

The Gospel According To LUKE

Chapter 1 – 4 | Term 1 2024



OVERVIEW OF LUKE

WHAT IS IT?

Luke is the longest book in the New Testament and is a gospel, which is an account of Jesus' life and ministry on earth. Luke is written as the first instalment of a 2 volume set, the second of which being Acts. In Luke, we see God's work through the life and ministry of Jesus on earth, while in Acts, we see His work through the church.

WHO WROTE IT?

It was written by a man called Luke who was a doctor (Col 4:14) and one of Paul's travelling companions. Unlike the other gospel authors, Luke was not an eyewitness of Jesus, rather he was a very careful and diligent researcher.

It was likely written in 60 – 65 AD to a man named Theophilus. While people speculate about the symbolism of his name (which means lover of God), it is accepted that he was a real person. More broadly, Luke wrote this for the church who had not been eyewitnesses to Jesus and needed certainty of the things they had been taught (1:1-4).

WHY WAS IT WRITTEN?

Luke tells us at the start that he sought to compile "an orderly account" to give "certainty of the things that [that] have been taught" (1:3-4). Luke's gospel is characterised by deep concern for historical accuracy and careful investigation. However, he doesn't only write for the purpose of history, but pastorally and theologically as well. He is concerned with presenting Jesus as a saviour who "came to seek and to save the lost" (19:10), as well as the one to "proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God" (4:43).

The gospel of Luke leads up to Jesus' statement in 24:44-49 that: 1. He would fulfill the Old Testament scriptures; 2. He would suffer, and rise; 3. Repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached in his name.

A general and succinct summary of the purpose of Luke's gospel could be: To teach and reassure Jews and Gentiles together that Jesus had come as their saviour.

LUKE 1-4

This term at St John's we are going to be looking at the first 4 chapters of Luke. This is an exciting opportunity to slow down and examine the beginnings of Jesus' life and ministry on earth. By doing this, we will be able to appreciate the depths of what Luke has so carefully put together.

In these opening chapters, Luke introduces Jesus and sets the scene for his ministry on earth. By closely examining these chapters it will help build a framework for us in understanding who Jesus is, what he came to do, and what that means for us. Key themes we will notice as we go through will be: 1. Jesus fulfilling scripture; 2. Jesus' identity and work; 3. Salvation; 4. The response to Jesus.

LINKS & VIDEOS

The Bible Project Overview of Luke Video (2 parts)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIb_dCIxzo0

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26z_KhwNdD8

The Gospel Coalition Online Commentary

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/luke/>

ESV Resources Introduction to Luke

<https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-luke/>

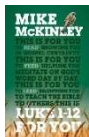
USEFUL RESOURCES

COMMENTARIES

Some simple commentaries which will assist you in reading through Luke's gospel.

Luke 1-12 For You

Mike McKinley | God's Word For You



A simple and approachable commentary on Luke. It is written more like a book than a commentary so is easy to read and speaks to the broader main point of each section. **\$26.99 from Reformers.**

The Message of Luke

Michael Wilcock | Bible Speaks Today



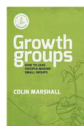
Another simple and approachable commentary. More concerned with verse by verse than the commentary above. **\$24.99 from Reformers.**

FOR BIBLE STUDIES

While mostly targeted at life group leaders, these books are very useful for life group members.

Growth Groups

Colin Marshall



A short guide on leading, writing, and caring for your life group. Has a focus on writing and leading the study. **\$20.99 from Reformers.**

Leading Better Bible Studies

Karen & Rod Morris



Another guide on leading, writing, and running a life group. This has more of an emphasis on group life and caring for your members. **\$21.99 from Reformers.**

Writing a Small Group Study & Being a Small Group Leader

Richard Sweatman



Two short and practical guides on being a small group leader and writing studies. **\$13.99 and \$12.99 from Reformers.**

BOOKS

Some suggested books to accompany our time in Luke.

The Feasts of Repentance

Michael Ovey



A book which uses the theology found in Luke and Acts to dive deep into repentance. He examines what it is and how it applies pastorally. **\$29.99 from Reformers.**

Gentle and Lowly

Dane Ortlund



An easy and achievable read which reflects on Jesus' gentle and lowly heart, and how that heart is a great comfort for sinners and sufferers. **\$22.99 from Reformers.**

PRAYER

Prayer is an essential part of a life group. It helps you get to know each other, care for one another, and apply what you have learned. Most of all, prayer is an expression of our faith and relationship with God. It is an exciting privilege we get to enjoy personally and together.

Each study has a prayer suggestion at the end. You don't have to use them, but they might be helpful to link your time in prayer to what you have learned. These suggestions are to be used alongside time for personal prayer points, rather than in the place of.

WAYS TO DO PRAYER

Smaller Groups: An effective way of doing prayer is splitting up into groups of around 3 to share prayer points and pray for each other. This ensures everyone shares and all prayer points are prayed for. It also allows for personal investment in each other's lives. If you ensure the groups of 3 are different every week, this can make large steps in bringing your group closer together.

3 P's: A simple tool for doing prayer each week is getting people to share three prayer points in the categories of:

1. Passage: a prayer point related to what we have just learned
2. Personal: something that is happening in your life
3. Person: Someone that you are/hoping to share the gospel with.

Start with prayer: A common issue that we come across in Life Group is that we run out of time for prayer. Occasionally, it could be good to do the prayer time at the start of the study.

Conversational Prayer: Check out the prayer suggestion at the end of study 8 for a different way of doing prayer in a group.

MISSION PARTNERS



KYLIE ZIETSCH

Church Missionary Society

Kylie serves at Johannesburg Bible College, which equips Christians to bring the message of Jesus to others. She teaches, trains, mentors and encourages the female students to serve Jesus in their churches, families and communities.

<https://www.cms.org.au/missionaries/kylie-zietsch/>



LYNDAL & ROSS WEBB

Wycliffe Australia

Ross and Lyndal have been serving in bible translation through Wycliffe and SIL since 1982 in PNG and Vanuatu. They are currently serving as 'Missionaries in Residence', preparing material to teach again in Vanuatu.

<https://wycliffe.org.au/member/ross-lyndal/>



LEANA & ANDREW MILLAR

Pioneers Australia

The Millar family have been living in Northern Spain since 2005. Their heart is to be a light in and through all they do, through their English teaching business, involvement in a youth outreach project and through their seekers bible study group.

<https://pioneers.org.au/partner/>



NICOLE & ANDY DONALDSON

Power to Change

Andy and Nicole are based at the University of Sydney, seeking bring the gospel to students and to be train students in sharing the gospel for the rest of their lives.

<https://powertochange.org.au/>



AARON SMITH & AMY ABRAHAM

SRE – The Jannali High School

Amy and Aaron teach scripture at Jannali High School to students in years 7-10. They get to share Jesus with students and support kids as they seek to be Christians among their peers.

<https://www.youthworks.net/sre/about>



CHRIS BERNAYS

Youthworks Christian Outdoor Education

Youthworks COE combine adventure education with authentic biblical teaching to create life changing experiences for the students they lead.

