



## Part 2 – Luke 22:47-24:53

### Growth Group Study Booklet



**LAKESHORE**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Living for Jesus**

By making, maturing and mobilising disciples

**For His Glory**

# PASSION



| THE FINAL WEEK OF JESUS |

LUKE 19-24

## Luke 19:28-22:47-24:53

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# Introduction to Luke

Luke was a physician and a travel companion of the apostle Paul (Col. 4:14). He wrote this Gospel and its sequel, the book of Acts. The earliest possible date of Luke–Acts is immediately after the events that Luke recorded in Acts 28, which would have been c. a.d. 62. Both Luke and Acts are addressed to “Theophilus” (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1), about whom nothing more is known. Luke’s broader audience consisted primarily of Gentile Christians like Theophilus.

Luke informs us from the beginning (1:1–4) that his is not the only Gospel to have been written nor the only Gospel account that could be written (cf. John 21:25). Nevertheless, the church has always recognized the great gift that the third Gospel is to us. There are many beautiful and essential teachings of Jesus and pictures of the gospel that come to us from Luke alone.

While the historical and theological witness of all four Gospels contains many consistent themes, Luke describes for us the gospel and its application in several specific and important ways. At the broadest level we learn from this Gospel account that the gospel is multi-faceted and full-orbed. That is, the gospel is explained and applied as being about our whole lives, physically and spiritually, externally and internally, for now and for the future, in our relationship with God and with others. The gospel is not simply a message about religion and the “religious” portion of our lives. Rather, Luke’s presentation helps us see clearly that the gospel of Jesus is about the comprehensive *blessedness* of God available to us through Jesus Christ.

At a more specific level Luke retells the stories and teachings of Jesus in a way that consistently emphasizes that the gospel is a matter of the heart, the inner person, not mere external religion. Jesus constantly reveals the heart motivations behind our actions and pushes us toward opening our hearts in humility toward God. As a result, the gospel in Luke is often presented as a call to reevaluate everything in the world according to God’s perspective, not ours. This means valuing humility over prestige, mercy over justice, favor with God over favor with people, and—especially challenging to us—valuing a rich relationship with God over the power of money.

To emphasize this comprehensive understanding of the gospel, Luke uses a variety of complementary images to describe it. The gospel includes the message of peace, the offer of forgiveness of sins through repentance, the promise of inheriting eternal life, the invitation to enter the kingdom of God, and the joy of being with Jesus as a disciple. In all of this, the gospel is *good news* because it announces the grace and peace that have now come to sinners in Jesus Christ.

From the *Gospel Transformation Bible* (Study Notes for Luke by Jonathan Pennington).



# Luke 19-24 Chronology

## **Sunday**

Jesus enters Jerusalem (Luke 19:29-44)

## **Monday**

Jesus cleanses the temple (Luke 19:45-48)

## **Tuesday**

Jesus teaches in the temple (Luke 20:1-21:36)

## **Wednesday\***

Jesus continues teaching as his enemies plot against him (Luke 21:37-22:5)

## **Thursday**

The Passover meal and the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:7-46)

## **Friday**

Jesus' betrayal and arrest, Peter's denial, Jesus appears before the Sanhedrin, Pilate and Herod, Jesus condemned, crucified, dies and is buried (Luke 22:47-23:56a)

## **Saturday**

The disciples rest on the Sabbath (Luke 23:56b)

## **Sunday**

The women & disciples learn of Jesus' resurrection at the empty tomb, Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus, Jesus appears to the disciples (Luke 24:1-49)

## **Some time later**

Jesus' ascension (Luke 24:50-53)

\* Possible, but not certain



# Notes



## STUDY 9

# Luke 22:47-53

**Kick Off:** Have you ever had a plan that seemed to have failed, when in fact it had not?

**Key Verses:** Luke 22:53

**Big Idea:** By willingly entering the darkness of suffering and death, Jesus shines the light of his grace into the darkness of our lives.

### Investigate & Apply:

*Read Luke 22:47-48.*

1. Why do you think Judas approached Jesus to kiss him? (See 1 Thessalonians 5:26).

2. Jesus knew Judas' motivations (see Luke 22:21-22). What do you think Jesus asked the question in verse 48?

*Read Luke 22:49-51.*

3. What do you think was motivating the disciples in verse 49-50? Why do you think Jesus answered, "No more of this!"?

4. What does Jesus' healing of the ear of the high priest's servant reveal?

*Read Luke 22:52-53.*

5. a) Why did the religious leaders come to arrest Jesus at night?

b) What is Jesus pointing out in verse 52 and 53?

