

# Luke 13-18

The Travel Narrative continues...



**BIBLE STUDY GUIDE**





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## How to get the best value out of these Bible study guides...

**...if you're using these guides in a small group**, it is helpful for you to have done preparatory work before you get to your meeting. This will be of great benefit not only to you, but to the other members of the group.

**...if you're doing these studies individually**, make sure you let someone know you are doing so, and arrange a time to meet with them when you've finished (or even before) to let them know how your life is being changed by God's Word.

Always surround your time looking into God's Word with prayer, asking God to change your heart and life so that you - with God's people - might become more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Introduction to Luke 13-18

This section of Luke's gospel is the second part of what is descriptively called the 'Travel Narrative' (Luke 9:51-19:44). It is a section that plots the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem. It doesn't plot the journey geographically or chronologically, but rather picks up on the driving purpose of God's plan that Jesus would go to Jerusalem and die. In Luke 9:51 we read that 'As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.' There is a lot of tension as Jesus heads towards Jerusalem. On the journey various people gather around Jesus, including the disciples, Pharisees, scribes, tax collectors and 'sinners'. As Jesus interacts with these people he explains to them about the nature of the Kingdom of God, the challenges of discipleship, and the joy for those who are included in the Kingdom as disciples of Christ.

Hopefully reading through these passages, you will be encouraged along on the journey, following Jesus.



## **Bible Studies to accompany sermon series Luke 13-18**

### **Aim for each study:**

1. Luke 13:1-9

To recognize that repentance is critical and urgent for all people

2. Luke 13:10-35

To acknowledge Jesus as the only one who opens the way into the kingdom of God

3. Luke 14:1-34

To rejoice at being a part of God's kingdom, and willing to give up whatever is necessary to follow Jesus

4. Luke 15:1-32

To rejoice that God seeks lost people and recognise that we are all sinners who have been shown God's grace and kindness

5. Luke 16:1-31

To submit financially to God- to be extravagantly generous with what we have and not tempted to idolise money

6. Luke 17:1-19

To desire to be a thankful and faithful disciple of Christ





7. Luke 17:20-18:8

To be praying and waiting and looking forward to the return of Jesus and his final judgment and vindication

8. Luke 18:9-30

To trust Jesus with and for salvation- wholehearted devotion with complete humility



# 1 Study 1: Luke 13:1-9

## Does God judge today?

1. What are some views in society today about why people suffer?

### *Read Luke 13:1-9*

2. What is Jesus' view of why people suffer in verses 1-5?

3. What is the relationship between repentance and perishing? Why does Jesus repeat himself here?

4. Who or what does the fig tree represent, in reference to Jesus' audience? What is the fruit? What is at stake?



5. What do verses 8-9 add to verses 6-7? What do we learn about God's character?

6. How would you respond to someone who says that suffering is:

a) random and unfair?

b) deserved or brought on by specific sin?

c) Absent for people who have God's favour?

7. How is this passage a comfort for Christians suffering tragedy?

*Pray for the persecuted church around the world.*



## 2 Study 2: Luke 13:10-35

### The Narrow Door

1. How would you describe the Kingdom of God to an unbeliever?

***Read Luke 13:10-35***

2. What was the reason for and purpose of the Sabbath?  
*[see Exodus 20:8-11 and Deuteronomy 5:12-15]*

3. What are the different responses to Jesus healing on the Sabbath in verses 10-17?

4. What do we learn about the nature of God's kingdom from verses 18-21?  
How do we see evidence of this in verses 10-17?





5. What did the synagogue ruler fail to understand about the kingdom of God (verse 14)?

6. According to Jesus, what qualifies someone to be part of the kingdom of God (verses 22-30)?

7. What does it mean or look like to enter through the narrow door?

8. Why is verse 28 in particular a rebuke to those Jesus is speaking to?

9. What was the role of a prophet in the Old Testament? What is the significance of Israel's refusal to respond to Jesus and acknowledge his authority as a prophet (verses 22-35)?

*Pray for friends who don't acknowledge Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.*



## 3 Study 3: Luke 14:1-34

### An Invitation to Die for

1. Share with each other some of the joys and struggles you have experienced as a follower of Jesus.

#### *Read Luke 14:1-34*

2. What are the characteristics of gaining honour and reward in the kingdom of God (verses 7-14)? Is this reflected in our church? How is this different from our society?

