

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #100

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 24:50-53

Sermon Date: Sep 2, 2007

Luke Closes, Jesus Ascends, ... Rejoice!

As our study of the Gospel of Luke comes now to a close, we have much to rejoice about. The Messiah has come as promised. He has walked in our shoes, lived a perfect life, endured the punishment for sins that we – not he – deserved, and conquered death. Wow!

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD almighty will accomplish this. (Isa 9:6-7)

Thank you, Lord, for your Son. Thank you, Luke, for your gospel. And thank you, friends, for this wonderful season of studying Luke together. I have been greatly blessed to journey alongside you as we walked together through these 24 chapters of Luke, and I pray that you will enjoy God's rich blessings upon your life as you continue to live out what you have learned along the way.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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1. Read this week's Bible passage, the closing verses of Luke. Use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p style="text-align: center;">Luke 24:50-53</p> <p>⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.</p> <p>⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.</p> <p>⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.</p> <p>⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.</p>	

2. In Luke 24:50 Jesus raises his hands and blesses his disciples.

a. What does it mean to bless someone? (Consider some biblical examples of blessings by skimming through Gen 1:28, 9:1, 12:2, 27:1-40, 48:16, 49:1-28, Joshua 31:7-8, 34:9 and Lk 2:25-35.)

b. What do you think Jesus' disciples were thinking and feeling as they experienced his blessing?

c. How have you personally experienced being blessed by someone in your life? What happened? How did it feel?

d. Review the other accounts of Jesus last encounters with his disciples by reading Mt 28:16-20, Mk 16:15-20, and Acts 1:1-9. Considering these, along with Lk 24:36-53, how would you summarize Jesus' pre-ascension blessing over his disciples?

3.a. What is the significance of Jesus' ascension to heaven? (Consider John 14:2-3, Acts 2:33, 1 Cor 15:25, Eph 1:20-21, and 1 Thess 4:17)

b. The disciples' response to the ascension is described in verses 52-53. What is your response to the ascension?

Reviewing the Book of Luke:

As you come to the close of your study of the book of Luke, take time now to revisit the book's purpose, key themes & lessons, and your personal highlights and takeaways from your study. Begin by studying the book's introduction in Luke 1:1-4:

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p style="text-align: center;">Luke 1:1-4</p> <p>¹ Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.</p> <p>³ Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.</p>	

Next, review the whole book, either by reading it through once more (sure, that's a tall order, but you'll be greatly blessed if you can make time to do this), or by just skimming through it, noticing the headlines, things you've highlighted/underlined, and whatever else catches your eye.

5. What were some of the **highlights** of your reading and study of this gospel? Were there a few **key themes** that stood out to you? Or were there certain **passages** that especially spoke to your heart? Capture some of these highlights by noting them below.

4. What was Luke's stated purpose in writing his Gospel account?

6. Reflecting back on your study of Luke, what did you learn or especially notice about **Jesus**— his life, his mission, how he treated people, his teachings, etc?

7. What have you learned about **yourself** over these past two years as you have explored the Gospel of Luke?

8. The book of Luke closes with Jesus blessing his disciples as he ascends to heaven. How has the Lord blessed you through the Gospel of Luke over these past two years as you have studied it?

9. How can you pass these blessings you have received from the Lord on to others?

*Then they worshiped him
and returned to Jerusalem
with great joy.*

*And they stayed
continually at the temple,
praising God.*

(Luke 24:52-53)

Amen.