6. What do the symbols of darkness and light often represent throughout the Bible? (For example, see John 3:19-21 and Ephesians 5:8-9.)

7. How do the various characters in this account act with motivations and deeds of “darkness”? How do Jesus’ responses give us a model of “living as children of light”?

**Prayer:**

In your group prayer time:

1. Share prayer requests and pray for one another in your group.
2. Use a copy of the **Lakeshore Church prayer points** (either from Sunday’s bulletin or from the weekly email) to pray for people and events across the church.

**Read Ahead:** For next week’s sermon, read Luke 22:54-65.



## STUDY 10

# Luke 22:54-65

**Kick Off:** How does it feel to be let down by those who are close to you? How does it feel when we fail those whom we love?

**Key Verse:** Luke 22:61

**Big Idea:** Pride and self-confidence always end up being our undoing if we persist in them.

**Investigate & Apply:**

*Read Luke 22:54-65*

1. What is the significance of Luke's note that "Peter followed at a distance" in verse 1?

2. How do Peter's denials of Jesus compare with the claim that he made earlier in this chapter (verse 33)? What do you think might explain this?

3. What kinds of people, places, and situations might tempt you to deny Jesus in our world today?

*Read Luke 22:61 again.*

4. How do you think that Peter would have felt when Jesus looked directly at him?



5. What guaranteed that Peter's faith wouldn't fail entirely even though he fails spectacularly at this moment? (See Luke 22:31)

6. How can Peter's story give us hope when we sin and fail in significant or spectacular ways?

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**Read Ahead:** For next week's sermon, read Luke 22:66-23:12.



## STUDY 11

# Luke 22:66-23:12

**Kick Off:** Have you ever had false accusations made against you? How did you feel like responding when it happened?

**Key Verse:** Luke 23:4

**Big Idea:** Jesus perfectly trusts his Father in the midst of a storm of false accusations and trials.

**Investigate & Apply:**

*Read Luke 22:66-71*

1. In this section Jesus is tried before a council of the Jewish authorities (called the Sanhedrin). Do you notice anything absent in this account that you might expect to see at a trial?

2. The Jewish authorities question Jesus about whether he is the Messiah and/or the Son of God. What would they have been hoping to achieve by questioning him along these lines? Do they get what they were seeking in the end?

*Read Luke 23:1-12*

3. In the previous section the Jewish leaders accused Jesus of blasphemy. Why don't they accuse him of blasphemy before Pilate? Why do they make other kinds of accusations against him in verse 2?

4. Turn back to Luke 20:20-26. In light of this passage, is the accusation of the assembly true when they claim that Jesus "opposes payment of taxes to Caesar"? (23:2)

5. In verse 4 Pilate announces that he “finds no basis for a charge” against Jesus. Why then does he allow Jesus’ trial to continue by sending him off to Herod?

6. What does Jesus’ trial before Herod reveal about Herod’s attitude towards Jesus?

7. If you were in Jesus’ shoes at these trials how do you think you might have responded?

8. What can we take away from these passages that will help us when we must respond to false accusations and criticism?

**Prayer:**

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**Read Ahead:** For next week’s sermon, read Luke 23:13-34.



## STUDY 12

# Luke 23:13-31

**Kick Off:** How do you usually feel when you are pressured by others to act against your convictions?

**Key Verse:** Luke 23:14

**Big Idea:** Jesus was condemned though he was innocent so that those who are guilty might not be condemned if they trust in him.

### Investigate & Apply:

*Read Luke 23:13-25*

1. Both Pilate and Herod found that Jesus was innocent of the charges brought against Him (see verses 4, 14 & 15, and 22). Why is the fact that Jesus was found to be innocent at these trials a significant part of the gospel story?

2. What might Pilate have been hoping to achieve by his offers to the crowd in verse 16 and 22?

3. Do you find the actions of the crowd or the actions of Pilate more disturbing in this scene?

4. It is clear that the events of verse 23-25 are a gross injustice. How might people react if an injustice like this occurred in our time and place?

*Read Luke 23:26-31*

5. Why might Simon have been seized to carry the cross of Jesus? How might he have felt as this event was unfolding?

6. What do you make of Jesus' words to the mourning crowds? What events might he be referring to in verses 29 and 30?

7. What are some areas of our lives where we might be in danger of acting unjustly when we're put under pressure? How can we fight against this temptation?

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**Read Ahead:** For next week's sermon, read Luke 23:32-43.



