Now is the Time: Luke is a 25-day journey through the book of Luke that calls participants to transform the world by unleashing God’s Word in their city.

Note to Ministry Leaders: This suite of resources includes tracks for adults, youth, and children. Companion materials include discussion guides and sermon outlines.

To access these materials, go to NowLuke.com. Check out the Luke 4.18-19 Assignment and live out Scripture everywhere, every day.
HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

ABOUT LUKE

The book of Luke is the first of the writer’s two-part volume, Luke-Acts, which was written to give a careful account of the events that happened during the life of Jesus. Luke uses the accounts of several eyewitnesses to introduce his readers to Jesus’ life and ministry. Luke tells of Jesus’ encounter with people who were very much like us as they struggled to determine what their purpose was. They were deeply concerned about their families, their communities, and their nation. Jesus shows up and offers love and compassion to both Jew and Gentile, no matter what their social or economic status. Who was this remarkable rabbi who taught about God’s kingdom and offered his audience salvation? Luke reveals how Jesus gave them a radical new gospel, taught them to love sacrificially, to forgive unconditionally, and to serve and worship God from a heart free of selfish motives.

Family Time

The book of Luke is a perfect place for children to read about colorful characters, simple concepts, and profound truths – all there for families to learn and respond together!

WHAT TO EXPECT

This interactive Discussion Guide is designed to allow each of you to dig into the text in order to understand who Jesus is, why he came to earth, and what he wants you to do. As you journey with Jesus through the accounts of Luke, expect to be changed by Jesus’ transforming power through the Word of God. Engage the Scriptures daily and discover Jesus who describes himself as “The Son of Man [who] came to look for and to save people who are lost” (Luke 19.10). Allow God’s Spirit to draw you close to God as you engage with Jesus’ messages and the miracles he performed in the lives of hurting people. Expect to learn, to be challenged, and to grow as you discuss and engage the text and other members of your group. Expect, too, to use your discovery to positively impact your family, church, and community.

Family Time

Children are often used by God to be powerful witnesses of the good news of Jesus. You’ll find discussion questions aimed at young children that correlate with the Bible Trek: Luke children’s devotionals, as well as fun suggestions for learning weekly memory verses together as a family. Your family will be strengthened as you respond to God’s Word together in real and practical ways that can impact the world around you!
GETTING TO THE CORE

One of the central themes of Luke is the role of Jesus as Savior to all humankind. Luke also reveals Jesus’ great compassion for those who are downtrodden, disenfranchised, and poor. In his inaugural sermon, Jesus proclaims, among other things, that he is the one whom God has chosen “to tell the good news to the poor….to announce freedom for prisoners, to give sight to the blind, to free everyone who suffers” (Luke 4.18). Each of us “suffers” in some form. As you discuss various themes in the life and ministry of Jesus, study them with an introspective eye. Recognize that it is for you Jesus came, lived, and died. Recognize too, that Jesus’ resurrection, ascension, and imminent return is about establishing a relationship with you and through you to others. How will you personally respond to Jesus’ gift of salvation and then live out his example of compassion to the world around you?

Family Time

The faith of a child is often uncluttered, simple, and powerful. You can help your children see the power of God in the life of your family by developing the habit of sharing spiritual truths with one another and sharing what God is doing in each of your lives.

LIVE IT OUT!

The accounts in Luke will become alive in you when you are willing to live out this radical gospel in such a way that causes people to take notice. Each week, for a period of five weeks, discussion points, questions, and activities will challenge you to not only recall what you’ve read, but also to look beyond the text for opportunities to incorporate what you have learned in your day-to-day encounter with others. All Scripture texts are taken from the Contemporary English Version (CEV), an easy-to-understand translation that makes the Scripture come alive for all ages. A weekly affirmation called “Live It Out!” taken from Scripture, will encourage you to put learning into practice.

LUKE 4 ASSIGNMENT: SCRIPTURE ENGAGED IS SCRIPTURE LIVED!