<https://www.youthworkscoe.net/program-info>



JO-ANN ELVERY

Berala Anglican Church

Jo-Ann is the cross-cultural ministry worker at St James Berala Anglican Church in Western Sydney. Much of her time is spent helping asylum seekers, refugees and migrants learn English, tackle everyday problems and get access to the resources they need.

<https://www.stjamesberala.org.au/ministry-team>



ANGLICARE

Church Partnership

Anglicare seek to serve people in need – providing care to older people and services to the vulnerable. Anglicare's staff and volunteers serve more than 60,000 people across the Sydney Diocese and beyond in over 130 locations.

<https://www.anglicare.org.au/who-we-are/>

USING THESE STUDIES

At St John's, Life Groups are an integral part of what happens. They are a great opportunity to grapple with God's word together, apply it more specifically to our lives, and invest in deeper fellowship together.

While it can sometimes be helpful to study content different to what is being covered at church, it is most beneficial to follow the Church series. This helps to engage us in God's word at a deeper level, as we spend more time in the passage, and to become more equipped and intentional members of church.

These studies have been written to assist your time together in getting the most out of God's word this term. Each study has been written to see a main point and application. Studies generally follow the pattern of: engagement → comprehension → understanding → implications.

While these studies set out questions for you, don't feel like you need to stringently stick to them. You want things to happen in a discussion, rather than a Q&A. You know your group best in where their understanding is at and what engages them. You will get the most out of these studies as you edit them to cater to your group so that there is: 1. Profitable discussion about the passage; 2. personal engagement with the passage; 3. Clear understanding of the passage. There are a few moments in the studies where it will prompt you to do different things as group, but the best strategies will be thought of and implemented by you.

DIFFERENT WAYS TO DO STUDIES

You may choose to follow a question driven study, however, you may want to try a few different styles. Here are a few suggestions:

Drawing the passage: As your introduction you might want to get members into smaller groups and draw what is happening in the passage like a comic strip. This helps people get an overall grasp of what is happening. Very effective for visual learners.

Passage Discovery: Print out the passage on paper with plenty of room in the margins. Mark up the passage however you want to identify themes, main ideas, questions, etc. You will need to spend time both as a whole group and smaller groups or individuals. You will need to be prepared so that you can direct this towards the main point of what is going on.

Think, Pair, Share: Give people 1-3 questions (depending on complexity) to ponder by themselves for 1 minute. Then get them to think about it in pairs for a few minutes. Then come back together to share what you come up with and discuss. This is helpful in engaging people and bringing more people into the discussion.

Head, Heart, Hands: This is a helpful tool for application. Ask: 1. how does this effect our head (how we think and what we know)? 2. How does this effect our heart (Both what we love and what we feel)? 3. How does this effect our hands (what we do)?

COMA Method: These studies work by asking 4 main questions, but you will have to be very prepared with follow up and prompting questions to create and direct discussion. You need to have a clear main point in mind, and anticipate different ways discussion might divert to. Be ready to explore different areas, but also to lovingly bring the group back on topic. Despite it only being 4 questions, these studies can easily blow out.

1. CONTEXT: What is the context around this passage?
 - Before and after. What has set the scene? What things are effecting what is going on here?
 - What ideas are floating in the background?
 - What old testament passages might be relevant?
2. OBSERVATION: What sticks out to you?
 - What stands out to you?
 - What things are repeated?
 - What do you have questions about?

3. MEANING: What does this mean?

- Get into the nitty gritty of the passage and work out what different parts mean
- Come out of this with an overall picture of what the passage means

4. APPLICATION

- How does this apply to our lives?
- You could use the Head, Heart, Hands method here.

STUDY 1 - LUKE 1:1-4

INTRODUCTION

Have a debate. One side should argue that the gospels should be read exclusively as history. The other side should argue that the gospels should be read exclusively as theology.

OR

Discuss the strengths and downfalls of reading the gospels as exclusively history or theology.

READ LUKE 1:1-4

1. Compare these verses to the beginning of the other gospels (Matthew 1:1-17, Mark 1:1-8, John 1:1-18). What is significant or unique about Luke's approach?
2. What do you think Luke is referring to when he talks about "the things fulfilled among us"?
3. Why is that significant for who Jesus is and his ministry?
4. Who might the eyewitnesses and servants of the word be in v2?

5. In what ways does he describe them and what do they mean?

First →

Eye-witnesses →

Servants of the word →

6. Luke affirms existing accounts, why do you think that is?
What would be the consequence if he denied them?
7. How do these opening verses give assurance to those whose faith is being undermined? It might be helpful to go back through this verse and mark out each part that creates certainty.