## STUDY 13

# Luke 23:32-43

**Kick Off:** What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the crucifixion of Jesus?

**Key Verse:** Luke 23:34

**Big Idea:** Jesus' crucifixion provided the basis for forgiveness for all those who will confess his lordship and trust him for salvation

### Investigate & Apply:

*Read Luke 23:13-31*

1. What do the responses of the different groups reveal about each group?
  - a) The rulers (v35)
  
  - b) The soldiers (v36-37)
  
  - c) The people (v35)
  
2. In contrast, what does Jesus' response (v34) reveal about himself?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. The formal charge against Jesus was "This is the King of the Jews" (v38)
  - a) How did the Romans understand and respond to this declaration?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b) How did the Jewish leaders understand and respond to this declaration?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c) How did Jesus' followers understand and respond to this declaration?

4. a) What do the contrasting responses of the two criminals reveal about each of them?

b) What are the crucial elements of the criminal's request in verse 42? How does this compare with your understanding of the kind of prayer someone might pray to become a Christian?

c) What does Jesus' answer in verse 43 reveal about the nature of salvation?

5. List everything that this passage teaches us about what the crucifixion of Jesus achieved? (Consider the misguided criticisms as well as the positive responses)

6. In your worst moments, which of the characters who were present at the crucifixion have you been like?

7. What is one truth or attitude from this passage that you hope to strengthen in your own life?

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**Read Ahead:** For next week's sermon, read Luke 23:44-49.



## STUDY 14

# Luke 23:44-49

**Kick Off:** Is Good Friday a significant day for you each year in your personal faith? Why/why not?

**Key Verse:** Luke 23:46

**Big Idea:** The death of Jesus is the focal point of all that he came to achieve.

**Investigate & Apply:**

*Read Luke 23:44-46*

1. What do you think was the significance of the darkness? (On the theme of darkness, see Amos 8:9-10; Exodus 10:21-23; Acts 2:20; Joel 2:2; Amos 5:18, 20; Zephaniah 1:15).

2. What was the role of the curtain in the temple? (See Exodus 26:31-33 and 2 Chronicles 3:14 for specific descriptions of the curtain). What was the significance of it being torn in two?

3. Jesus' cry in verse 46 is a quote from Psalm 31:5. What themes can you find in Psalm 31 that shed light on Jesus' suffering?

*Read Luke 23:47-49*

4. In these verses, Luke continues to list the variety of eyewitnesses who could verify the events of Jesus' life, death and resurrection (as explained in Luke 1:1-4). How does this encourage you to live and witness faithfully in our skeptical culture?



5. What did these witnesses see during Jesus' suffering that would have caused them to praise God (the centurion) or beat their breasts in grief and repentance (the people).

6. Why does Luke emphasise Jesus' innocence? How is it significant? (Verse 47, also 23:41)

7. How do you think Jesus' followers would have understood all that had taken place? How would they have responded? Is this different to how you respond today when you meditate on Jesus' death for you?

**Prayer:**

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**Read Ahead:** For next week's sermon, read Luke 23:50-56.



## STUDY 15

# Luke 23:50-56

**Kick Off:** Why is it important that those we love have a proper funeral, and a way to remember them after they have died (whether buried or cremated)?

**Key Verse:** Luke 23:53

**Big Idea:** The burial of Jesus reminds us that Jesus died a real death in every sense.

**Investigate & Apply:**

*Read Luke 23:50-51*

1. Looking back over the last couple of chapters, what have the religious leaders done such that a “good and upright man” would not have agreed with their actions?
2. What do Joseph of Arimathea, Zechariah (Luke 1:6), Simeon (Luke 2:25) and Cornelius (Acts 10:22) have in common, according to Luke’s descriptions? How does each respond to the good news about Jesus?
3. a) What does it mean that Joseph was “waiting for the kingdom of God” (see also Luke 2:25 & 2:38)?  
  
b) Is this a good description of a Christian today? Why/why not?

*Read Luke 23:52-56*

4. a) What does Joseph’s action in approaching Pilate reveal about him?  
  
b) Are there particular ways you can use specific positions or privileges that you have for the advance of the gospel?

5. Verse 53 fulfills Isaiah 53:9. Look back over Isaiah 53 and see how many connections you can find to Jesus' sufferings.

6. The women (verse 55-56, also verses 27 & 49) proved more courageous and faithful than the male disciples. How does their example encourage you as you follow Jesus?

7. Christian creeds (such as the Apostles' Creed) include the affirmation that Jesus "was buried" among their list of the essential truths of the Christian faith. Why is the burial of Jesus such a significant event?

8. Have you experienced hard periods in your life where it seemed like "darkness reigned" (Luke 22:53) and God's power was absent? How does the quiet "middle day" between Jesus' death and his resurrection shed light on these kind of experiences?

