

Name:

Luke 9-10 Bible Studies

Semester 2, 2014

meet the King.



Luke 9-10 Bible Studies

Welcome to Bible Study groups for Semester 1!

These studies are intended to be two things: They're INTERACTIVE, which means that the more you participate, the better they'll be, and they're APPLICABLE, in that each week as we talk about what the passage means, we'll also be talking about how it works out in a real campus situation.

So... what does that mean? Like everything we do at ES, Bible Studies are designed to help you grow in your faith and the way that you express it, and to support you in sharing the gospel of Jesus on campus. To that end, the best way to make the most of your opportunities at ES is to make a priority of BSGs, and either coming to our weekly talk, or catching up online. At only 2 hours a week, odds are you spend longer procrastinating on Facebook!

Finally, to get the most out of these studies, you can do three things each week before your study time:

1. **Read** the passage in advance
2. **Pray** that God would help you to understand it more fully, and how it applies to you
3. **Think** about the passage, and, if you have time, take a look at the questions in the booklet.

This will certainly help you, but an even better principle is to think about how you can be serving each other – your preparation and attendance will help y our brothers and sisters in Christ as they come together each week – so make it a priority!

Again, thank you for joining us in a BSG, and we pray you'll have a great term!

Praying for our friends...

One of the key components of our Bible Study Groups is a commitment to pray for one another, and also praying for those of our friends who we would love to see come to know Christ. To that end, make a list of those in your group, and others such as their friends that you are praying for, here:

Week 2 – Luke 9:1 – 17

Encountering the King.

Who's in my group?

Your leaders will spend some time with you helping you get to know the others in your group – take your time, and have fun!

Write down the names of the people in your group here:

Welcome to the first Bible Study for Semester 2 (yay!)

1. Spend some time getting to know your group, and sharing from your holidays.
2. Particularly for those who went to MYC – what’s one thing that you learned from MYC that you’re keen to see have an impact on your walk with God this year?

Read the passage together.

Luke 9:1 When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, **2** and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. **3** He told them: “Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt. **4** Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. **5** If people do not welcome you, leave their town and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.” **6** So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.

7 Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was going on. And he was perplexed because some were saying that John had been raised from the dead, **8** others that Elijah had appeared, and still others that one of the prophets of long ago had come back to life. **9** But Herod said, “I beheaded John. Who, then, is this I hear such things about?” And he tried to see him.

10 When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida, **11** but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

12 Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.”

13 He replied, “You give them something to eat.”

They answered, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish— unless we go and buy food for all this crowd.” **14** (About five thousand men were there.)

But he said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.” **15** The disciples did so, and everyone sat down. **16** Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. **17** They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

These verses relate in two ways to the kingdom of God – first, they describe the preaching of the kingdom (see verses 2 and 11), and second, the miracles show us something of the nature of that kingdom (we’ll get to that later!)

3. How important is the idea that ‘Jesus is king’ to preaching the gospel? Why?

4. What is he king over? How do you know?

5. What do the stories in this passage teach us about what God's kingdom will be like? Why is that important to know?

6. How similar should we expect the mission that Jesus describes in verses 1 – 6 to be to our own experience as Christians? Why do you think the way that you do?

7. What worries or scares you about sharing the gospel message with others?

8. When we think about Jesus Week (your leader will explain that if you don't know what it is), how does this passage help us think about it and prepare?

9. How can we support each other in our witness on campus? Think of some specific ways – then resolve to do them!

Prayer.

Week 3 – Study 2.

Have you seen his glory? Luke 9:18-36

1. What's the most extreme thing that you've ever done, or seen?
What was it like?

Read the passage together.

Luke 9:18 Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?”

19 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.”

20 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “God’s Messiah.”

21 Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. **22** And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. **24** For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. **25** What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? **26** Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

27 “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

'Messiah' is a way of writing the Hebrew word that means the same as 'Christ' in Greek – literally referring to an 'anointed' person, that is, a person who has been ceremonially commissioned for a particular role (in the Old Testament days they used to pour oil on kings to 'anoint' them). In verse 20 when Peter announces that Jesus is God's 'Messiah' he is in effect announcing Jesus as God's appointed king. Peter is the first person to recognize that Jesus is God's king.