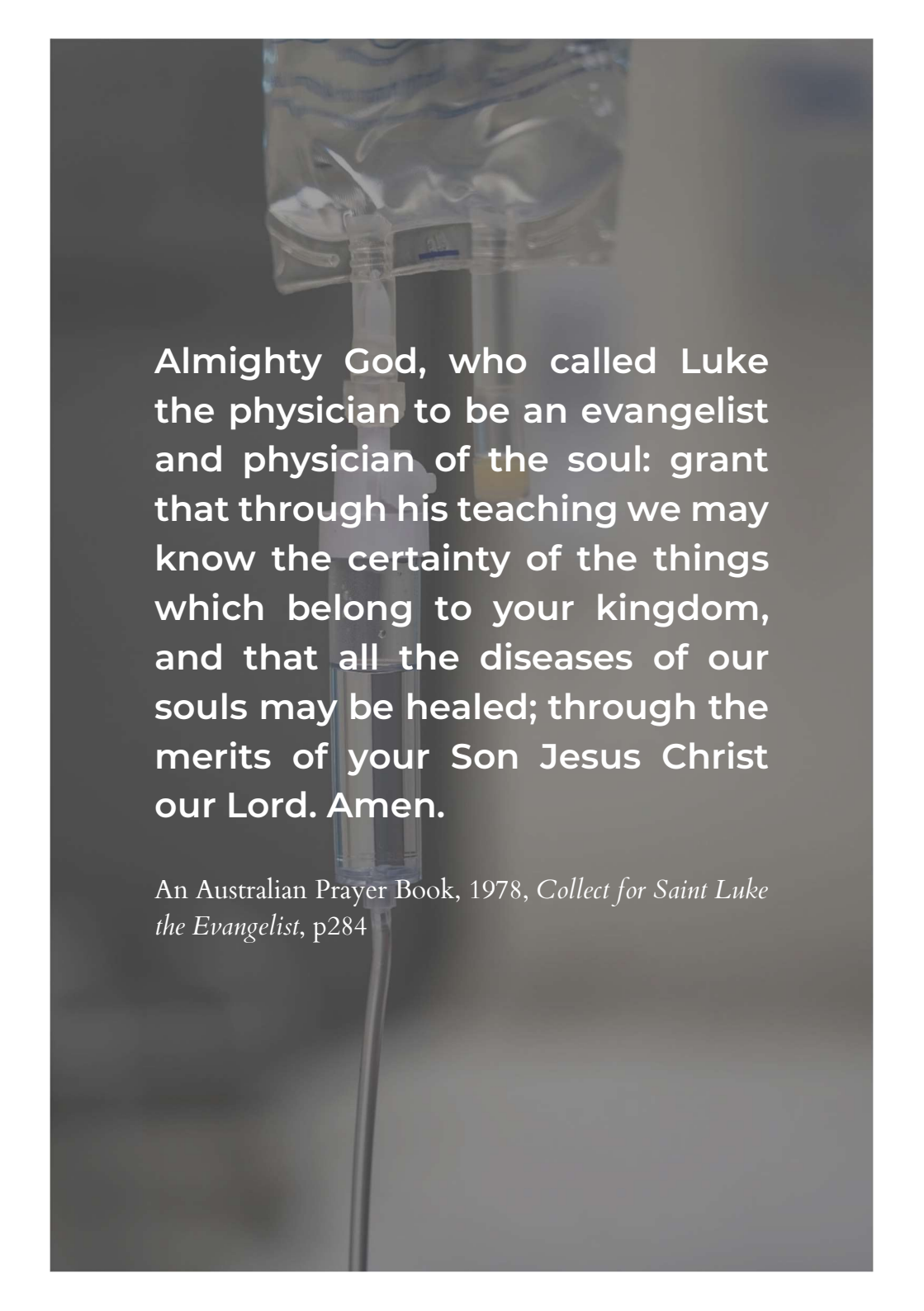
IMPLICATIONS

8. Going back to our history vs theology discussion, how do these opening verses strengthen the gospel in both of these areas? In what ways does holding these two things together enhance certainty?
9. Why do you think our world is convinced that we can't be certain of Jesus and the accounts of him? And how does Luke 1:1-4 help us here?
10. Where are we tempted to look for certainty from? Where is the place where we will find it?

PRAY

Prayer Suggestion:

1. Pray for the term ahead.
 - a. Coming together as a group
 - b. Your learning from God's word
 - c. For church this year in general



Almighty God, who called Luke the physician to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: grant that through his teaching we may know the certainty of the things which belong to your kingdom, and that all the diseases of our souls may be healed; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

An Australian Prayer Book, 1978, *Collect for Saint Luke the Evangelist*, p284

STUDY 2 – LUKE 1:5-25

Take some time to share reflections and questions from the sermon and your reading throughout the week

INTRODUCTION

When have been times in your life where you have seen God clearly working?

READ LUKE 1:5-10

1. How are Zechariah and Elizabeth described? Why is their situation familiar?

READ LUKE 1:11-17

2. How is John described and what will he do?
3. Read Malachi 3:1, 4:5-6. These are the last words spoken to Israel for hundreds of years. What does this tell us about John and the essence of his work? Cf. Luke 1:1
4. Why Does God want to send Elijah? What does this tell us about God?
5. How would his life bring many people to rejoice?

READ LUKE 1:18-25

6. Is Zechariah's disbelief understandable? Why is it treated so harshly?
7. Looking at Mary's quote in v25, what does this tell us about the core of what is happening here?
8. In what ways are we seeing God actively at work to bring about his plan in this passage?

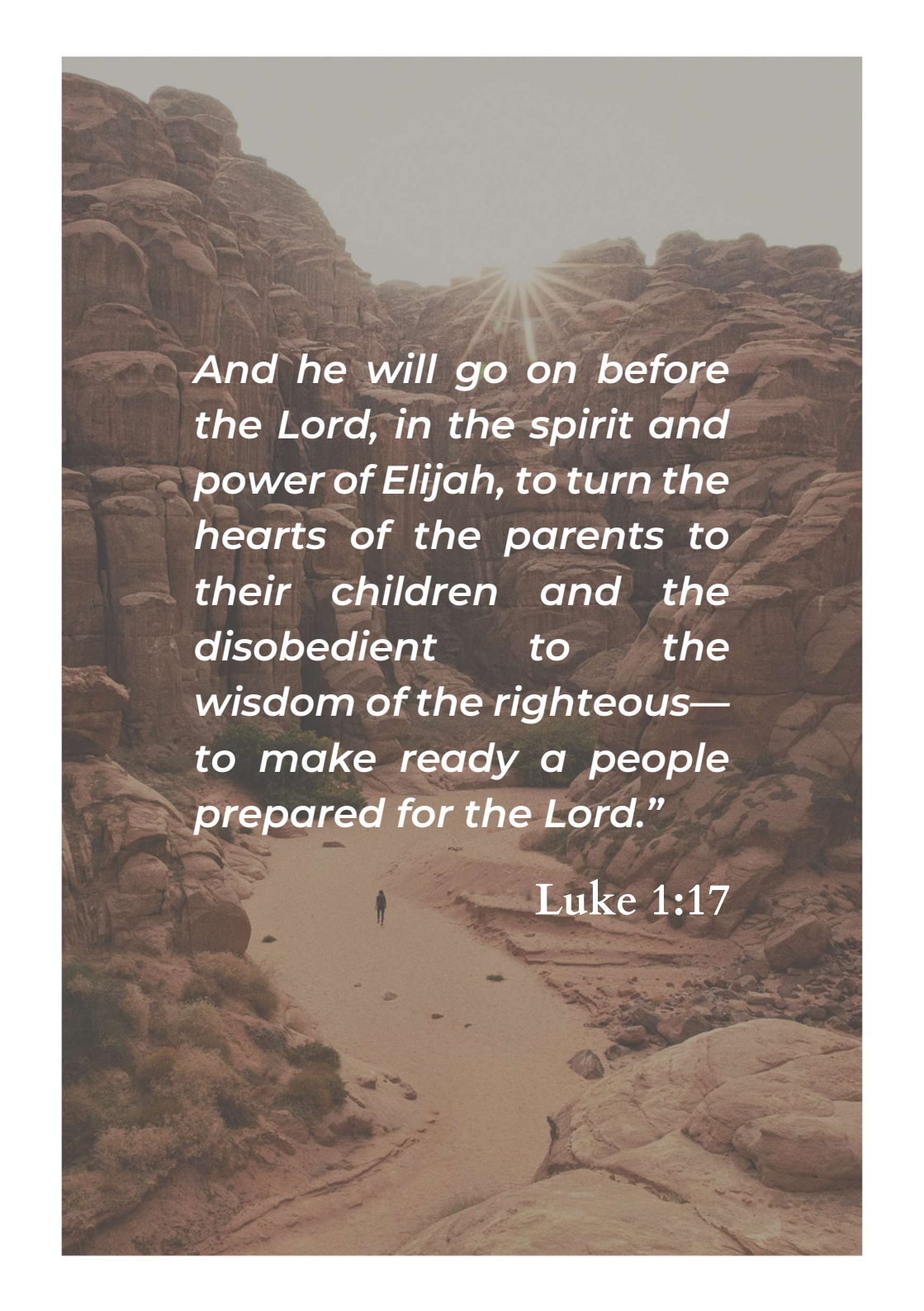
IMPLICATIONS

9. In what ways has Jesus done what is said in v17 & 25?
10. Malachi 3 and 4 are talking about the day when Jesus will return and bring judgement. How do we get prepared for the Lord?
11. What response does it provoke in you that God is the one who initiated your salvation?

