

Week 19 (5/6/2019 – 5/12/2019)

<p>Monday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 2</p>	<p>* Read the introduction to Luke carefully (1:1-4). Luke emphasizes that this is an accurate account of Jesus’ life. He has carefully researched the facts and recorded the events in an orderly manner. As you read the Gospel of Luke, notice the names, dates, and details included in the narrative. Of all the gospels, Luke gives the most detailed account of Jesus’ life and ministry.</p> <p>? Lk 1:38 – Highlight the phrase, “let it be to me according to your word.” Mary faces months of shame and years of suffering, but she willingly submits to God’s will. Do you show a willing submission to God’s will?</p> <p>* One theme of the Gospel of Luke is the humanity of Jesus. He is the Son of God, but he is also the “Son of Man.” He is divine, but he is fully human. Luke 2-4 tells the story of Jesus’ birth, his human genealogy, and his temptation in the wilderness. Each of these stories demonstrates the real humanity of Jesus of Nazareth.</p>
<p>Tuesday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 5</p>	<p>* John the Baptist required converts to “bear fruits in keeping with repentance.” Their life demonstrated genuine repentance. Becoming a Christian is more than adopting a set of beliefs. To become a Christian means to change one’s entire direction in life.</p> <p>? What are the “fruits” of your repentance? Can your family, friends, and coworkers see a change in your life? Does your life match your testimony?</p> <p>? Jesus had three tools as he faced temptation. Do you use these tools when you face temptation? Do you follow the <u>leadership of the Holy Spirit</u>? Do you spend time in <u>prayer and fasting</u>? Do you memorize <u>Scripture</u> to use when you are tempted?</p> <p>? Read Luke 4:22 and then 4:28. Why does the attitude of the people change so dramatically? Is the answer found in 4:25-27?</p>
<p>Wednesday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 6</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 7</p>	<p>* Luke 6 contains an abbreviated version of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Compare Luke 6 with Matthew 5-7 and notice that Luke focuses on Jesus’ teaching about how we treat people.</p> <p>? Do you call Jesus “Lord” without obeying His commands (Luke 6:46)?</p> <p>? Think of the sins for which God has forgiven you (Lk 7:47). Does this increase your love for Him?</p>
<p>Thursday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 9</p>	<p>* Luke gives more attention than any other gospel to the role of women in Jesus’ ministry. This is noteworthy in a society where women were usually ignored. The Christian church gave far more respect to women than the Greco-Roman culture. Notice the list of women in Luke 8:2-3. They came from all levels of society – from a high social position in Herod’s palace to a demon-possessed woman who would be an outcast.</p> <p>? As you read the story of the demon-possessed man in Luke 8:26-39, notice that the townspeople were more afraid of Jesus’ power than of the demon-possessed man. Instead of praising Jesus for this miracle, they asked him to leave! Why? What would cause a person to fear Jesus’ power?</p> <p>? As you read Luke 9:23-26 and 9:57-62, ask: -What is the price of discipleship? (9:23-24) -What are the rewards of discipleship? (9:25-26) -What excuses do I find to avoid the demands of true discipleship? (9:57-62)</p>

<p>Friday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 11</p>	<p>* Luke 9:51 is a key verse in the Gospel of Luke. “When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.” From this point, Luke focuses on Jesus’ preparation of the disciples for his departure. He teaches them the cost of discipleship and how to minister after he is gone. In Luke 10, Jesus sends out seventy-two (some manuscripts and Greek copies read “seventy”) followers proclaiming “the kingdom of God.” When they return, Jesus gives them further instruction. Jesus is preparing his followers to accomplish the Great Commission after his death, resurrection, and ascension.</p> <p>? As you read the story of the Good Samaritan, ask, “When I see a person in need, do I respond like the priest and Levite or like the Samaritan? Do I see a problem to avoid or a person to love?”</p> <p>? Personalize the Lord’s Prayer (Lk 11:2-4):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Is God <i>my Father</i>? -Do I glorify His name? -Do I seek His kingdom, power, and glory? -Do I obey His will on earth as it is obeyed in heaven? -Do I trust Him for my daily needs? -Do I forgive others so that He will forgive me? -Do I seek to be delivered from temptation?
<p>Saturday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 12</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 13</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 14</p>	<p>? What is your attitude towards money?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Do you trust in money? (Lk 12:15-21) -Do you worry about money? (Lk 12:22-30) -Do you seek the Kingdom of God? (Lk 12:31-34) <p>? Lk 14:7-14 - What is your motivation for giving? Do you give for personal reward or do you give to have God’s blessing?</p> <p>? Lk 14:26-33 – Have you paid the cost of discipleship?</p>
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

Week 20 (5/13/2019 - 5/19/2019)