The Luke 4 Assignment is a call for you to strategically impact those around you as an individual, church, organization, community, family, or small group. During your 25-day Scripture journey you will be encouraged to live out God’s Word through a group assignment based on Luke 4.18, 19.

The Luke 4 Assignment allows children, youth, and adults to make a difference in their communities and cities by connecting people to the love of Jesus. Adapted from, and used with the permission of Pastor Rick Warren, Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, CA, the model presents 65 opportunities to live out this radical gospel in practical ways.
The **Luke 4 Assignment** will be a major focus for your group over the next 25 days. Here are your next steps:

1. Recruit a group member to be your Luke 4 Champion. Your Champion will keep everybody moving forward toward the Assignment.

   Our Luke 4 Champion is: __________________________________________________________

2. As a group, prayerfully consider the opportunities at NowLuke.com

3. Pray together and ask God to guide you in the selection and implementation of your **Luke 4 Assignment**.

**LUKE 4 CHALLENGE FOR KIDS**

Specially designed for families with children, the Luke 4 Challenge section correlates with each week’s children’s devotionals, and offers practical ideas to engage kids in living out the gospel of Jesus in service to others. Don’t miss these opportunities to strengthen your family as you work together to build God’s Kingdom!

**MEMORIZE IT!**

Participants will also be introduced to weekly **Memory Verses**. These Memory Verses provide a point of reference to the text and allow the Word of God to be etched in your mind and heart for lifelong benefit. Families with children will have the added advantage of participating in **Memory Verse Fun**, a series of activities that make memorization fun and reinforce the Scriptures even more. Memory Verses are offered at two levels, including an easier passage for young children.

**Family Time**

*Memorize these Bible verses together as a family! Post them on the walls, quiz each other at the dinner table, play memory verse games – all for the indescribable life gift of hiding God’s Word deep in your hearts.*

This Discussion Guide is designed to enrich your journey through the book of Luke. We pray that God will transform your life and empower you to live out the radical gospel of Jesus everywhere, every day! Now is the time!
DISCUSSION

1. The angel Gabriel appeared to two very different people to announce the coming of two very special babies. What was the main difference in the ways Zechariah and Mary responded to the message they received? What was the result? (Luke 1.18-20, 1.34, 38) What is your response to “impossible” situations?

2. There are many who agree that the birth of Jesus was the most important event in history, even among those who don’t profess a personal relationship with him. Why?


4. Why didn’t Jesus receive a hometown hero’s welcome in Nazareth, even to the point of his peers wanting to throw him off a cliff? Have you ever experienced ostracism among your friends and family because of your faith? (Luke 4.22-24, 28-30)

5. What did Jesus mean by saying, “No one pours new wine into old wineskins?” What part of the religious order of that day did Jesus’ actions challenge? (Luke 5.21-24, 30-32, 33-39)

Family Time (Correlates with Bible Trek: Luke children’s devotionals)

1. What two promises did the angel Gabriel bring to earth? Why were these promises hard to believe? (Luke 1.11-13, 18, 30-34)

2. What special job did God give John? What did the voice from heaven say when Jesus was baptized? (Luke 3.4, 15-16, 21-22)

3. What did Jesus say God wanted him to do while he was on earth? How did the people around him react? (Luke 4.18-22)

LIVE IT OUT!

“If you have two coats, give one to someone who doesn’t have any. If you have food, share it with someone else.” Luke 3.11
Prayerfully consider how you can help someone you know in need. Whether through helping to pay a bill, offering free babysitting, or taking them out to lunch — step out in faith and help someone from the abundance God has given you.

Check out the Luke 4 Assignment at NowLuke.com and choose some ways to serve others in your community as you live out the gospel everywhere, every day.

LUKE 4 CHALLENGE FOR KIDS

Make this a year in which your family shares the love of Jesus with others! What can you do together to encourage, help or serve someone who needs it? Here are some suggestions:

- Offer to babysit for a single parent you know.
- Make a special meal or bake some cookies for someone who is sad or discouraged. Include a note with the message, “Jesus loves you!”