PRAY

Prayer Suggestion:

1. Personal Evangelism
 - a. Share someone you are currently or wish to share the gospel with
 - b. Pray for each other as you share the gospel
 - c. Pray specifically for the people others are sharing the gospel with
2. Mission Partners
 - a. Find prayer updates from the St John's mission partners (list is at the start of these studies) and pray for them
 - b. As a group, why not adopt one of them as your own. Everyone can subscribe to their prayer updates. It would be great to write an email as a group to them to encourage them and let them know you are praying.

A photograph of a desert canyon with a person walking in the distance. The sun is shining from behind a rock formation, creating a bright starburst effect. The text is overlaid on the image.

*And he will go on before
the Lord, in the spirit and
power of Elijah, to turn the
hearts of the parents to
their children and the
disobedient to the
wisdom of the righteous—
to make ready a people
prepared for the Lord.”*

Luke 1:17

STUDY 3 – LUKE 1:26-56

Take some time to share reflections and questions from the sermon
and your reading throughout the week

INTRODUCTION

What are the things you find most hard to trust about what God has
said he will do?

READ LUKE 1:26-38

3. In what different ways is Jesus described in v30-35?
4. Split into small groups and discuss how these verses are fulfilled in Jesus' birth, and any extra information they give about him. Come back and share what you found.
 - a. 2 Sam 7:11b-16
 - b. Isa 7:14
 - c. Mic 5:2
 - d. Daniel 2:44, 7:13-14
5. *Optional Question: Some people elevate Mary to an almost divine status, even sometimes above Jesus. What is Mary's attitude in v38?*
6. How do these verses give us confidence and certainty about who Jesus is?

READ LUKE 1:39-45

7. Who does Mary and John (in the womb) recognise Jesus to be?
8. Looking at v45, what impact does the Old Testament promises have on our faith? How important is it for our faith?

READ LUKE 1:46-56

9. What are the main things which Mary attributes to God in her song? What is she recognising is happening?

IMPLICATIONS

10. Most of the description about Jesus is about having power and being a king, how does that bring joy (v44-45)?
11. We see that God keeps his promises. When is it most hard for us to keep on trusting this? And how can we become more confident when we do start to doubt?
12. What would it look like for you to respond in a Mary-like way to God's faithfulness to his promises and grace to us?

PRAY

Prayer Suggestion:

1. The Lord's Prayer
 - a. Have a look at the Lord's prayer and how it is structured.
 - b. Let that structure how you pray and what you pray for
 - c. For each of your prayers you could follow this structure, or you could spend a couple of minutes in prayer focussed on each thing.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread,

**forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from
evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are
yours
now and forever. Amen.**

HOW GREAT THOU ART

Oh Lord, my God
When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

[Chorus]

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

Chorus

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art

Chorus

STUDY 4 – LUKE 1:57-80

Take some time to share reflections and questions from the sermon
and your reading throughout the week

INTRODUCTION

Come up with a one sentence summary of why God sent Jesus into
the world. Write it down.

READ LUKE 1:57-66

1. What is the argument/confusion in v59-63? What does it
show Zechariah & Elizabeth are prioritising?
2. How has Zechariah's? attitude changed since v18?

READ LUKE 1:67-80

3. Who is Zechariah referring to in v68-75? Why is that the focus
when his son has just been born?
4. Go back through v68-79:
 - a. What different aspects of salvation does Zechariah
mention?
 - b. Why is each thing significant for who Jesus is and
salvation?

IMPLICATIONS

5. Go back to the question at the start. How would you change that summary in light of this passage?
6. Looking at v77-79, if someone were to ask you how they can be saved, how would you answer them?
7. What does it look like to serve God:
 - a. Without fear?
 - b. In holiness and righteousness?
 - c. In the path of peace?
8. This passage shows us that salvation is not just a momentary thing. It is a journey of our hearts and lives. Zechariah was a pretty godly and mature man (remember he was a priest serving in the temple), yet he shows that the walk with God is one of constant growth. What areas in your life can you become complacent or stagnant? What might it look like to keep growing in those areas?

PRAY

Prayer Suggestion:

9. Personal Growth
 - a. Pray for the things that each other have shared in the last question.
 - b. Support and encourage each other in those things.

**⁶⁸ “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.**

**⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David**

⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

**⁷¹ salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us—**

**⁷² to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember his holy covenant,**

⁷³ the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

**⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear**

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

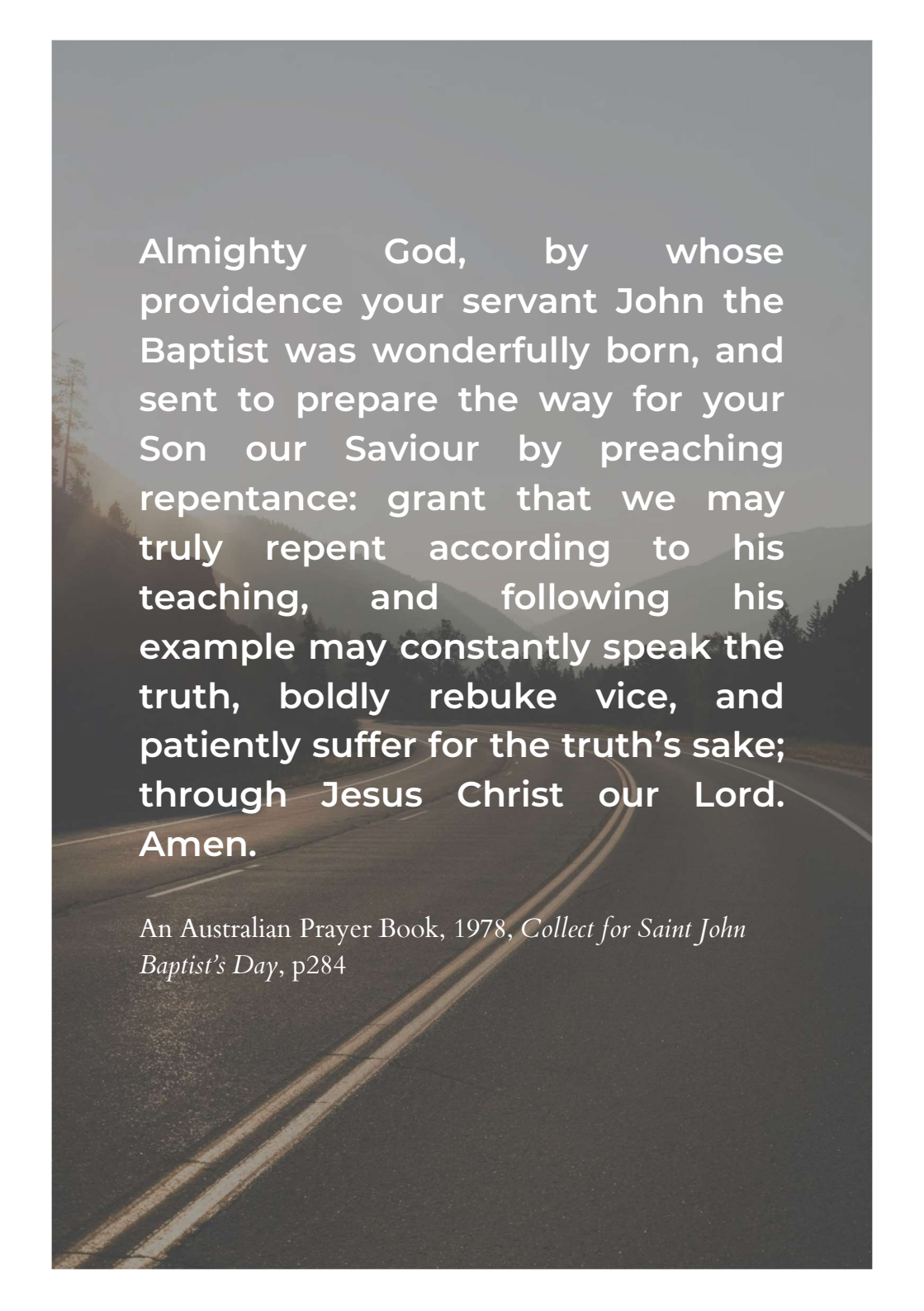
**⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,**

**⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,**

**⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven**

**⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”**

Verse/Idea	Significance
V68 – Redemption	
V69 – Horn of salvation - House of David	
V70 - Prophets	
V71 – Salvation from enemies	
V72 – mercy	
V73 – Oath to Abraham	
V74 - Rescue	
V74-75 – Serve without fear in holiness and righteousness	
V77 – Knowledge of salvation - Forgiveness of Sins	
V78 - Mercy	
V78-79 – sun/light from heaven to guide our feet	



Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way for your Son our Saviour by preaching repentance: grant that we may truly repent according to his teaching, and following his example may constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

An Australian Prayer Book, 1978, *Collect for Saint John Baptist's Day*, p284

STUDY 5 - LUKE 2:22-52

Take some time to share reflections and questions from the sermon,
and your reading throughout the week

INTRODUCTION

What is something you look back on as a life changing moment?

READ LUKE 2:22-35

1. What is Simeon waiting for?
2. What does Messiah mean? Why is that title important? cf Isa 9:6-7
3. What does Simeon say God is going to do through Jesus?
4. Simeon says Jesus will be a light for revelation to the Gentiles, yet the glory for Israel. Why the difference?
5. What do you think it means when Simeon says Jesus will cause the falling and rising of many in v34?

READ LUKE 2:41-52

6. Why are people amazed at Jesus in v46-47?
7. In v49, what are the things that Jesus understands about himself?
8. How would you summarise what this passage has to say about Jesus and who he is?

IMPLICATIONS

9. How does this passage speak to the statement that Jesus is just another God among many?
10. Simeon is at the end of his life and is content with his life once he has seen Jesus. Everything pales in comparison. We may still have much of life ahead of us. In what ways can we adopt the same attitude?
11. Read Hebrews 1:1-3. Unlike Simeon (and Anna in v36-40) we aren't waiting, we can look back and know who the Messiah is. How is that a blessing?

PRAY

Prayer Suggestion:

1. Kids and Families
 - a. Pray for the parents and families in your group
 - b. Pray for the families and kids in our church
 - c. Pray for our kids and youth ministries and the leaders
 - i. Bonfire – Sunday morning kids
 - ii. Surge – Sunday morning youth
 - iii. Wildfire – Friday night youth

Psalm 2:6-12

*"I have installed my king
on Zion, my holy mountain. "
I will proclaim the LORD's decree:
He said to me, "You are my son;
today I have become your father.*

*Ask me,
and I will make the nations your
inheritance,
the ends of the earth your possession.
You will break them with a rod of iron;
you will dash them to pieces like
pottery. "*

*Therefore, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.
Serve the LORD with fear
and celebrate his rule with trembling.*

*Kiss his son, or he will be angry
and your way will lead to your
destruction,
for his wrath can flare up in a moment.
Blessed are all who take refuge in
him.*

STUDY 6 - LUKE 3:1-20

Take some time to share reflections and questions from the sermon
and your reading throughout the week

INTRODUCTION

How would you define repentance?

READ LUKE 3:1-6

1. What was John's message?
2. Luke quotes Isaiah 40:3-5. How is he defining John's work?

READ LUKE 3:7-14

3. John quickly snaps into rebuking the crowds. What is the issue that he is pointing out in v7-9? Why is it so serious?
4. Is John preaching a works based gospel in v10-14, ie. Good things get you to heaven? Why is he telling them to do these things?
5. What does this tell us about repentance?

READ LUKE 3:15-20

6. In what ways will the Messiah be greater than John?
7. What is he saying the Messiah will do in v17-18? What does it mean?
8. How is this passage already looking forward to Luke 24:44-49?

IMPLICATIONS

9. The gospel of Jesus brings salvation and judgement. How can we still say with John in v18 that it is good news?
10. We saw that repentance is accompanied and shown in your life.
 - a. Why do you think it is hard to do this?
 - b. What makes it easier?
 - c. How can we encourage each other in repenting and bearing the fruit of repentance?
11. Read Romans 8:9-11. Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to his followers. What confidence does that bring us when we do continue to struggle with sin?

PRAY

Prayer Suggestion:

1. Confession and Repentance

- a. Have a look through one of the confessions we pray together at church and notice how it is put together. There is a recognition of sin, a request for forgiveness, followed by a request that God would transform and help us live godly lives.
- b. You can pray this prayer, or just use this model to shape your prayer time together.

