

Study Guide - 18 Apr 2021

Series: Luke

Text: Luke 24:36-53



This guide will help you facilitate a study of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. Look at the Big Idea and Takeaway for our CGs sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused. For a deeper dive into the passage, refer to the [text notes](#) on the passage.

Overview

Context of Luke

Luke the Greek physician was Paul's companion during his mission in proclaiming the gospel. Luke wrote this gospel as the first volume of a single work, consisting of The Gospel Of Luke and Acts. Both volumes are addressed to Theophilus and are written in a similar style. The Book of Acts refers to The Gospel Of Luke in its introduction. As a Greek and later a companion of Paul, Luke had never met Jesus personally, yet as a scholar and physician, he set upon the task to interview and record the events of the life of Jesus, according to Jesus' close companions and earliest eyewitnesses (1:1-4). Luke's gospel is, therefore, the most detailed, and it contains the most material of the three synoptic gospels.

Big Idea

Jesus is risen and rightfully reigning at the right hand of God, but He comes near to us and invites us to know and follow Him.

CG Takeaway

For our CGs to reckon with the reality of the resurrection and worship God with great joy and thanksgiving, knowing that Jesus is risen and interceding for us as our Great High Priest, as well as going in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the good news of the gospel.

Fallen Condition Focus

- To think that Jesus is a distant deity: not beholding or taking hold of the reality and the implications of Jesus' resurrection and ascension (e.g. that He is interceding for us, ruling over all creation, victorious over sin and death, that we have the Holy Spirit with us) and

instead allowing ourselves to be numb or our hearts to grow cold to the salvation and hope that He has attained for us in his death and resurrection

- To forget or doubt the tender, inviting and initiating nature of Jesus when we are sceptical or doubtful, and the fact that He longs to converse with us and open our eyes to who He is
- To fail to relate to Jesus as a real person, seeing him instead as an abstract philosophy or intellectual subject matter that we must become cognitive experts of and forget that we need Jesus to open the eyes of our hearts in order to know Him and understand Him, and that He invites us to “touch and feel” for ourselves who He is

Luke 24:36-53

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

36 As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” **37** But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. **38** And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? **39** See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” **40** And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. **41** And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” **42** They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43** and he took it and ate before them.

44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, **46** and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, **47** and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things. **49** And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

The Ascension

50 And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. **51** While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. **52** And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, **53** and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Study Guide

Observation: What are the different ways that Jesus responds to the disciples' surprise and disbelief? Highlight them in the passage. Which one stands out the most to you and why?

Optional Deep Dive 1: Compare this resurrection narrative with the previous two in Luke 24:1-35. How might this resurrection narrative be similar or different from the earlier two? (Or how might it be a climax of the previous two?)

Optional Deep Dive 2: How does the Holy Spirit work in bringing Jesus to the entire scope of our Christian life?

1. Why was it important to Jesus that His disciples are fully convinced that He has been resurrected in a true, bodily fashion?

2. What is the significance that the resurrection of Jesus has for us in this life? How might it speak to someone who:

- a) Is struggling or discouraged by recurring sin or an addiction?
- b) Is experiencing physical or emotional suffering that seems relentless?
- c) Has faced hurt or even abuse from broken relationships?
- d) Is wrestling with the pressure to conform to the standards of the world, and it seems like it is simply easier to give in than to keep swimming against the tide?
- e) Feels as though God has played a cruel joke on them by repeatedly withholding good from them or providing them with hope only to dash it?
- f) Has a very 'cognitive' relationship with God, thinking of Christianity in terms of understanding the right principles and ideas?

3. What does Jesus' behaviour toward His disciples' blindness or unbelief reveal about His heart toward them?

4. Where in our lives do we need to hear and respond to Jesus' invitation to "touch and see" Him for ourselves? (Or: where might we need His help to open our eyes to see and understand who He is, just like He does for the disciples in this passage?)