



On Board With Jesus

Luke Chapters 9-19

Term 2, 2018



CAMPBELL TOWN
ANGELICAN CHURCHES

About Growth Groups

We are about *growing* or maturing and doing that alongside one another. Let's describe these as 'coaching' and 'community'.

Coaching

1. **Learn to Read.** The bible is a book and learning how to read it is so important to Christian **maturity**. The Growth Group study material is a tool only and must not overshadow the primary goal of learning to read and listen to God's word.
2. **Learn to Pray.** The primary way of learning how to pray is by listening to others and practising. Sing praises to God in your prayers and learn how to **magnify** God with your prayers together.

Caring

1. **Learn to Care.** Growth Groups provide a close community of people who can be praying, sharing and caring for one another. One reason we encourage groups to be formed from the same congregation is for easier follow-up and strengthening the sense of church **membership**.
2. **Seek to Grow.** Your congregation is the **mission** field for your Growth Group. Remember, there's no such thing as a full Growth Group - only groups that are ready to multiply! A large group of 15, with two leaders added, can become two new groups of 8 or 9.
3. **Work Together.** What **ministry** or initiative could your group do together this year? Sunday morning-tea or supper? Letterbox leafleting for the church? A street party in your area? Gardening at the church? A BBQ at a church event? A dialogue dinner with friends?

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Study 1 - Luke 9:51-56

The Resolute Christ

Discussion

When have you been determined to go somewhere or to get a job finished?

Read

Luke 9:51-56

is not just giving us facts. He is giving us a lesson on who Jesus is and why he came, and is an equally skilled storyteller as he is a historian.

Context

Luke's account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is well regarded as methodical and a great example of historic writing. It is good to note, his purposeful account is also carefully narrated as he carries us from the humble beginnings of Jesus' birth and ministry to the consummation of why Jesus was sent. In other words, Luke

In Chapter 9, we read that Jesus and his disciples are at the height of their preaching and teaching ministry. It's in this chapter that the disciples conclude that Jesus is God's Messiah and that Jesus resolves to head toward Jerusalem.

Take some time to read Chapter 9 in full before we go on to focus on Verses 51-56. What things stand out to you in this chapter?

Observation

What do you see in the text? Some things to look out for are:

- Repeated words or a theme.
- Things that surprise you.
- What the characters said and meant.
- Is there some conflict or high point in the story?
- Do you see any imagery from the Old Testament?
- How would you divide this passage up into sections and what title would you give each section?

Meaning

Jesus knew his mission was to go to the cross and when it was time to go there. He knew that many would not welcome him and yet he still went to the city where he would die for our sins. The mission of God into this world is not to force the souls of people to come but to lay down his life and welcome all who would welcome him.

Application

Topic A - Let's never doubt the resolution of Christ to be our Saviour. He did not go reluctantly to the cross. It was his desire to procure sinners such as us. "The man that comes to Christ by faith should never doubt Christ's willingness to receive him. The mere fact that the Son of God willingly came into the world to die, and willingly suffered, should silence such doubts entirely. All the unwillingness is on the part of man, not of Christ." (JC Ryle) And so we praise God for his great and unswerving love for us.

Topic B - Well meaning Christians can act poorly in their passion and zeal. It is best to match zeal with knowledge. Someone might say they don't need to study and learn in depth because they just love Jesus and want people to hear the gospel. Another might say that they are all about learning and study but they are not passionate like other Christians. The two need to go hand in hand. The zealous person should take time to learn from those who know how to teach well. The excellent student should pray for passion to take their knowledge and use it for the glory of God.

Topic C - Ready to go where God takes you and acknowledge when a mission field is shut down. Many are the voices who will sneer at faith in Christ. Few are those who will listen and receive Jesus. Therefore, let's not waste time with those who have clearly rejected

Christ. Of course, every person needs the opportunity to hear and respond to Christ. However, if their response is clearly negative, let's move on to those who will hear and respond. Time is too short to be bogged down in battling with the resistant.