<p>Monday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 15</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 16</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 17</p>	<p>* One of the important themes in Luke is God’s care for the undeserving. Few stories better illustrate this theme than the three-part parable in Luke 15. Jesus tells about a shepherd who lost one of a hundred sheep, a woman who lost one of ten coins, and a father who lost one of two sons. In each case, there is rejoicing when the lost is found. Luke shows the heart of our heavenly Father who cares for the lost – even though we are lost because of our own rebellious choices.</p> <p>? Do you have the judgmental heart of the Elder Brother or the loving heart of the Father?</p> <p>? Who is your master? Who holds controlling power in your life? (Lk 16:13)</p> <p>? It is easy to receive God’s blessings without taking time to thank Him for the blessings. Make a list of God’s blessings in your life. Each day this week, thank Him for at least one blessing you have received. Develop a habit of thanksgiving.</p>
<p>Tuesday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 18</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 19</p>	<p>* The parables in Luke 18 teach about prayer.</p> <p>-The parable of the Unrighteous Judge shows the importance of persistent prayer. As you read this parable, realize that <i>God is not the unrighteous judge</i> of the story. Instead, Jesus says, if an unrighteous judge will eventually give justice to a persistent widow, <i>how much more</i> will our loving Father give justice to His children?</p> <p>-The parable of the Pharisee and the Publican shows the importance of humble prayer. The person who exalts himself receives nothing from God. The person who humbles himself before God “will be exalted.”</p> <p>? What is your attitude in prayer? The pride of the Pharisee or the humility of the publican?</p> <p>? The parable in Luke 19:11-27 teaches us to be faithful while we wait for God’s kingdom to be revealed. Are you using your gifts to serve God?</p>
<p>Wednesday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 20</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 21</p>	<p>* Luke 20-21 shows the final conflicts between Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem. These leaders are not seeking truth; they are seeking to trap Jesus into saying something that will cause Rome to arrest him.</p> <p>? According to Luke 21:28, prophecies of the end-times should bring hope to Christians. “Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Do you read prophecy with fear and dread, or with hope and anticipation?</p> <p>? According to Luke 21:34-36, prophecies of the end-times should warn Christians to remain spiritually alert. “Stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.” Are you living in constant readiness for the Lord’s return?</p>
<p>Thursday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 22</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 23</p>	<p>* When you read Luke 1, you saw Mary’s submission to God’s will; “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38). At the end of Luke, you see Jesus’ submission to his Father’s will; “Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done” (Lk 22:42).</p> <p>? Do you live in willing submission to God?</p> <p>? During the Last Supper, the disciples were arguing about “which of them was to be regarded as the greatest.” Jesus was the greatest one in the room, but he became “the one who serves” (Lk 22:27). Do you seek greatness, or do you seek to serve?</p> <p>? Read Luke 22:31-34 and 22:54-62. Why did Peter fail in the time of testing? What could he have done to prepare for this test?</p> <p>? Imagine that you were at Golgotha watching Jesus die. In that hour, what would you think about Jesus’ promises of an eternal kingdom?</p>

<p>Friday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke 24</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acts 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acts 2</p>	<p>* Luke and Acts were both written by Doctor Luke. Notice the similarities between Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-2. Then notice the connection between Luke 24 and Acts 1. -Luke 24 ends with the story of Jesus’ ascension and the promise of the Holy Spirit. -Acts 1 begins with the story of Jesus’ ascension and the promise of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>? As you read Acts, highlight each reference to the Holy Spirit. Notice the centrality of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of the early church.</p> <p>? Imagine that you were one of the first people to visit the empty tomb. What would you feel? What would you say to the other disciples when you returned from the tomb?</p> <p>? As you read Acts 1:8, ask, “Where is my Jerusalem? Where is my Samaria?” Are you witnessing to Christ in your world?</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acts 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acts 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acts 5</p>	<p>* The Book of Acts is often subtitled, the “Acts of the Apostles.” However, it might be better called the “Acts of the Holy Spirit.” The miracles and signs in Acts are done through the Holy Spirit. The emphasis of Acts is not the power of the apostles, but the power of the Holy Spirit revealed <i>through</i> apostles who were fully obedient to God.</p> <p>? Two things marked the early Christians: their power and their boldness in the face of persecution. What gave them such boldness? (See Acts 4:13 for one answer).</p> <p>? When the religious leaders commanded apostles to quit preaching, the early Christians began to pray. Before you read Acts 5, ask “If I were facing persecution, what would I ask for in my prayer?” Then read Acts 5. Notice the prayer in 5:29. The apostles prayed not for deliverance from persecution, but for boldness to preach in the face of persecution. Do you see why the early church grew in spite of opposition?</p> <p>? What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira? They were not <i>required</i> to give the money to the apostles. They were judged because they claimed to give the money when they had kept back part of it. In their pride, they wanted honor for giving more than they gave.</p>
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

Week 21 (5/20/2019 - 5/26/2019)