MEMORY VERSES

Young Children: “Nothing is impossible for God!” Luke 1.37

Older Children, Youth & Adults: “The Lord’s Spirit has come to me, because he has chosen me to tell the good news to the poor. The Lord has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners, to give sight to the blind and to free everyone who suffers, and to say, ‘This is the year the Lord has chosen.’” Luke 4.18-19

MEMORY VERSE FUN

Break down the verse into phrases. Write each phrase on separate pieces of paper and post on the kitchen wall. Say the verse together at least three times. Then begin removing phrases, one at a time, until you can say the complete verse without help.
DISCUSSION

1. Jesus’ teaching challenges the thinking of the “natural” person, that is, one who is living without the help of the Holy Spirit. Which of Jesus’ teachings in Chapter 6 is most difficult for you? (Luke 6.20-45)

2. Jesus taught that we should not only listen to his teachings but also obey them. Compare what Jesus says in Luke 6.46-49 to what his half brother James says in James 1.22-25.

3. Jesus tells the parable of the sower in Luke 8.4-8, and then interprets it in Luke 8.9-15. How are our hearts like those four different conditions Jesus describes in receiving the word of God? What condition do you most identify with?

4. What does Jesus mean by “take up your cross every day”? (Luke 9.23) Why did he use the metaphor of a cross? What is the most difficult cross you bear daily in order to follow Jesus?

5. How are the stories of Jesus calming a storm (Luke 8.22-25), performing healing miracles (Luke 7.2-10), and raising people from death (Luke 7.12-15) connected to the apostle Paul’s declaration in Colossians 1.16-17? How does that give you hope in today’s world?

Family Time (Correlates with Bible Trek: Luke children’s devotionals)

1. Why is God’s way often not the easy way? Which of Jesus’ teachings in chapter 6 is the hardest for you? (Luke 6.27-28, 35-36, 37-38)

2. In Luke 8.22-25, do you think Jesus knew about the storm before he went to sleep? What do you learn about Jesus in Colossians 1:16? How do those words make you feel?

3. Why did Jesus choose a Samaritan to be the hero of his story in Luke 10.30-37? After reading this story, who would you say is your “neighbor?”

LIVE IT OUT!

“If you give to others, you will be given a full amount in return. It will be packed down, shaken together, and spilling over into your lap. The way you treat others is the way you will be treated.” Luke 6.38
If you do not do so already, consider volunteering and giving of your time. Research an organization that fits your skill set and inquire about getting involved.

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**LUKE 4 CHALLENGE FOR KIDS**

We’ve learned this week that God’s ways are not like our natural ways. We’re told to love those who we aren’t used to loving! How can your family show love to people like that? Here are some suggestions:

- Make a tray of sandwiches and fruit and take it to a local homeless shelter.
- Spend some time with senior citizens at an assisted living facility. Play board games, read books out loud, and ask them about their favorite memories.

**MEMORY VERSES**

*Young Children:* “Treat others just as you want to be treated.” **Luke 6.31**

*Older Children, Youth & Adults:* “If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross every day and follow me.” **Luke 9.23**

**MEMORY VERSE FUN**

Write each word of the verse on a separate paper plate. Say the verse together at least three times. Move the plates around so the words are out of order and let each family member try to put them back in the right order. Variation: Make two sets and turn this into a race for mom and dad or older children!
DISCUSSION

1. What does Jesus teach us about prayer in Luke 11.5-13? Even though God knows our hearts and our needs, why is it still important that we ask, search and knock?


3. Jesus is called the “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9.6), and yet in Luke 12.51 he says he came to cause division. What do you think he means by that? Read John 14.27 and John 16.33. How do you understand Jesus’ words in both books?