Prayer

Thank you Jesus for your resolution to redeem us. We pray for more people in our region to welcome your Son to save them. We pray for more workers to send out your message into the world. We pray for wisdom to know when to stop speaking and to seek new audiences. Please help us to be zealous for your Son and to walk wisely as we travel resolutely to eternal life. Amen.

Study 2 - Luke 9:57-62

The Resolute Christian

Discussion

What is the hardest thing about being a Christian?

Read

Luke 9:57-62

Context

As the disciples of Jesus are beginning to understand who Jesus is and are demonstrating their zeal for him, Jesus has

determined to head toward Jerusalem. This means more than his annual trek for Passover. Jesus is heading to his execution. He is also heading toward his ascension and victory. Luke 9 marks a major turning point in the gospel of Luke and Jesus' long journey to the cross. His mission to bring salvation to the ends of the earth will cost him his life.

Observation

What do you see in the text? Some things to look out for are:

- Repeated words or a theme.
- Things that surprise you.
- What the characters said and meant.
- Is there some conflict or high point in the story?
- Do you see any imagery from the Old Testament?
- How would you divide this passage up into sections and what title would you give each section?

Meaning

Jesus is speaking to people on his way to the cross. The theme of sacrifice and the cost of discipleship are clear. We live in a different situation where following Christ does not take us actually to Jerusalem. However, our dedication to follow Jesus and join in his mission still comes at a cost. We must withdraw from our earthly home in order to claim heavenly citizenship. We must go about our responsibilities with the knowledge that all of this is passing away. We must look to Jesus and never look back. We must take up our cross and follow him. If not, then we are unworthy of the kingdom of God.

Application

Topic A - Are your investments on earth or in heaven? The bible doesn't teach us to be poor, but it teaches us to be rich in the kingdom of God. That is, find your treasure in God and not in financial gain. Taking risks for the kingdom of God is easier when the value of this world is diminished. What would you struggle to live without for Christ? How strong are your ties to live in this area? Are you deeply invested in your career such that it feels impossible to leave that behind?

Topic B - Managing responsibilities with a Christian view. God instructs us to be good with our money and with the responsibilities of this world. We are called on to pray for the government for example. Also, God instructs us to work and to provide for those we are responsible for (2 Thessalonians 3:10; 1 Timothy 5:4). Yet, he also says to do all things as though doing them for the Lord and not for men (Colossians 3:23). He calls us to seek first the kingdom of God and everything else will be taken care of (Matthew 6:19-32). Having a Christian view of the world, puts all of our responsibilities in its eternal perspective and transfers the glory from ourselves to God.

Topic C - When family comes second. It is possible to love your family to death. The order of our devotion is God first, then family. The glory of this is that God loves our family more than we do. To truly love our family is to help them to see Jesus. A person can pour all of their time and energy and money and care into their family, but if Jesus is not given first place in this relationship, then the family is shutting their saviour out. You will be loving your family to death.

Prayer

Father, accept our desire to follow Jesus and help us to do so despite the cost. Give us your grace to see the joy and privilege of knowing your Son and being known by you. Help us in our weakness and thank you for the price that you paid to call us your children. Amen.

Luke 10:1-42 Daily Reading Plan

Before Growth Group meets back again, read through Chapter 10 and for each reading:

1. What do you notice? Take your time.
2. What questions spring from this reading?
3. Turn the passage into prayer.

DAY 1

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

DAY 2

³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. ⁴ Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. ⁵ “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ ⁶ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

DAY 3

⁸ “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. ⁹ Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.’ ¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

DAY 4

¹³ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades.

¹⁶ “Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

DAY 5

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

¹⁸ He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. ²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

DAY 6

²¹ At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²² “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

DAY 7

²³ Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”

DAY 8

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

²⁷ He answered, “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

DAY 9

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii

and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

DAY 10

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one.^c Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Study 3 - Luke 11:1-13

The Prayer of a Disciple

Discussion

When did you learn how to pray and how did you learn?

