

# Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

## SSBC Luke Bible Study #22

*Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture in preparation for next Sunday's sermon.*

## Special Missions Week Study

Sermon Date: Feb 12, 2006

### Introduction:

In Jesus' sermon in Luke Chapter 6, he gives us a number of instructions for living, and concludes with a direct challenge to do what he says. The very next scene (7:1-10) introduces us to a Roman centurion who does just that – he demonstrates true faith and trust in the Lord.

Are we capable of such obedient trust? If we have accepted Christ as our Savior, then we absolutely are! For we have the Spirit of Christ living inside of us, a Spirit of power, love, and self discipline. A Spirit of wisdom, understanding, truth, and life.

And what are we given along with the Spirit? We, like the disciples of old, are given a mission. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

As you open God's Word to explore this great mission – ask the Lord to help you to understand it, to have God's heart for the world, to take action, and, by God's grace, to accomplish your mission fully!

*This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to [www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/](http://www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/)*

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Note: Parts of this Bible study are adapted from *Bridges to Everywhere*, a missions manual produced by The Navigators.

## Explore the Great Commission

1. What is the “Great Commission”? God has given us a special mission to accomplish, and his communication of this mission to us is often referred to as the “Great Commission”. Look for insights about our commission in the following passages and, on the line below each, write a simple phrase about the Great Commission based on that passage.

<sup>1</sup>The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Genesis 12:1-3)

<sup>15</sup>The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time <sup>16</sup>and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, <sup>18</sup>and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.” (Genesis 22:15-18)

<sup>5</sup>And now the LORD says — he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength — <sup>6</sup>he says: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.” (Isaiah 49:5-6)

<sup>35</sup>Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup>Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Matthew 9:35-38)

<sup>16</sup>Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:16-20)

<sup>15</sup>He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. (Mark 16:15)

<sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” (Luke 19:10)

<sup>35</sup> "Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35)

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<sup>44</sup> He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. (Luke 24:44-48)

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<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20:21-23)

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<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

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2. Review your notes above and write a summary statement in your own words that captures what you hear God "commissioning" us to do.

3. Consider the following verses:

<sup>14</sup> For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14)

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." (Revelation 7:9-10)

a. What does fulfillment of the Great Commission look like?

b. Has this been your attitude or expectation about the probable future? How might you or others act differently if you or they really believed this and even expected it in our lifetime?

4. What are some ways you can carry out the Great Commission this week? This month/year? Write down personal action points for some or all of the following ways of engaging in the Great Commission.

a. **Have God's heart for the world**

(Mt 9:35-36, Jn 3:16-17, 2 Pet 3:9)

b. **Pray** (Matthew 9:37-38)

c. **Give** (Romans 15:23-24)

d. **Send** (Acts 13:2-3)

e. **Promote** (John 4:31-38)

f. **Go** (Mark 16:15)

**Build Your Foundation:**

*"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" (Lk 6:46)*

5. What will you actually do in response to the Great Commission this week? Perhaps you feel like you don't have any extra time for a project or extra thing to do. But what if someone gave you an extra hour or two next week to spend on this. What could you do with it in response to what God has put on your mind and your heart in this study?

If you were thinking this was just a hypothetical question, you're wrong. Here's your extra hour or two. We decided not to write a study for next week, but to instead give you back that time that you would have spent doing the next Bible study. How could you use that hour or so taking one of the above steps of response to the Great Commission? And here's more. If you're in a small group, perhaps your group could also use that time to take action together. Review your responses to question #4 and consider what ways you might apply what you've learned about the Great Commission. And then go for it.

**Caution:** The time we've just given you is very perishable. Don't let anyone steal it. Mark out the time on your calendar when you might have otherwise done this study, and then protect that time for this activity. Tie a string on your finger. Set a reminder bell on your computer calendar. Whatever it takes.

Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to have God's heart for the world and take action by praying, giving, sending, promoting, and going. A world of opportunities awaits you. So what are you waiting for?

For those who would benefit from having some more ideas to think about and choose from, here are some suggestions:

### **Have God's Heart for the World**

- Get a map or globe and write down a short list of countries which, for whatever reason, are most dear to your heart
- Scan a world news magazine or newspaper section and make a list of places & peoples facing difficult times or seeming to be far from the Lord
- Memorize John 3:17 and Mark 16:15

### **Pray**

- Spend time asking God to send more missionary workers into specific areas and missions that you know about or are especially concerned about
- Spend a dedicated time praying for some missionaries you know or have information about (such as your church's supported missionaries)
- Spend a time of fasting in conjunction with praying for a specific missionary, mission field, or other aspect of world missions

### **Give**

- Spend time using a talent, selling a spare resource, or raising money some other way, and then give that money to world missions
- Pray about how God would have you or your family support world missions on a regular basis, such as through the church's faith promise commitment

### **Send**

- Find someone who is preparing for ministry, such as a seminary student, missionary candidate, or maybe just a young man or woman who you sense has a heart for the Lord and some talents that could be used to advance the Gospel, and call or write that person to encourage and bless them toward ministry.

### **Promote**

- Tell someone about a missionary or missions project you know about – being sure to weave in the good news about Jesus as you tell the story

### **Go**

- Tell God you're willing to go wherever he wants you to ("Here am I, send me." Isaiah 6:8). Then listen, and do what he tells you to do.