4. Jesus uses examples of a mustard seed and some bread yeast to describe something about the kingdom of God. What is he teaching? What impact does this have on your role in God’s kingdom? (Luke 13.18-21)

5. What can you learn about God in the story of the Prodigal Son? The word “prodigal” means “one who wastes.” How does that describe each of us with regard to our spiritual inheritance? (Luke 15.11-32)

Family Time (Correlates with Bible Trek: Luke children’s devotionals)

1. Why is it important to go to God to ask for help even though he already knows what we need? (Luke 11.1-13)

2. Have you ever felt so small and unimportant that you thought God couldn’t use you for his “kingdom work?” How does the story of the mustard seed encourage you? (Luke 13.18-19)

3. In the story of the lost son, what did the father do when he saw the son coming home? What does that tell you about God’s love for those who are “lost?” (“Lost” means people who aren’t in a relationship with Jesus.) (Luke 15.20-24)

LIVE IT OUT!

“But put God’s work first, and these things will be yours as well.” Luke 12.31
Encourage a friend to keep their eyes fixed on Jesus in a trying time.

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LUKE 4 CHALLENGE FOR KIDS

We learned this week that we can help grow God’s kingdom by the way we treat other people. Here are some things you could do to show kindness and generosity to others:

- Mow the grass, clean up the yard or wash some windows for your neighbor as a surprise.
- Take an extra dessert in your lunch for sharing, then find someone who is sitting alone and ask if you can join them for lunch.

MEMORY VERSES

Young Children: “Ask and you will receive, search and you will find, knock and the door will be opened for you.” Luke 11.9

Older Children, Youth & Adults: “Ask and you will receive, search and you will find, knock and the door will be opened for you. Everyone who asks will receive, everyone who searches will find, and the door will be opened for everyone who knocks.” Luke 11.9-10

MEMORY VERSE FUN

Write the memory verse, broken down by phrases, on a large piece of paper and put on the wall so everyone can see it. Put a balloon or beach ball in the center of a blanket or tablecloth. With the whole family around the blanket, toss the balloon or ball into the air while taking turns saying a phrase of the verse until the verse is completed.
1. Jesus has some strong things to say in chapter 16 about faithfulness, honesty and the love of money, and draws a distinction between “wicked wealth” and “true wealth.” How can you apply these concepts to your life in the kingdom of God? (Luke 16.10-13)

2. What is the significance of Jesus instructing ten lepers to go to the priests to show that they had been healed when the actual healing didn’t occur until they were on their way? What does this tell you about faith? (Luke 17.11-14)

3. What is Jesus saying about prayer in the parable of the persistent widow in chapter 18? Why is it so easy to give up when we don’t see an answer to prayer right away? What does our giving up quickly have to do with our current culture? (Luke 18.1-8)

4. Jesus foretells his death to his disciples multiple times before he makes his final journey to Jerusalem (Luke 9.22, 9.44, and 18.31-33). He even told a parable to the crowd in Luke 20.9-16 that indicated his coming death. Why do you think it was so difficult for the disciples and others to understand what was going to happen?

5. The tension between the religious authorities and Jesus is building in these chapters. Why did they use a question about paying taxes to build their case against him? What does Jesus’ answer to them teach us about our civic responsibility?

Family Time (Correlates with Bible Trek: Luke children’s devotionals)

1. What did Jesus mean when he said, “The things that most people think are important are worthless as far as God is concerned?” (Luke 16.15b)

2. Why did Jesus say it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into God’s kingdom? (Luke 18.25) Besides money, what are other things that might keep people from following Jesus?

3. When Jesus was coming into Jerusalem riding on the donkey, why did he say that the rocks would shout his praises if the people in the crowd had to be quiet? (Luke 19.39-40) Read Psalm 148 to help you answer this question.
LIVE IT OUT!

“If you had faith no bigger than a tiny mustard seed, you could tell this mulberry tree to pull itself up, roots and all, and to plant itself in the ocean. And it would!”
Luke 17.6

Find a trusted friend and pray together to have the Lord reveal places in your lives where you may be lacking faith. Pray about those situations with each other.

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LUKE 4 ASSIGNMENT FOR KIDS

Jesus taught that in order to bring the kingdom of God into this world, we must act as his agents of love. Here are some suggestions for your family to do this week as you show God’s love to the world:

• As a family, look around your house and go through your closets to find all the things and clothes you don’t need or aren’t using and donate them to a thrift store.