3. Why is the man angry in verse 21? Instead of cancelling or postponing the party, how does he respond?

4. What is so tragically wrong with the priorities of the invited guests?

5. Who ends up included in the banquet in the kingdom of God (verses 21-24)?



6. What do we learn about the nature of God and his kingdom from the story in verses 15-24?

7. What does Jesus mean by the word 'hate' in verse 26?

8. What does it look like to follow Jesus, according to him? What does this look like practically?

9. Do you think Jesus is trying to dissuade people from following him? If not, why not?

*Pray for each other in the struggles, and thank God for the joys of being a follower of Christ.*



## 4 Study 4: Luke 15:10-32

### God pursues sinners

1. Think about the last time you pursued something valuable (e.g., a goal). How did you feel when you achieved it?

#### *Read Luke 15:1-32*

2. Who were the people who came to listen to Jesus?

3. What issue did the Pharisees have with Jesus' method of ministry?

4. In his three stories, how did Jesus address:

a) the 'sinners'?

b) the Pharisees?





5. How is a lost person 'found'?

6. What do we learn about the nature of God from these three stories?

7. Who do you most identify with- the younger son or the older brother?

8. If you were the older brother, how would you respond to the father in verses 31-32? Why?

9. What would this look like in your life as you relate to other believers and unbelievers?

*Thank God that He pursued you, a sinner. Praise God for His grace and kindness.*



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## Study 5: Luke 16:1-31

### Shrewd Christians

1. Would you agree that we live in a culture that loves money? If so, how does this love show itself?

***Read Luke 16:1-31***

2. Why was the manager about to lose his job (verses 1-2)?

3. What was his solution and why was he commended (verses 1-9)?

4. What is Jesus' view of 'worldly wealth' and how does he recommend his followers use it? What do you think this looks like practically?



5. Do we take the warning in verse 13 seriously? How would you know if you were trying to serve two masters?

6. How does Jesus explain the relationship between the Law and the kingdom of God (verses 16-31)? Try to draw a diagram which helps to represent this (in pairs).



## **16** | Luke 13 — 18

7. Who is represented by the rich man and Lazarus in the story of verses 19-31?

8. Why is Lazarus saved but the rich man (and his brothers) are not?

9. What is the purpose of including Abraham in this story? [*refer to 16:16-17*]

10. How is Jesus' statement in verse 31 a prediction about himself?





11. What do we learn from this passage about those included in the kingdom of God? How are they saved?

12. How would you expect the gospel to affect a Christian's financial choices? How can we act shrewdly with our money?

*Pray for one another in submitting your finances to God.*



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## Study 6: Luke 17:1-19

### Faith that can move mulberry trees

1. What do you find hardest about being a Christian?

#### *Read Luke 17:1-19*

2. In verses 1-10, what are the four characteristics of discipleship that Jesus explains?

a) a warning:

b) an exhortation:

c) an encouragement:

d) a reminder:

3. Choose one of these, and in pairs spend some time discussing what this looks like practically.



4. What does Jesus teach about faith in verses 5-6? Why is this so?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Where was Jesus heading and why *[17:11 and 18:31-33]*?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How were the ten lepers healed?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. In verses 11-19, why is it significant that the thankful leper is a Samaritan? *[see also 2 Kings 5:1-19]*  
How is he an example of Jesus' point in Luke 17:5-6?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What do we learn about Jesus and the kingdom of God from this story?



## 20 | Luke 13 — 18

9. How should we respond to God's mercy? What will this look like for you in the week ahead?

10. How are you going as a disciple of Jesus? What aspect of discipleship do you want to grow in?

*Pray for each other about these things.*





## 7 Study 7: Luke 17:20-18:8

### What will Jesus find when he returns?

1. When have you had to wait patiently for something? Why is it hard to wait?

#### ***Read Luke 17:20-18:8***

2. What do we learn about the kingdom of God in verses 20-25?  
*[note that 'within you' in 17:21 may be better translated as 'among you']*

