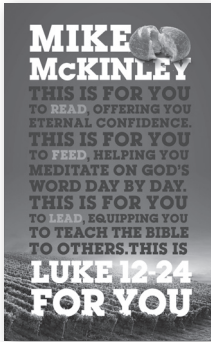




The kingdom is opened

LUKE 12 – 24

by Mike McKinley



Luke 12-24 For You

If you are reading *Luke 12-24 For You* alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *Luke 12-24 For You*:

Study One → Ch 1-2	Study Five → Ch 8-9
Study Two → Ch 3-4	Study Six → Ch 10
Study Three → Ch 5-6	Study Seven → Ch 11
Study Four → Ch 6-7	Study Eight → Ch 12

Find out more about *Luke 12-24 For You* at:
www.thegoodbook.com/for-you

The kingdom is opened

The Good Book Guide to Luke 12-24

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Introduction: Good Book Guides

Every Bible-study group is different—yours may take place in a church building, in a home or in a cafe, on a train, over a leisurely mid-morning coffee or squashed into a 30-minute lunch break. Your group may include new Christians, mature Christians, non-Christians, moms and tots, students, businessmen or teens. That's why we've designed these *Good Book Guides* to be flexible for use in many different situations.

Our aim in each session is to uncover the meaning of a passage, and see how it fits into the “big picture” of the Bible. But that can never be the end. We also need to appropriately apply what we have discovered to our lives. Let's take a look at what is included:

- ↔ **Talkabout:** Most groups need to “break the ice” at the beginning of a session, and here's the question that will do that. It's designed to get people talking around a subject that will be covered in the course of the Bible study.
- ↓ **Investigate:** The Bible text for each session is broken up into manageable chunks, with questions that aim to help you understand what the passage is about. The **Leader's Guide** contains **guidance for questions**, and sometimes ☑ additional “follow-up” questions.
- ⋮ **Explore more (optional):** These questions will help you connect what you have learned to other parts of the Bible, so you can begin to fit it all together like a jig-saw; or occasionally look at a part of the passage that's not dealt with in detail in the main study.
- **Apply:** As you go through a Bible study, you'll keep coming across **apply** sections. These are questions to get the group discussing what the Bible teaching means in practice for you and your church. 🗣️ **Getting personal** is an opportunity for you to think, plan and pray about the changes that you personally may need to make as a result of what you have learned.
- ↑ **Pray:** We want to encourage prayer that is rooted in God's word—in line with his concerns, purposes and promises. So each session ends with an opportunity to review the truths and challenges highlighted by the Bible study, and turn them into prayers of request and thanksgiving.

The **Leader's Guide** and introduction provide historical background information, explanations of the Bible texts for each session, ideas for **optional extra** activities, and guidance on how best to help people uncover the truths of God's word.

Why study Luke 12–24?

Reading the Gospel of Luke is like climbing a mountain.

The first four chapters take us into the lower foothills, introducing us to Jesus, the promised Savior who will reign on the throne of David as King over God's people, and who announced good news for the poor, oppressed, and needy.

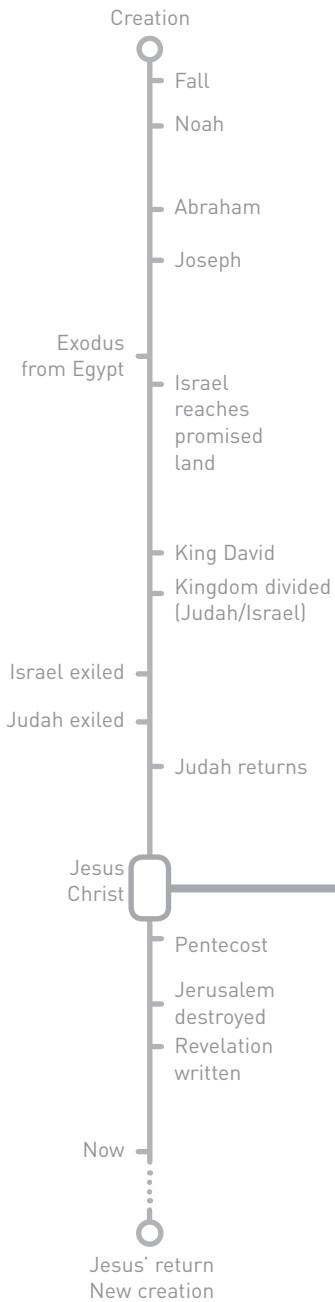
From there, the climb begins in earnest, as Jesus launches his public ministry of healing, exorcism, and teaching, revealing his divine power and explaining both the surprising nature of his kingdom and also what is required of someone who desires to be a citizen of it.

The first major peak in our climb comes in chapter 9, where Peter identifies Jesus as "God's Messiah," only to be told by the Messiah that he will suffer, be killed, and then rise to life three days later. From this point on, everything will be leading us toward Jesus' suffering in Jerusalem: "As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem" (v 51).

In this Good Book Guide, we join Jesus and the disciples on their long and steady approach toward Jerusalem, over something like a plateau extending from Luke 9 to Luke 19. Along the way, we will encounter some of Jesus' best-known and best-loved parables: stories of incredible love with surprising heroes. We will also see Jesus teaching about the nature of his return and intensifying his preparation for his disciples as the crisis of his crucifixion looms ever larger on the horizon.

In the middle of chapter 19, we find ourselves at the base of a final grand peak—a foreboding cliff that disappears into the clouds. As Jesus enters into Jerusalem, the unthinkable will begin to unfold—the Lord Jesus betrayed, arrested, tried, and crucified. Yet just when the darkness begins to seem overwhelming and our trip seems it might have been a terrible mistake, the clouds give way to the glories of the resurrection and the joy of the disciples in knowing that their Lord is alive forever.