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**Read Ahead:** For next week's sermon, read Luke 24:1-12.



## STUDY 16

# Luke 24:1-12

**Kick Off:** Have you ever had such good news that you honestly didn't believe it at first?

**Key Verse:** Luke 24:6

**Big Idea:** Jesus' resurrection is proof of all that Jesus claimed to be and all that he claimed to achieve through his death.

**Investigate & Apply:**

*Read Luke 24:1-8*

1. What do you think the women were hoping to achieve (verse 1)? What do you think was motivating them?
  
2. a) What might they have been thinking after seeing the stone rolled away and the tomb empty?  
  
b) Based on all that Jesus has said and done in the book of Luke so far, what do you think the significance of his resurrection was?  
  
c) Although Jesus told the disciples that he would rise from the dead (verse 7, also Luke 9:22 & 18:32), they hadn't understood. Why do you think Jesus told them in advance?  
  
d) Read Luke 22:67-70 & Acts 2:29-36. How does Luke understand the significance of the resurrection?  
  
e) What difference does it make to you personally that Jesus rose from the dead?

*Read Luke 24:9-12.*

3. Why is it significant that women were the primary witnesses to Jesus' resurrection?

4. How did each of these people/groups respond to the news of Jesus' resurrection?

a) The women (verse 5, 8-9)

b) The Eleven and the others (verse 11)

c) Peter (verse 12)

5. Which of these are you sometimes like in your own personal response to the news of Jesus' resurrection? Which would you like to be more like?

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**Read Ahead:** For next week's sermon, read Luke 24:13-35.



## STUDY 17

# Luke 24:13-35

**Kick Off:** Have you ever had one of those moments where you have been talking with someone for some time before you remember who they are?

**Key Verse:** Luke 24:27

**Big Idea:** The death and resurrection of Jesus were the fulfillment and focal point of everything God had revealed in the Old Testament scriptures.

### Investigate & Apply:

*Read Luke 24:13-24*

1. On this Sunday morning, how does it seem that different groups in Jerusalem were reacting to the events of Jesus' final week?

a) The city as a whole?

b) Followers of Jesus who had not yet heard of the empty tomb?

c) Followers of disciples who had heard about the empty tomb?

2. From verses 19-21:

a) What did the disciples rightly understand about who Jesus was and why he had come?

b) What did the disciples not yet understand about who Jesus was and why he had come?

*Read Luke 24:25-35*

3. Why does Jesus say in verse 26 that the Messiah "had to" suffer and then enter his glory?

4. a) What principle is found in verse 25-27 (see also verse 44) that helps us understand the way the whole Bible fits together?

b) How can these verses help you to better understand any passage you are reading from the Old Testament?

5. Why do you think the disciples' eyes were only opened when Jesus broke the bread (verse 30)? What might be significant about this?

6. In verse 32, the disciples "hearts burned within them" as they understood Jesus' explanation of the Christ-centred nature of all scripture. Have you had this experience of joy and wonder when you have understood parts of God's Word? How can your regular times of reading God's Word become more like this?

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**Read Ahead:** For next week's sermon, read Luke 24:36-53.



## STUDY 18

# Luke 24:36-53

**Kick Off:** Why was it that food was a key part of so many significant moments in Jesus' ministry?

**Key Verse:** Luke 24:46-47

**Big Idea:** Jesus' physical resurrection powerfully demonstrates the truth of all his claims, and sends his disciples out to proclaim the same good news to others.

### Investigate & Apply:

*Read Luke 24:36-43*

1. What do Jesus' words, "Peace be with you" demonstrate? What reasons might the disciples have had to expect him to instead rebuke them or be disappointed with them?

2. a) What evidence does Jesus give the disciples to prove that he has a real, physical resurrected body?

b) Why is it significant that Jesus has a real, physical, resurrected body instead of being a disembodied spirit (like a ghost)?

c) In what ways is Jesus' glorified, resurrected body different to his old body?

*Read Luke 24:44-53*

3. Thinking back over the book of Luke, what are some of the most important promises and prophecies from the Old Testament that have been fulfilled in Jesus?



4. Imagine you were one of the disciples, and later you had an opportunity to be a “witness of these things” to someone who had heard nothing about Jesus. Using words and concepts the disciples might have used, what are the most important things you would want to tell them?

5. What do verse 45 and verse 48 reveal about where power and understanding come from as followers of Jesus? How should this effect the way you live as a follower of Jesus?

6. Sometimes people ask: If it was Jesus’ death that paid the penalty for our sins, why is his resurrection actually that significant? What does Luke 24 reveal about the significance of the resurrection of Jesus? In particular, why did the resurrection transform the disciples from fearful uncertainty to joyful worship?