Merciful Father,

Recognition of Sin

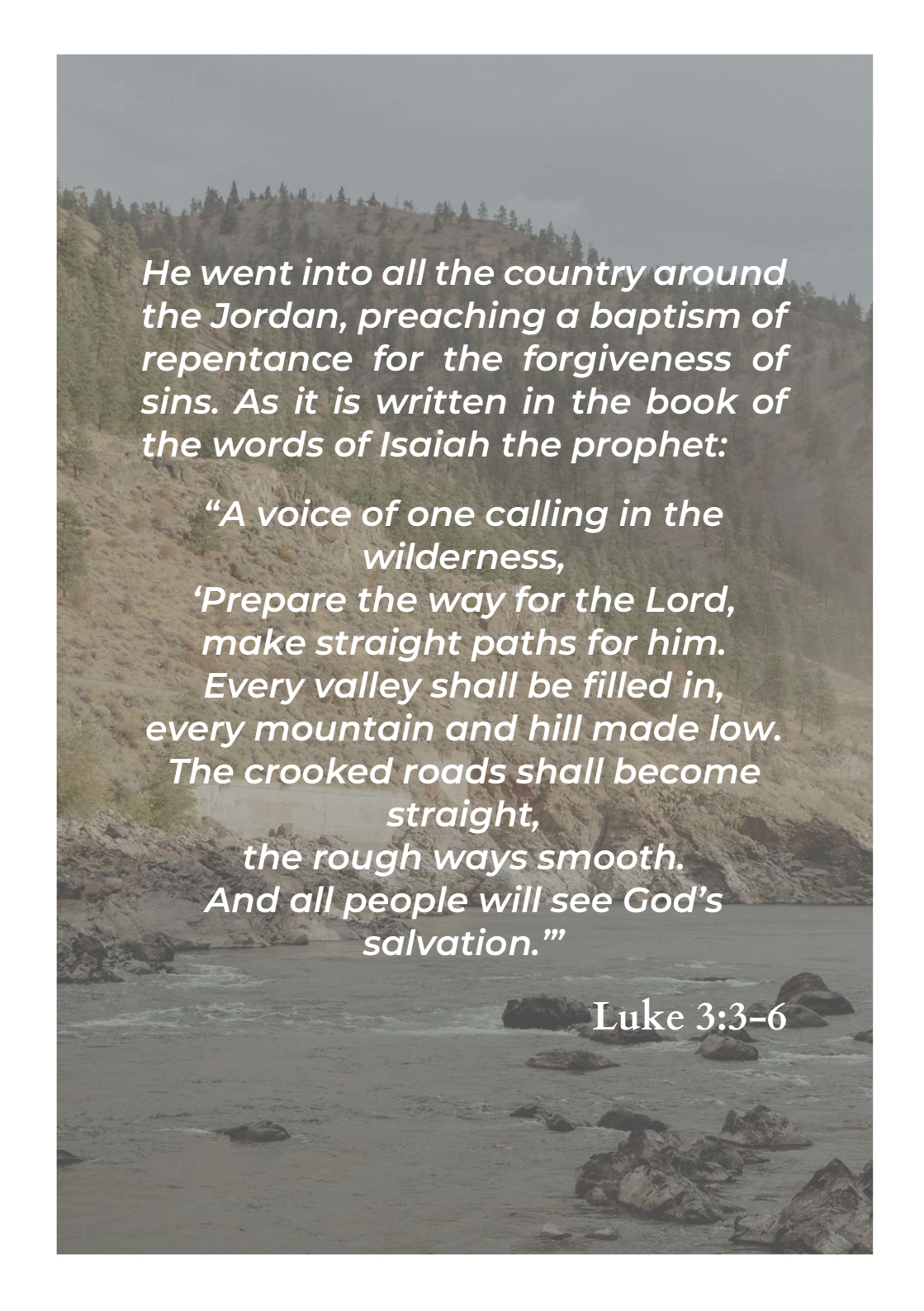
We have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the schemes and desires of our own hearts and have broken your holy laws. We have left undone what we ought to have done, and we have done what we ought not to have done.

Ask for Forgiveness

Yet, good Lord, have mercy on us; restore those who are repentant, according to the promises declared to us through your Son Jesus Christ.

Ask for Transformation

Grant, merciful Father, for his sake, that from now on, we may live godly and obedient lives, to the glory of your holy name, amen.

A scenic background image showing a wide river with white rapids flowing over dark rocks. In the background, a steep, rocky hill rises, dotted with evergreen trees under a grey, overcast sky. The overall tone is somber and naturalistic.

He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

*“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become
straight,
the rough ways smooth.
And all people will see God’s
salvation.”*

Luke 3:3-6

STUDY 7 - LUKE 3:21-38

Take some time to share reflections and questions from the sermon and your reading throughout the week

Genealogies were popular in Judaism, however, how they were recorded is not the same as how we would. Genealogies were recorded for a purpose which went beyond constructing a family tree. There is a reason why Luke has included this genealogy here including the people that he did, and so we will work together to find out what God's word is telling us about Jesus.

If you are curious about genealogies in the Bible and the difference between the Genealogies of Jesus in Luke vs Matthew, here are some links:

Why are Jesus' Genealogies in Matthew and Luke Different?

Zondervan Academic, 2016.

<https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/why-are-jesus-genealogies-in-matthew-and-luke-different>

Jesus' Genealogies in Matthew and Luke by Liz Abrams. Answers in Genesis, 2022.

<https://answersingenesis.org/jesus/jesus-genealogies-in-matthew-and-luke/>

INTRODUCTION

How far back can you recount your family line? Is there anyone famous in your family tree?

OR

Have a debate. One side argue that Jesus is exclusively God. One side argue that Jesus is exclusively Human.

READ LUKE 3:21-22

1. What different things make Jesus' baptism so spectacular?
2. Have a look at Psalm 2:6-7 and Isaiah 42:1. What is God announcing? How will the things in these Old Testament references characterise his ministry?
3. In Luke 3:3 we see that John's baptism was a baptism of repentance, but Jesus is sinless so doesn't need to repent. Why do you think he is being baptised then?

READ LUKE 3:23-38

4. What does including a genealogy of Jesus add to Luke's account, as opposed to if it wasn't there?
5. Have a look through the genealogy. What key people do you recognise? Why might it be significant that they are included in this list?
6. What do you think is Luke trying to communicate about Jesus by including this genealogy?

IMPLICATIONS

7. Read Hebrews 2:17-18. Why is it important that Jesus truly became a man and is truly God?
8. We have been made children of God and grafted into his family tree. What blessings do we get to enjoy as God's children? Cf. Gal 4:4-7
9. What changes to our lives does that bring? Cf. 1 John 2:2-3

PRAY

Prayer Suggestion:

1. Church family
 - a. Pray for each congregation at St John's
 - i. 8am
 - ii. 10am
 - iii. 6pm
 - iv. DRV
 - v. Kids & Youth

I CANNOT TELL

I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship,
should set his love upon the sons of men,
or why, as Shepherd, he should seek the wanderers,
to bring them back, they know not how or when.

But this I know, that he was born of Mary
when Bethl'em's manger was his only home,
and that he lived at Nazareth and laboured,
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently he suffered,
as with his peace he graced this place of tears,
or how his heart upon the cross was broken,
the crown of pain to three and thirty years.

But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted
and stays our sin and calms our lurking fear
and lifts the burden from the heavy laden;
for still the Saviour, Saviour of the world is here.

I cannot tell how he will win the nations,
how he will claim his earthly heritage,
how satisfy the needs and aspirations
of east and west, of sinner and of sage.

But this I know, all flesh shall see his glory,
and he shall reap the harvest he has sown,
and some glad day his sun will shine in splendour
when he the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
when at his bidding every storm is stilled,
or who can say how great the jubilation
when every heart with love and joy is filled.

But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
and myriad myriad human voices sing,
and earth to heav'n, and heav'n to earth, will answer
at last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!

STUDY 8 - LUKE 4:1-30

Take some time to share reflections and questions from the sermon
and your reading throughout the week

INTRODUCTION

What are the biggest temptations we face in our world?

READ LUKE 4:1-13

1. Have a look at each of the temptations.
 - a. What does the Devil Suggest?
 - b. What was in it for Jesus?
 - c. How does Jesus respond?
2. What is the difference with how the devil uses scripture and how Jesus uses it?
3. What would the ramifications be if Jesus gave into these temptations (particularly the second one)?

READ LUKE 4:14-30

4. *Optional Question: What is the role of the Holy spirit in Jesus life? Hint: look at what things happen after He is mentioned. (1:14-17; 1:35; 1:41-45; 1:67; 2:25-32; 3:21-22; 4:1, 14)*

5. In v21, Jesus is saying that he is the fulfillment of scripture. What is Jesus sent to proclaim in v18-19? How are we to understand this?
6. What are the two things Jesus is predicting they will say to him in v23?
7. Summarise what he is saying in v24-27.
8. Jesus has mentioned one of Israel's most unfaithful periods in their history. Why would this cause the same people who were amazed with Jesus turned to anger in v28-30?