Read

Luke 11:1-13

Context

Jesus' disciples have been with him for a couple of years now and are ready to declare Jesus as God's Messiah (Luke 9:20). Jesus has turned his face in the direction of Jerusalem, where he will go and lay down his life for all who put their trust in him. Many are drawn to him but find it hard to let go of the pull of this world. In Chapter 10, Jesus sent 72 others to go from town to town to preach the gospel (Luke 10:8-9) but only if welcomed to

do so. Judgement on this world begins, measured by how welcome the kingdom of God is now. Gospel work is compared with a spiritual battle: that as the gospel is proclaimed, Satan and his minions are being attacked. However, what is important is not that the battle is being won but that the disciples' names are already written in the book of life. While Jesus calls and directs his disciples to go on mission, he sets it in the context of an eternal relationship with God the Father (Luke 10:21-24). Following Jesus is not just about knowing the truth and fighting for truth, but more importantly about knowing God the Father and being known by him.

Observation

What do you see in the text?

Meaning

Why were we given this text?

It seems that....

Application

What will you do now as a result
of reading this passage?

Study 4 - Luke 11:14-54

The Obedience of a Disciple

Read

Luke 11:14-54

Context

Jesus resolved in Luke 9:51 to head to Jerusalem. Knowing how the story ends, we expect the resistance to Jesus' ministry

to grow as he gets closer to his crucifixion. At the beginning of the chapter, Jesus spoke of prayer and the love of the Father to give the Holy Spirit to those who will ask in faith. As the chapter continues, we read of how closely knit the world of the spirit is with the flesh. How we respond to the Son of God will reveal whether we have received the Holy Spirit or not.

Observation

What do you see in the text?

Meaning

Why were we given this text?

It seems that....

Application

What will you do now as a result
of reading this passage?

Study 5 - Luke 12:1-34

The Fear of God

Read

Luke 12:1-34

Context

Jesus was challenged in Chapter 11 as being in league with the devil. He responded over many verses to highlight how terribly wrong his accusers were and that, in fact, his actions proved his innocence. However, their actions reveal where their hearts are and that they have

not entered the kingdom of God. His accusers were not only outside of the kingdom but they were also blocking the entry for others.

The Pharisees and teachers of the law hardened their hearts more as they increased their opposition to Jesus, trying to catch him out. How will Jesus respond to the opposition? When given an audience of thousands, what would Jesus say? That's what we'll find in this weeks reading!

Observation

What do you see in the text?

Meaning

Why were we given this text?

It seems that....

Application

What will you do now as a result
of reading this passage?

Study 6 - Luke 12:35-13:21

The Judgment of God

Read

Luke 12:35-21

Context

Jesus had previously compared the kingdom of God with a lamp that illuminates and must be allowed to shine fully and not be covered (Luke 11:33-36). He then began to address a crowd of thousands at the beginning of Chapter 12. In his teaching he talked about being clothed by God, dependant on him and making him our treasure rather than the accumulation of things.

On Jesus' journey toward Jerusalem, he went through a Samaritan village who rejected him. He rebuked his disciples when they suggested they call down fire from heaven on them. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and teachers of the law for hindering people from entering the kingdom of God and failing to see that they too were outside it. Jesus has come to call people to enter the kingdom of God. Those who listen to Jesus need to learn how to do that. How do you enter the kingdom of God? When will the kingdom come and what should we expect from the kingdom of God?

Observation

What do you see in the text?

Meaning

Why were we given this text?

It seems that....

Application

What will you do now as a result
of reading this passage?

Study 7 - Luke 13:22-14:24

The Heart of God

Read

Luke 13:22-14:24

Context

Luke announced in Chapter 9 Verse 51 that Jesus had turned his face toward Jerusalem and he will remind us again in Chapter 13 Verse 22 and Chapter 17 Verse 11. Jerusalem is at the heart of the Jewish faith. It is the city which houses the Temple of the LORD. The people there were called by God to be special to him. As

Abraham's descendants, they were given the promises of God to be a blessing to the whole world (Genesis 12). They were given the city of Jerusalem as the true location to worship God. They were given the law of God which provides life and teaches them of the coming King. Jesus knows that as he approaches Jerusalem, his people will cry out for his execution. His own people will disown him.