2. How does Jesus respond to this?

3. Does anything strike you as odd about his response? What, and why?

4. Why is it important that we, as Jesus' followers, remember these things?

5. What does it mean to 'take up our cross and follow' Jesus?

6. What might that look like practically in our lives? What *won't* it look like?

7. Look at verse 26. How does that make you feel?

If you get time, you might also like to do the following...

Read the following passage together.

Luke 9:28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. **29** As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. **30** Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. **31** They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. **32** Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. **33** As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)

34 While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. **35** A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” **36** When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

The description above almost doesn't do justice to what happened!

8. How do you think you could define the 'glory' mentioned in verse 29 and 32? What do you think this incident is about?

9. How Jesus' glory affect the way that we share the gospel? (Think in terms of both content and style.)

Prayer.

Week 4 – no study (Jesus Week)

But so many chances to invite friends to events, and for prayer!

Week 5 – Study 3.

The cost of discipleship – Luke 9:51-62

Read the passage together.

51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. **52** And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; **53** but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. **54** When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?” **55** But Jesus turned and rebuked them. **56** Then he and his disciples went to another village.

57 As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

58 Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

59 He said to another man, “Follow me.”

But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

60 Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

61 Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”

62 Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

1. Why do you think that the disciples react the way that they do in verse 54? That is, why might they not be acting totally psycho?

2. What does Jesus show them about the kingdom, and God's king?

In verses 57 to 62, Jesus encounters three 'potential candidates' for kingdom work.

3. Do their responses seem reasonable? Why / why not?

4. What (if anything) do you find surprising about Jesus' response?

5. What do you think is his point?

6. How do you think we are meant to understand and respond to these three encounters?

7. What does it mean to 'follow Jesus', that is, what does it involve our doing, and why?

8. What is 'service in the kingdom of God'? What does it look like in your context as a student, and your future context in the career you're training for?

Pray for one another in response to what we've looked at today.

Week 6 – Study 4.

The evangelization of the world in this generation – Luke 10:1-24

1. What do you think would qualify someone to be a Christian missionary?

Read the passage together.

Luke 10:1 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. **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.

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.

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.”

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.”

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.”

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.”

This is the second time that Jesus sends his followers out ahead of him, and tasks them to proclaim the message of the kingdom (refer back to study one for the first time!)

2. What does it mean to pray for more ‘workers for the harvest field’ (Luke 10:2)? How can we specifically pray for that, that is, what areas of need are you aware of?

3. How, from this passage, will that prayer be answered?

Read the following passage:

Ephesians 4:11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **12** to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

4. How does this help us to pray in response to the instruction of Luke 10:2?
5. Jesus says that he will send them like 'lambs amongst wolves'. What do you think this means? How does it describe the experience of Christians today, if at all?

6. As you read over verses 13 to 24, what would you say is the aim of the mission? That is, what is the purpose of Jesus' sending out the 72?

7. Look at verses 16 and 22. How can you express this idea in your own words?

8. How can we pray for one another in our witness on campus in response to this passage?

Prayer.

Week 7 – Study 5

The love of neighbor – Luke 10:25-37

1. Which is more important, doing good to people, or speaking the message clearly? Why?

Read the passage together.

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.”

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."

2. What's the assumption behind verse 25, that is, what does it reveal about the 'teacher of the law' and his understanding of how salvation works?

3. Do you think that he's right or not? Why/why not?

4. How does Jesus' response help us understand the role and place of the law?

Meet the actors!

5. Looking at the 'key players' in this passage, what do you know about...
 - a. Teachers of the law?
 - b. Israelite Priests?
 - c. Levites?
 - d. Samaritans (and Jews)?
6. Based on all that... what's the 'punch' of this story?

7. We're to 'do likewise' – what about the Samaritan's response guides us here?

8. What might loving your neighbor look like in the context you're in?

Pray for one another in response to the passage.

Week 8 – Study 6

The top of the to-do list – Luke 10:38-41

Read the passage together.

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. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

This week we're going to do something different... having read the above passage, it seems appropriate to spend some time focusing on Jesus!

1. Get each group member to share either something they've learned from part of the gospel of Luke from the term's studies, or another favourite story of Jesus that they'd like to share. Tell the group why that story has significance for you.

Once everyone has had an opportunity to share, spend some time praising God for how he has made himself known in Jesus, and what he's done for us.

Thanks for being part of a BSG this term! Come back next term for the tale of Jonah, the big fish, and a heck of a lot of grace!