3. What will it be like when Jesus returns?

4. What is meant by 17:33?



## 22 | Luke 13 — 18

5. Why did Jesus tell the parable in Luke 18:1-8? Why would his followers be tempted to give up?

6. What should his followers be praying for?

7. Why should they keep praying (verses 6-8)?

8. How is God contrasted with the unjust judge?

9. When will justice be finally and fully delivered? How will it be delivered? Why is God waiting? [*see 2 Peter 3:9*]



10. When or why do you find it hard to pray persistently?  
How does this passage encourage you to pray differently?

11. Do you look forward to the day that Jesus returns? Why? How does it shape the way you live now?

12. What could be the potential threats to your faith and confidence in God as you await the return of the Lord Jesus?

*Pray for one another that you will stand firm until that day.*



# 8 Study 8: Luke 18:9-30

## Trust is a Must

1. As a Christian, do you compare yourself with others? Do you tend to consider yourself above average or substandard?

*Read Luke 18:9-30*

2. Why does Jesus tell this parable (verse 9)?

3. Compare the words and actions of the two by filling in the table:

	Pharisee	Tax collector
Actions		
Words		





4. Are you more tempted to be like the Pharisee or the tax collector? Why?

5. Why is the tax collector justified and not the Pharisee?

6. What do we learn from verses 9-17 about approaching God? Must we be sinless and innocent before doing so?

7. How does this passage help us to understand prayer?

8. What prevents the ruler from entering the kingdom of God and inheriting eternal life in verses 18-27?



## 26 | Luke 13 — 18

9. Are people saved by obeying the commandments? If not, how are people saved?

10. What things do you find it hard to give up to follow Jesus? How does this story (and 18:31-33) change your perspective on these things?

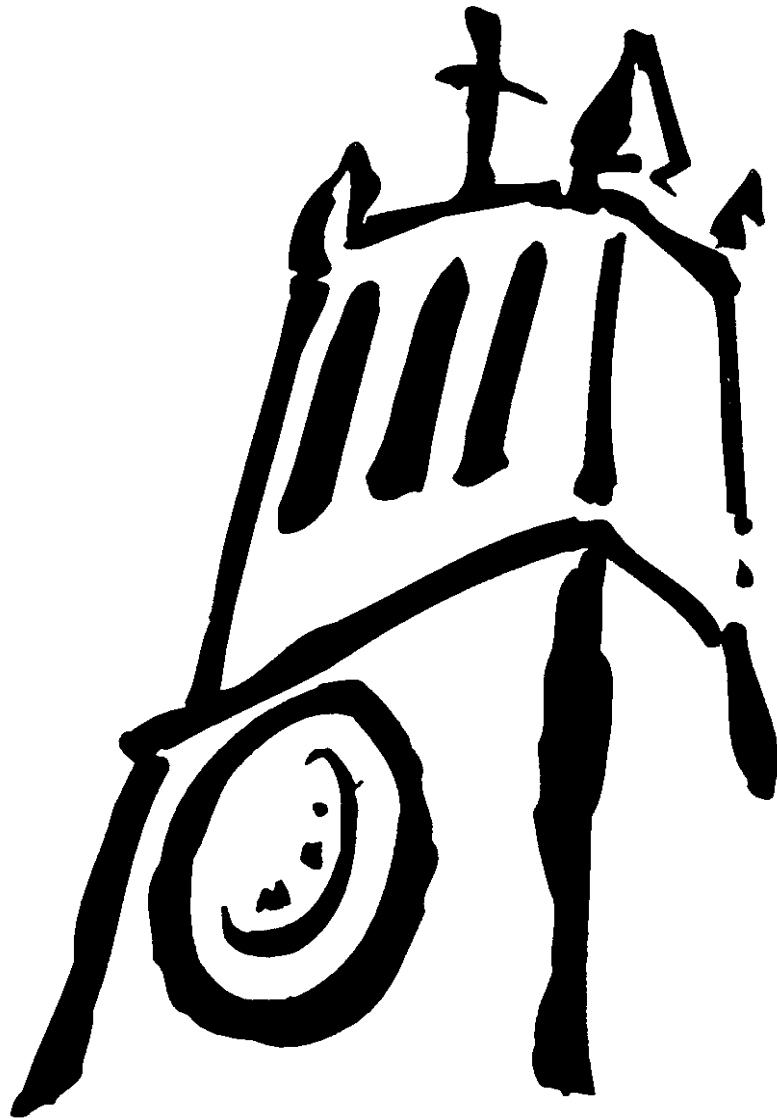
11. In our churches, are we tempted to prefer rich, professional, 'together' people in our gatherings, or the weak, vulnerable, broken people that Jesus so often engages with in his ministry? How can we better reflect Jesus' priorities for people in our church?

*Pray for friends who have barriers to them entering God's kingdom.*









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