He has talked about the kingdom of God which will not appear great at first but will blossom into greatness.

Observation

What do you see in the text?

Meaning

Why were we given this text?

It seems that....

Application

What will you do now as a result
of reading this passage?

Study 8 - Luke 14:25-15:32

The Decisive Disciple

Read

Luke 14:25-15:32

Context

Entrance into the kingdom of God is described as narrow and those who enter it will not be those who presume on God but

those who hear the words of Jesus and follow him. The Pharisees and teachers of the law have been fueling their disapproval of Jesus while the crowds listening to him have been growing. Jesus has talked about the judgement coming because of him and that he has come to bring division in households rather than peace.

Observation

What do you see in the text?

Meaning

Why were we given this text?

It seems that....

Application

What will you do now as a result
of reading this passage?

Study 9 - Luke 16:1-17:10

The One You Serve

Read

Luke 16:1-17:10

Context

Jesus has much to say to the crowds who are surrounding him. To each audience, he speaks a word that is meant for them. While his teachings are for us also, the purpose of each lesson has a different problem in mind. His teachings come

sometimes in parables and sometimes as metaphor and sometimes in straight talk. He aimed to teach but also for his audience to think hard to learn his message. We are told to make every effort to enter through the narrow gate. We are told, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." (14:35) His teachings in this week's section can be tricky to understand, however it will pay for us to have ears to hear and time to meditate on his purpose for teaching each part.

Observation

What do you see in the text?

Meaning

Why were we given this text?

It seems that....

Application

What will you do now as a result
of reading this passage?

Study 10 - Luke 17:11-18:30

The Coming Kingdom

Read

Luke 17:11-18:30

Context

An overarching theme in the middle section of Luke is the question: 'Who is worthy of the kingdom of God?' Back in Chapter 9, a Samaritan village rejected Jesus on the basis that he was a Jew heading toward Jerusalem. The Pharisees were outraged at Jesus' association with 'sinners' and insulted at his

teachings against them. The challenges were given to choose between money or God; and family or God. Jesus also described the kingdom as abounding in forgiveness and the reality that the unworthy are invited.

One question remaining is, "When will this kingdom come?" What is the urgency to follow Jesus? Can we choose money now and leave the kingdom for later? Can we embrace this world with all it has to offer and concern ourselves with the next life in our third stage of life?

Observation

What do you see in the text?

Meaning

Why were we given this text?

It seems that....

Application

What will you do now as a result
of reading this passage?

Study 11 - Luke 18:31-19:27

The Time is Coming

Read

Luke 18:31-19:27

Context

It was Peter, back in Chapter 9 who declared that Jesus is God's Messiah. In that same chapter, Jesus forewarned his disciples on what to expect when they go to Jerusalem (9: 31, 32). Jesus and his twelve disciples have been travelling toward Jerusalem for these past 9 chapters. A common theme in this travelling narrative has been about what

kind of a person will choose to follow Jesus. Now, in Chapter 18 Verse 28, Peter declared that he and the disciples had left everything to follow him. He made this announcement because Jesus watched a rich man choose wealth ahead of the kingdom of God. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle," said Jesus, "than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

As Jesus and the twelve come close to Jerusalem, is there an example of what it looks like to follow Jesus when he calls?

Observation

What do you see in the text?

Meaning

Why were we given this text?

It seems that....

Application

What will you do now as a result
of reading this passage?

Week 2nd - 8th July

Extra Study-Luke 19:28-48

The King Has Come

Read

Luke 19:28-48

Context

Bring to memory any key events or statements that will shed light on the passage above.

Observation

What do you see in the text?

Meaning

Why were we given this text?

It seems that....

Application

What will you do now as a result
of reading this passage?