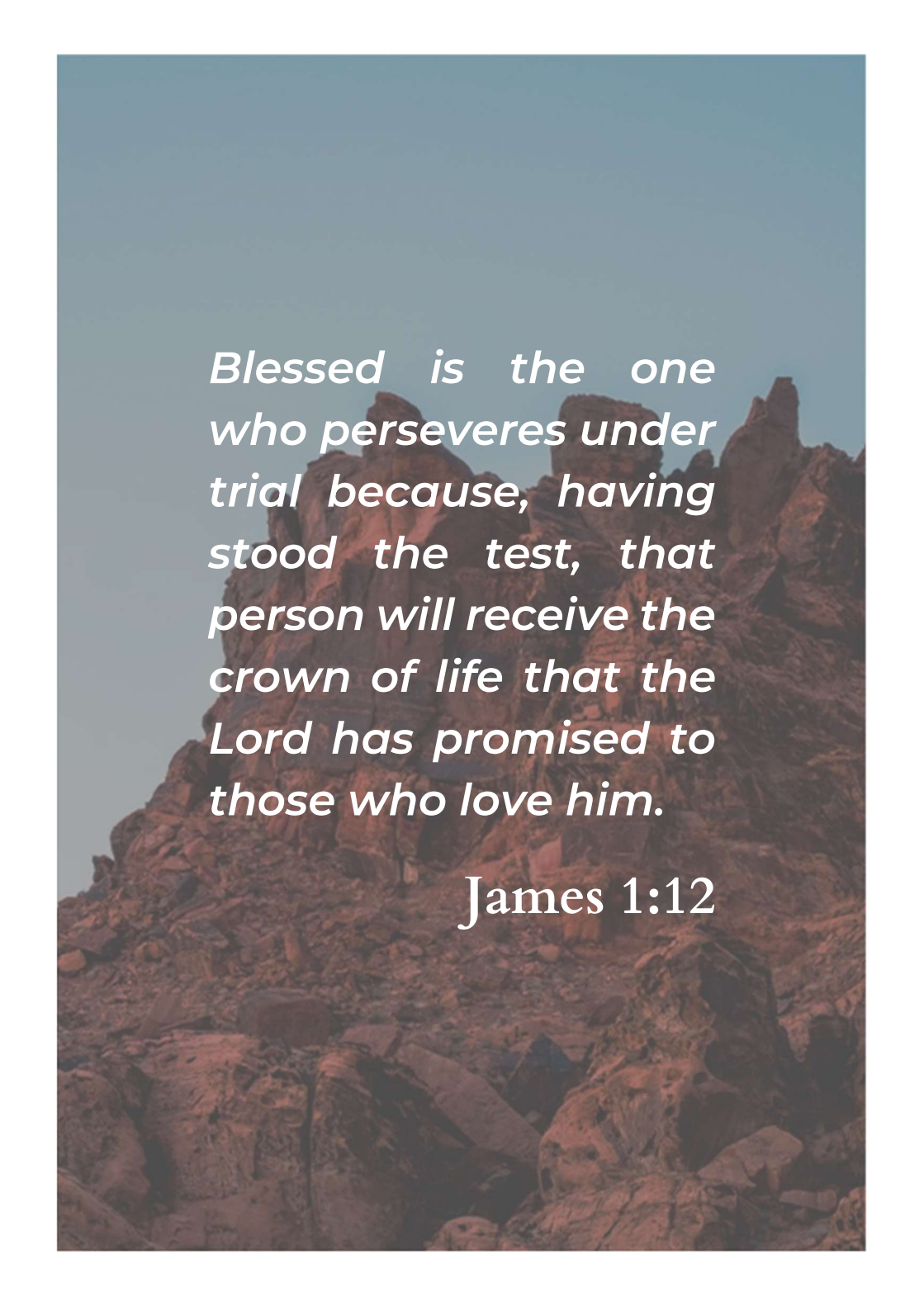
IMPLICATIONS

9. How can people use v18-21 to misapply the message of the gospel? How do we find the balance?
10. V13 says that the devil went away to come back at a more opportune time. There are always temptations in life. How can we best be prepared for them and get through them?
11. How can we helpfully wrestle with the parts of God's word we find hard to accept?

PRAY

Prayer Suggestion:

1. Those in need
 - a. Pray for those who are less fortunate and are in need in our community and around the world
 - b. Pray for ministries such as mobile pantry, compassion, and others
2. Faithful preaching of God's word
 - a. Pray that God's word would reach these people in need
 - b. Pray that God's word would be preached faithfully
 - c. Ask that God would put an end to those who twist and manipulate God's word
3. Try a different method
 - a. Gather all the prayer points and ensure the group can see/have access to them.
 - b. Pray in a group in a way that is similar to a conversation. Start with one prayer point and have your prayers build and take off from the last one.
 - c. For this to work, keep your prayers short, concise and to the point. Just pray for one aspect of a prayer point and let other prayers build and flow.
 - d. If you don't have anything to build on, change the topic and move to another prayer point and have the group's prayers build from there.
 - e. This will hopefully be an encouraging and helpful thing to do together. This can be a way where you find you invest in prayers more intentionally. It might be weird at first, but you will get the gist as you go.

The background of the image is a photograph of a rugged, rocky mountain peak. The rocks are dark and jagged, with some lighter patches. The sky above is a clear, pale blue. The text is overlaid on the image, centered horizontally and positioned in the upper half.

*Blessed is the one
who perseveres under
trial because, having
stood the test, that
person will receive the
crown of life that the
Lord has promised to
those who love him.*

James 1:12

STUDY 9 - LUKE 4:31-44

Take some time to share reflections and questions from the sermon
and your reading throughout the week

INTRODUCTION

What are some stories about modern day miracles that you have heard?

READ LUKE 4:31-37

1. When Jesus approaches the man possessed by a demon, what is interesting about the man/demon's response?
2. What does Jesus do to drive the demon out of the man? What does that tell us about the dynamic between him and demons?
3. What is the thing the crowd notices about Jesus (v31-32, 36)?

READ LUKE 4:38-44

4. How does Jesus heal Simon's mother-in-law in v38-39? What does this show?
5. Why do you think Jesus silenced the demons who recognised him in v41?