<p>Monday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acts 6</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acts 7</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acts 8</p>	<p>* In Acts, we see the Holy Spirit work through the early church to accomplish God’s mission in our world. In this week’s readings, you will see the gospel begin to move beyond Jerusalem. Philip takes the gospel to Samaria. Saul is converted and takes the gospel to the Gentiles. Jesus’ great commission is being fulfilled in the church.</p> <p>* Acts 6 tells about one of the early conflicts in the church. The Greek-speaking Jews felt they were treated with less care than the traditional Hebrew-speaking Jews. The church’s solution provides a principle for leadership today. The members who raised the problem were given responsibility to solve the problem; Greek-speaking deacons were appointed to care for the Greek widows.</p> <p>? Notice the qualifications for the deacons appointed to care for the Christian widows (Acts 6:3). Do you consider spiritual qualifications for every position in the church?</p> <p>? Notice the church’s care for its widows. The early church was known for its care for those in need. How does your church follow this example?</p> <p>? Read Stephen’s sermon in Acts 7. Why is Old Testament history so important in this New Testament sermon?</p> <p>? When you read that Saul “approved of Stephen’s execution,” would you expect that Saul will become Paul, the first great Christian missionary?</p>
<p>Tuesday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acts 9</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acts 10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acts 11</p>	<p>? As you read about Saul’s conversion, recall your conversion. You may not have a dramatic story like Saul, but do you remember the transformation that God brought in your life? Take time today to thank God for His life-transforming power.</p> <p>? Think of the difficult change Peter had to make in his thinking (Acts 10). The laws about unclean food were not just a cultural tradition; they were part of Peter’s entire way of life! Peter was learning to follow God’s teaching step by step. What things has God taught you as you seek to follow Him? Are you open to His teaching when it contradicts your expectations?</p>
<p>Wednesday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acts 12</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acts 13</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Acts 14</p>	<p>* As the church spread, persecution soon followed. This is the pattern throughout church history. The Reformation led to the Inquisition. The Puritans were put in prison. Missionaries to China were killed in the Boxer Rebellion. Russian Christians were imprisoned under Stalin. Christians in Islamic countries today face daily danger. Persecution is “normal” for a growing church (Matt 5:11-12). Despite persecution, “the word of God increased and multiplied” (Acts 12:24).</p> <p>? Would you be faithful to share the Word of God if it brought persecution? The reason the church in Acts grew is that they preached the Word despite persecution.</p> <p>? How do you think God would have responded if Paul and Barnabas accepted the worship of the people (Acts 14:11-14)? Would you be tempted to accept this honor?</p>
<p>Thursday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> James 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> James 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> James 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> James 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> James 5</p>	<p>* James was the brother of Jesus. After Jesus’ resurrection, James became a believer and was soon a leader in the church at Jerusalem. His epistle was probably written sometime around the period of Acts 14-16.</p> <p>* James is one of the most practical New Testament letters. It is sometimes called “New Testament Proverbs” because of its practical advice regarding the tongue, anger, temptation, etc.</p> <p>? As you read James, make a list of the practical topics. For example, James 1 includes teaching about temptation (1:12-15), anger (1:19-20), obedience (1:21-25), speech (1:26), and care for the poor (1:27). Choose one topic that speaks to an area of struggle in your life. For the next week, pray daily that God will help you apply James’ teaching in your life.</p>

<p>Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 1 	<p>* The Jerusalem Council met in AD 49 to discuss the issue of Gentile believers (Acts 15). They asked, “Must Gentiles be circumcised to be a part of the church? Must Gentiles follow the Jewish food laws?” After praying and studying Scripture, they determined that the Gentiles had to follow only four guidelines, from Leviticus 17-18. Leviticus says that these laws apply to “any one of the house of Israel (Jews) or of the strangers who sojourn among them (Gentiles).” Because of this, the early church determined that these four laws must be followed by Gentile converts (Acts 15:20). Other Jewish rituals were not obligatory for Gentile believers.</p> <p>? The early church settled conflicts by meeting together to study the teaching of Scripture and to pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance. Does our church follow a biblical pattern for settling conflicts?</p> <p>? As you read Acts 16, notice how the gospel speaks to all levels of society. Lydia is a wealthy businesswoman. The demon-possessed slave girl is an outcast. The Philippian jailer is a Roman official. The gospel speaks to all levels of society. Is our church reaching people at all levels of society? If we are failing to reach some groups, how can we better reach them?</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 6 	<p>* Galatians was probably Paul’s first letter. Even after the Jerusalem Council, some Jewish Christians tried to press Gentiles to follow the food laws and circumcision. Paul wrote Galatians to address this false teaching. Notice the urgency of his warning against false teaching; “If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed” (Gal 1:9).</p> <p>Paul response to this false gospel is to proclaim the wonderful truth that we are justified by grace through faith in Christ alone. This message is central to the Christian faith. Because of this, Galatians has been one of Paul’s most influential letters.</p> <p>* Reflect on the imagery of Gal 2:20. As Christians, we have joined Christ on the cross; we are crucified with him. Because of this, we live with him. We cannot be joined with Christ in resurrection unless we are joined with him in dying to ourselves and our desires.</p> <p>? Paul does not teach, “Since Christians do not live under the law, we are free to fulfill our own sinful desires.” No! Paul teaches, “Since Christians are led by the Spirit, we will fulfill God’s commands <i>through the power of the Spirit living in us</i>” (Gal 5:16-23). An apple tree does not struggle to produce apples; fruit is natural to the tree. In the same way, the Christian does not struggle to produce love, joy, peace, etc. When the Holy Spirit lives in us, His fruit is the natural result. Are you producing the fruit of the Spirit in your life?</p>
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