So in these eight studies, Luke will mark out your path to the summit. In turns the climb will be surprising, challenging, reassuring, desperate, and thrilling. Expect to be transformed by Jesus as you see him on the road, follow him to the cross, and meet him beyond the empty tomb, risen and reigning.



BIBLE TIMELINE

Where does the Gospel of Luke fit into the whole story of God's word?

LUKE written c. AD 60

1

Luke 12 v 35 – 14 v 6

GET READY AND COME IN

talkabout

1. What future events affect your thinking, feelings or actions right now?

investigate

2. What do each of these passages from the first half of Luke tell us about:
 - Jesus the Messiah-King
 - Jesus' kingdom
 - life as Jesus' subjects?
- 1 v 30-33

 - 2 v 8-14

 - 4 v 42-44

 - 9 v 20-26

 - 9 v 28-35

 - 11 v 20-23

Toward the end of chapter 9 Luke told us that, “As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51). The second half of Luke’s Gospel unfolds in light of that larger purpose, and each encounter seems to move Jesus closer to his death in Jerusalem. The tone of the second half also shifts noticeably, as Jesus spends more time preparing his disciples for life in the time between his departure and his return in glory and judgment.

➤ **Read Luke 12 v 35 – 13 v 9**

3. What key piece of information about the future does Jesus give in verse 40?

DICTIONARY

Son of Man (v 40): Jesus often used this title to refer to himself (see Daniel 7 v 13-14).

4. How does the parable in verses 35-48 tell us to live in light of that future day?



explore more

optional

What does Jesus say he has not come to bring, and that he has come to bring (12 v 49, 51)?

To what does “fire” refer (see 3 v 9, 17)?

How will this be experienced and witnessed now, before the Son of Man returns in glory (12 v 52-53)?

What will Jesus undergo before the final fire comes (v 50)?

In the Old Testament, God’s judgment is pictured as a flood of overwhelming water (read Isaiah 8 v 7-8 and Jonah 2 v 3-6).

Sometimes, it literally was one (read Genesis 6 v 11-23 and Exodus 14 v 26-30).

Why is it wonderful news that Jesus went through his “baptism” before he will bring his “fire”?

5. How do these three sections tell us about what to expect of life now?

- 12 v 49-53

- 12 v 54-59

- 13 v 1-9?

• How do they tell us what to do in life now?

- 12 v 49-53

- 12 v 54-59

- 13 v 1-9?



➔ apply

6. What difference should the truth of 12 v 40 make to our lives today?

- Which of these is most firmly established in your life? Which are lacking?

🗣️ getting personal

The eighteenth-century American preacher Jonathan Edwards wrote as a young man, “Resolved, never to do any thing, which I should be afraid to do, if I expected it would not be above an hour, before I should hear the last trump” at the Son of Man’s return.

What would change tomorrow if you made the same resolution? How will you ensure you live in light of what you know the future holds?

⬇️ investigate

➤ Read Luke 13 v 10 – 14 v 1-6

Luke bookends the next section with accounts of two miraculous healings.

7. When do they take place? And what are the responses to Jesus’ actions?

DICTIONARY

Hypocrites (13 v 15): people who say one thing but do something else.

Pharisee (14 v 1): a member of a powerful religious group who took obedience to God’s commands extremely seriously—and added many extra rules to ensure they did not break those commands.

Law (v 3): God’s law in the Old Testament.

Mustard seed (v 19): is tiny!

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (v 28): the “patriarchs”—the forefathers of the people of Israel.

Herod (v 31): Herod Antipas, the king (under the Romans) of Galilee, in the north of Israel. He had already killed Jesus’ relative, John the Baptist (9 v 9).

The Greek text of verse 18 contains the word “therefore,” so we should interpret Jesus’ words in verses 18-21 in light of the healing that came immediately before it. The demonstration of a power that could deliver the bent-over woman from the power of Satan raised the question that Jesus picks up in verse 18 and verse 20: if Jesus is establishing the kingdom of God, what will it look like? Will it be characterized by spectacular displays of spiritual might and triumphant conquest?

8. How do verses 18-21 provide Jesus’ answer to that question?

- To what extent does the history of the church bear out Jesus’ description of his kingdom, do you think?

9. How are verses 22-30 both a promise and a warning?

- Is it easy to reach Christ’s eternal kingdom?

10. How does Jesus feel about those who reject him (v 34-35)?





getting personal

When Jesus quotes Psalm 118 v 26 in Luke 13 v 35, he is likely referring to his future return in judgment. At that time Jerusalem will have no choice but to acknowledge Jesus as the Lord's King.

The same is true for us—we will either hail Jesus as King now and so enter the great feast through the narrow door, or we will gnash our teeth as we are forced to acknowledge him after the door has shut.

Check your heart. Are you acknowledging Jesus as your King now, and living in light of the future arrival of his kingdom—or not?



apply

11. How can we use verses 18-21 to encourage ourselves when it does not seem that God is at work in the world around us, or at work through us?

12. In what ways should verses 34-35 shape our thinking about and talking with those we know who are not taking refuge under Jesus' wings?



pray

Thank God:

- that Jesus is coming back, and that he has given you work to do and people to serve as you wait for that future event.
- that his kingdom is growing, and that it includes you.

Ask God:

- to show you any ways you are not living now with your future in mind.
- to enable you to let the future coming of Christ shape your perspective on the highs and lows of this life.