• Make “Everyday Packs” for the homeless shelter: fill shoebox-sized containers with personal items like a comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, a disposable razor and a small towel.

MEMORY VERSES

Young Children: “You are always making yourselves look good, but God sees what is in your heart.”
Luke 16.15a

Older Children, Youth & Adults: “You are always making yourselves look good, but God sees what is in your heart. The things that most people think are important are worthless as far as God is concerned.”
Luke 16.15
MEMORY VERSE FUN

Write each word of the verse on a separate paper plate. Place the plates on the floor and take turns using them as stepping stones, saying the word on each plate out loud as you land on it. Say the words loudly, try again saying the words very softly, again saying the words slowly, and again as a silly song.
DISCUSSION

1. When Jesus commented on the widow’s offering, he was referring to intentions of the heart rather than financial abundance and poverty. How might his comment in Luke 21.4 be applied to other aspects of life (personality, talent, hospitality, etc.) and our contribution to the kingdom of God?

2. As Jesus was eating the Passover meal with his disciples, he makes some theological statements (Luke 22.19-20) that have become the basis for what Christians today refer to as the Lord’s Supper, the Eucharist, or the Sacrament of the Mass. Why, then, did the conversation move so quickly to a dispute about who among them was the greatest? What did Jesus teach about servant leadership?

3. Why do you think the women who encountered the angels at the tomb remembered the words of Jesus in foretelling his death and resurrection, but the apostles they told still didn’t believe or understand their words? (Luke 24.1-11)

4. The scene of Jesus appearing suddenly among his disciples, inviting them to touch his body and look at his hands and feet to assure them of his identity, and then asking for something to eat is one of the most stunning in all of Scripture. How would you have responded to this event? What part of it would be the most startling? How quickly would you be able to move from shock to joy? (Luke 24.36-43)

5. How is Jesus’ reference to “the one my Father has promised” connected to his words about the disciples receiving “power from heaven?” (Luke 24.49) How did they spend their time while they waited for God’s promise? (See Luke 24.53) Why do they need this power to fulfill the responsibility he gave them to tell the good news to all nations? What can we learn from this?

Family Time (Correlates with Bible Trek: Luke children’s devotionals)

1. What did Jesus mean when he said the widow had put more in the offering box than the rich people? Why is it hard to give up something we think we need for ourselves?

2. After Jesus was arrested, why was Peter afraid to say he knew Jesus? Why are we afraid or ashamed to talk about Jesus sometimes?

3. Who is the one that Jesus promised his Father would send to the disciples? (Read Acts 1.8 for the answer.) Where does Jesus live now?
LIVE IT OUT!

“They also say that all people of every nation must be told in my name to turn to God, in order to be forgiven. So beginning in Jerusalem, you must tell everything that has happened.” Luke 24.47-48

Pray that the Lord would give you opportunities to share what he has done or is doing in your life.

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LUKE 4 ASSIGNMENT FOR KIDS

The story of Jesus in the book of Luke has shown us how important it is to Jesus that we treat others with kindness and love. You and your family can make a big difference in other people’s lives. Here are some ways to show God’s love to people around you.

• Invite another family over for a game night just to get to know them better.

• Introduce yourself to a neighbor you don’t know. Take some brownies or cookies as a friendship gift.

MEMORY VERSES

Young Children: [Jesus said] “The sky and the earth won’t last forever, but my words will.” Luke 21.33

Older Children, Youth & Adults: “[Jesus] told them, ‘The Scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer, then three days later he will rise from death. They also say that all people of every nation must be told in my name to turn to God, in order to be forgiven.’” Luke 24.46-47

MEMORY VERSE FUN

Choose one or more of the memory verse activities from Weeks 1-4 and have fun learning God’s Word! Quiz each other and offer prizes to those who have learned all five verses! Keep up the practice and fun of memorizing Bible verses together as a family.
NowLuke.com

Now is the Time: Luke is a collaboration between:

- American Bible Society
- Concerts of Prayer
- The New York City Leadership Center