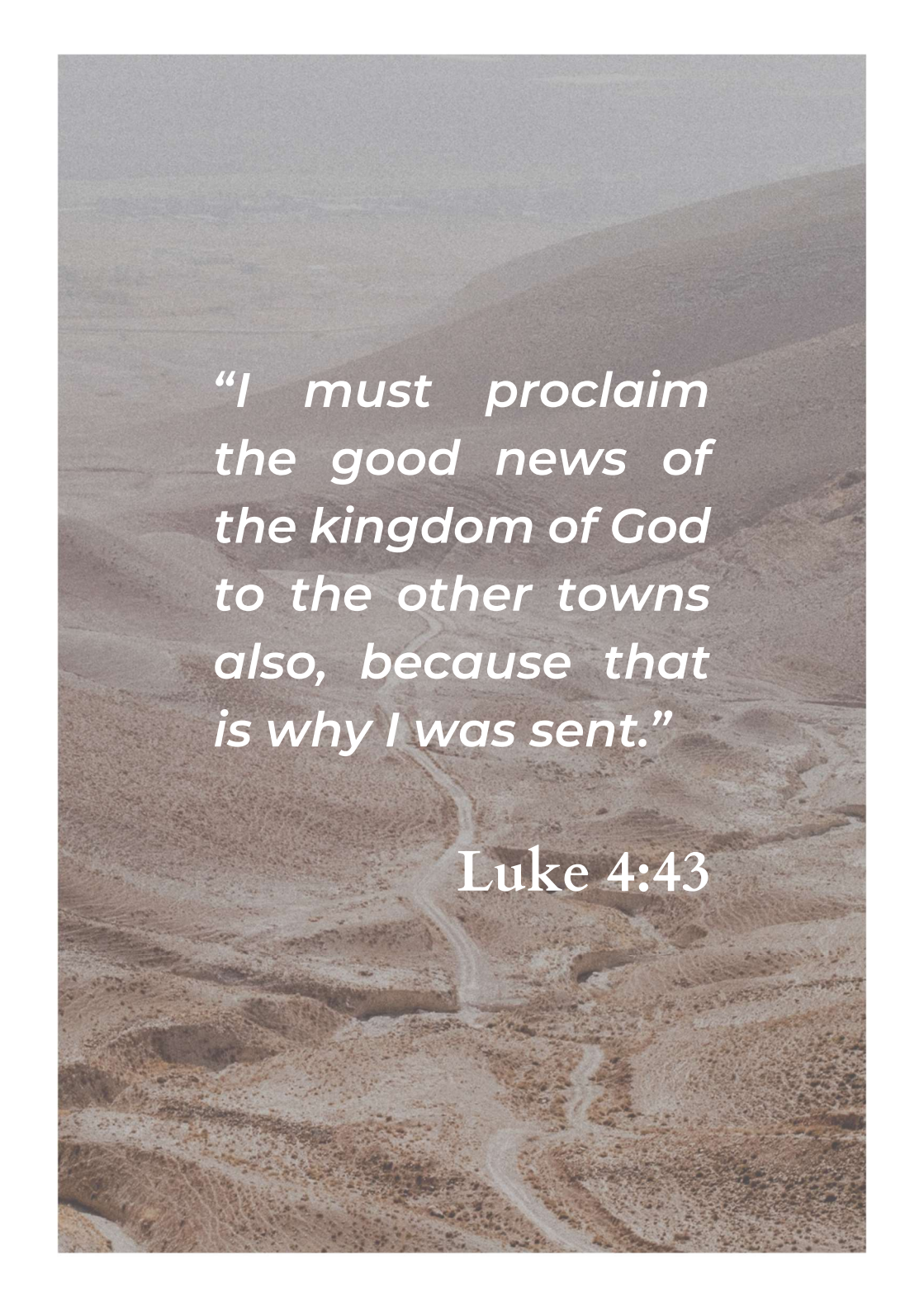
6. What is Jesus priority (v42-44)? What does that imply?
7. What role do you think miracles like these had in the ministry of Jesus? Why did he do them?

IMPLICATIONS

8. Reflecting on this passage and the rest of the term, How would you summarise the way in which Jesus has been introduced to us?
9. How does seeing Jesus do these miracles give us more confidence to trust in him?
10. What things either distract us or hold us back from proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God? How can we ensure that we keep focussing on evangelism?

PRAY

1. Personal Evangelism.
 - a. Check in how each other have been going with sharing the gospel with others.
 - b. You might like to bring up the people you shared earlier in the term, otherwise share a new person.
 - c. Pray for each other and for the people you are sharing the gospel with
2. Mission Partners
 - a. It is probably time to check in to see if there are new prayer updates from mission partners.
 - b. Check in with the updates from your “adopted” mission partner and construct another email together.
3. Reflect on the term and thank God in light of it

An aerial photograph of a vast, arid desert landscape. A light-colored, winding road or path cuts through the sandy, undulating terrain. The background shows rolling hills under a hazy, overcast sky. The overall color palette is muted, with various shades of beige, tan, and grey.

*“I must proclaim
the good news of
the kingdom of God
to the other towns
also, because that
is why I was sent.”*

Luke 4:43

READING PLAN

At the back of these studies you will find a reading plan. While we will be only covering the first 4 chapters at church, the reading plan will step through the whole of Luke. Throughout this plan, you will hopefully see how Lukes introduction of Jesus in chapters 1-4 shapes the rest of the book. There are 5 readings per week so that there is a chance to catch up or split reading if you need to. Reading plans can often be stressful, especially if you fall behind or if there are larger chunks (hence the 2 spare days), but just remember it is there to serve and help you, not the other way around.

To assist your reading there are 3 icons which you can write a small note next to for each passage. These will help you consolidate, follow up, and apply what you read.































































- What stands out to you in this passage? (What do you like? What did you learn?)























































































- What is a question you have about this passage?



- How does this passage apply? (What is something you can do in light of it?)

Week 1			Week 2		
1	1:1-25	 _____  _____  _____	6	3:1-38	 _____  _____  _____
2	1:26-56	 _____  _____  _____	7	4:1-30	 _____  _____  _____
3	1:57-80	 _____  _____  _____	8	4:31-44	 _____  _____  _____
4	2:1-21	 _____  _____  _____	9	5:1-26	 _____  _____  _____
5	2:22-52	 _____  _____  _____	10	5:27-6:11	 _____  _____  _____
Week 3			Week 4		
11	6:12-49	 _____  _____  _____	16	9:1-17	 _____  _____  _____
12	7:1-35	 _____  _____  _____	17	9:18-36	 _____  _____  _____
13	7:36-50	 _____  _____  _____	18	9:37-62	 _____  _____  _____
14	8:1-21	 _____  _____  _____	19	10:1-24	 _____  _____  _____
15	8:22-56	 _____  _____  _____	20	10:25-42	 _____  _____  _____

Week 5			Week 6		
21	11:1-28	 _____  _____  _____	26	13:22-35	 _____  _____  _____
22	11:29-54	 _____  _____  _____	27	14:1-24	 _____  _____  _____
23	12:1-34	 _____  _____  _____	28	14:25-35	 _____  _____  _____
24	12:35-59	 _____  _____  _____	29	15:1-32	 _____  _____  _____
25	13:1-21	 _____  _____  _____	30	16:1-18	 _____  _____  _____
Week 7			Week 8		
31	16:19-31	 _____  _____  _____	36	18:31-43	 _____  _____  _____
32	17:1-19	 _____  _____  _____	37	19:1-27	 _____  _____  _____
33	17:20-37	 _____  _____  _____	38	19:28-48	 _____  _____  _____
34	18:1-14	 _____  _____  _____	39	20:1-26	 _____  _____  _____
35	18:15-30	 _____  _____  _____	40	20:27-21:4	 _____  _____  _____

Week 9			Week 10		
41	21:5-38	 _____  _____  _____	46	24:1-12	 _____  _____  _____
42	22:1-38	 _____  _____  _____	47	24:13-35	 _____  _____  _____
43	22:39-64	 _____  _____  _____	48	24:36-53	 _____  _____  _____
44	22:65-23:25	 _____  _____  _____			
45	23:26-56	 _____  _____  _____			