**Prayer:**

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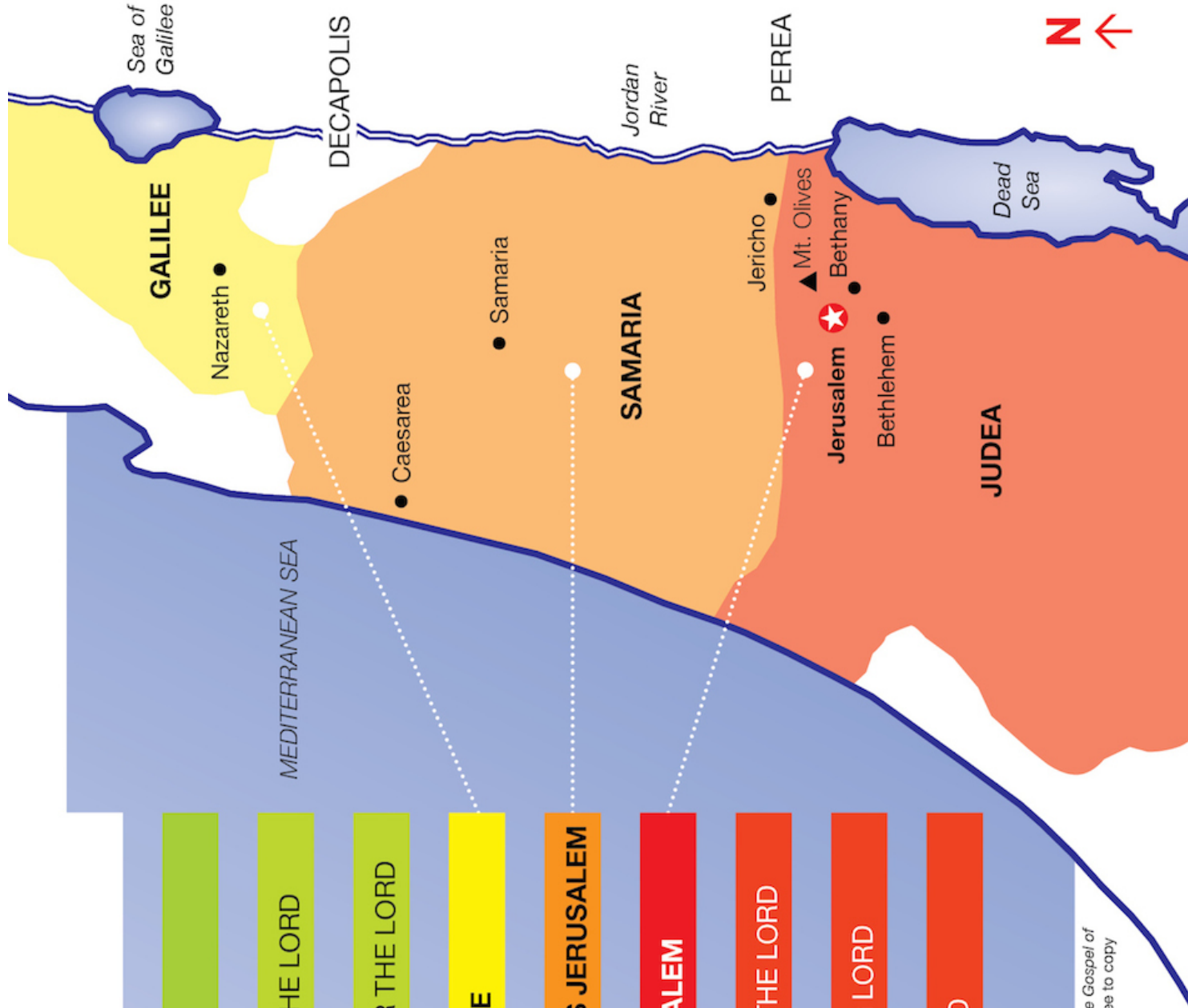


# Notes



# LUKE OVERVIEW

1-3		THE COMING LORD
1-2		THE BIRTH OF THE LORD
3		PREPARING FOR THE LORD
4-9		THE LORD'S MISSION IN GALILEE
10-19		THE LORD'S MISSION TOWARDS JERUSALEM
19-24		THE LORD'S MISSION IN JERUSALEM
19		THE ENTRY OF THE LORD
22-23		THE SUFFERING LORD
24		THE RISEN LORD





# PASSION



| THE FINAL WEEK OF JESUS |

LUKE 19-24