Week 22 (5/27/2019 - 6/2/2019)

<p>Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The books of 1 & 2 Samuel record the early days of Israel’s monarchy. After the chaos of the days of the Judges, the anointing of Saul as king united the nation under one ruler. * The story of Eli shows the failures of Israel’s religious leaders during the years just before the monarchy. Eli misunderstands Hannah’s spiritual fervor (1:13-14); he rebukes his sons for their sin but does not banish them from service (2:22-24). ? Are you careful to listen to God’s voice? Are you sensitive to His leadership? ? Israel trusted in the ark of the covenant to protect them from the Philistines. They did not understand that the ark was important <i>only</i> because of God’s presence. Without God’s presence, the ark would not protect Israel. What are the symbols of God’s presence in your worship? Do you have the symbols without the reality of His presence?
<p>Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 9 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Even the Philistines learned to respect the ark of the covenant. They learned that Jehovah is a God of unimaginable power. ? In order to “return to the Lord,” Israel had to put away all other gods (1 Sam 7:3). Jesus later said, “You cannot serve God and money” (Matt 6:24). We can serve only one God. What “god” is a temptation to you? What pulls you away from serving God alone? ? Like Eli, Samuel tolerated the sins of his sons (1 Sam 8:1-3). Why do we tolerate the sins of our adult children when we severely judge those same sins in other people? ? Notice Saul’s humility early in life (1 Sam 9:21). How does 1 Samuel 10:27 demonstrate Saul’s humility in his early reign?
<p>Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 11 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 13 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? If you hold a leadership position in the church, read Samuel’s farewell carefully in 1 Samuel 12. Aim to follow his example of integrity. * 1 Samuel 13 is the beginning of Saul’s decline. At the beginning of his reign, Saul was humble and trusted God. Sadly, he soon became proud and trusted in his own strength. This is seen first in his impatience while waiting for Samuel to offer the required sacrifices before battle. “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6). ? The historical books often narrate events without giving an evaluation. Is Jonathan a positive example (winning victory over the Philistines) or a negative example (showing disrespect to his father in 1 Sam 14:29)?
<p>Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 15 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 16 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Saul’s tragic decline continues in 1 Samuel 15. He disobeys God’s clear instructions (15:3); lies to the prophet (15:13); and blames the people instead of taking responsibility for his own actions (15:15). In judgment, Samuel tells Saul that God will take the kingdom away from Saul. ? Even facing judgment, Saul was more concerned about the people’s approval than about God’s evaluation (1 Sam 15:30). Which is more important to you: the approval of people or the approval of God? * God judges the heart rather than external appearance alone (1 Sam 16:7). As you read, ask God to give you a heart that is right and pure before Him. ? Notice the difference between David and the backslidden Saul. Saul is most concerned for the approval of people; David is most concerned for the glory of God. David fights Goliath so that “all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel” (1 Sam 17:45-46). Do you seek your own glory or the glory of God?

<p>Friday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 18</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 19</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 20</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 21</p>	<p>* These chapters demonstrate the continuing decline of Saul. In his paranoia, he tries to murder David. At the same time, these chapters show the rise of David. God protects David from Saul (19-20) and from Achish (21).</p> <p>? When Saul was first anointed king, he was humble. Now he is proud and jealous of the attention that David receives (1 Sam 18:8-9). Are you able to see other people praised without becoming jealous of their success?</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 22</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 23</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 24</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 Samuel 25</p>	<p>* Saul is so controlled by his anger and jealousy that he accuses his own son, Jonathan, of conspiring with David, and he murders the priests who gave food to David (1 Sam 22).</p> <p>? Do you respect those in authority over you? If you were in David’s situation, would you take the opportunity to kill the man who was trying to murder you? Even though Saul has failed as a king, David respects the position of the king (1 Sam 24).</p> <p>? How did Abigail demonstrate that she was wiser than her husband, Nabal?</p>
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>