’ll find a **Leader’s Guide**, which provides helpful notes on every question, along with everything else that group leaders need in order to facilitate a great session and help the group uncover the riches of God’s light-giving word.

Why Study Luke 1 – 12?

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?

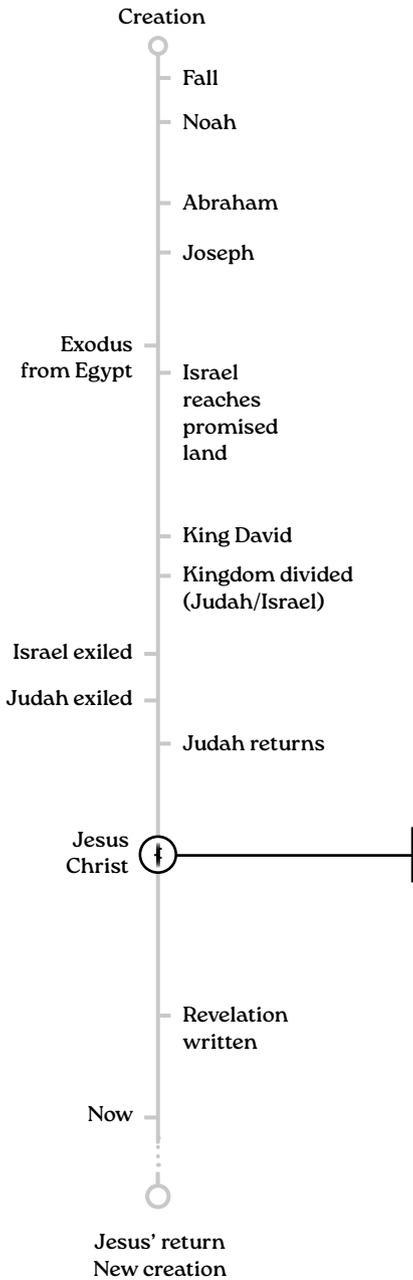
First, Luke offers us certainty about who Jesus is—he is the fulfillment of all God’s promises throughout history. Luke shows us that the life and death and resurrection of Jesus are all a part of a definite plan that God has revealed in the Old Testament and is now unfolding for the salvation of his 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” (4:21). 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 4:43). 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 brackets.



Luke c. 60 AD

1

Nothing Is Impossible

Luke 1:1 – 2:40

Talkabout

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

Investigate

 Read Luke 1:1-4

DICTIONARY

Fulfilled (v 1): brought about; completed.

2. Why is Luke writing (v 4)?

- How do verses 1-3 give us confidence in what he is writing?

 **Read Luke 1:26-56 (1:5-80)**

DICTIONARY

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

Glorifies (v 46): recognizes the brilliance of.

Abraham (v 55): Jacob's grandfather.

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

3. Why are both impossible?

- 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 verses 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 | OPTIONAL

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?

Investigate

 Read Luke 2:1-20

DICTIONARY

Caesar (v 1): Roman emperor.

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

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 7:11b-16 and Micah 5:2-4

- Why is Bethlehem significant? Who would be born there?
- How does this show that Augustus was not quite as powerful as it appeared, and that his empire was 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 2:21-40

DICTIONARY

Law of Moses and **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.

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

- 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 2:40. What would you think about who this baby is and 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 | OPTIONAL

Think back to your answers to the Getting Personal after question 6.

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 1:20).

Then use your answers to question 12 to fuel your requests to God.