

# LUKE

9-19



saltchurch.

# LUKE 9-19: FOLLOW

In 2018 we read the first part of Luke's gospel. Here's why he wrote it:

*Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been **fulfilled** among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.*

*With this in mind, since I myself have **carefully investigated** everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an **orderly account** for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the **certainty** of the things you have been taught. (Luke 1:1-4)*

1. To strengthen Christians in their faith, by showing them the certain and solid foundation for their trust in Jesus.
2. To show that trusting Jesus is valid. Jesus is the climax of God's salvation plan, and Christians have been included in that story.

**In chap 9-19 we see what it looks like to follow Jesus as he brings salvation.**

This section has been called the 'travel narrative' because it all takes place whilst Jesus travels to the capital city of Israel, Jerusalem.

*As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem (Luke 9:51)*

**Jesus travels to Jerusalem to die and rise as Saviour and Lord.**

When he finally arrives he's worshipped as the Saving King:

*When he came near the place...the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"*

*Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." (Luke 19:37-40)*

Yet within just a few short days this same crowd will call for his blood as they cry out 'Crucify him! Crucify Him!' (Luke 23:21)

But his death is no accident. 7 times Jesus says he **'must'** go to Jerusalem (9:51, 53; 13:22, 33; 17:11, 18:31; 19:28) and 7 times that he **'must'** die (9:44; 17:25; 18:32–33; 24:7, 26, 44, 46).

Just before he enters Jerusalem these 2 themes come together:

*Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again." (Luke 18:31-33)*

**Jesus' death and resurrection is how he becomes the Saving King.** Though he knew what lay ahead of him, still he took each step to Jerusalem. If we get this part of Luke we'll see in a new way how glorious Jesus is, the depth of what he's done for us, and what it truly cost.

But there's so much more than that. **As he travels, Jesus calls people to follow him and explains what life as his disciple looks like** (Luke 9:57-62):

*As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."*

*He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."*

*Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."*

**It's an utter privilege to have Jesus as our Saving King.** It cost his life to win that salvation for us. He calls us to live for him, die for him, suffer for him, serve him, to be loyal to him, unashamed of him, to treasure him above all else. If we get this part of Luke we'll see how to follow Jesus as his disciples and why he deserves our all.

**Luke 9-19: Jesus is the Saving King. And our King calls us to follow.**

# SERIES BREAKUP

There's Bible Discussion Notes for the series. We recommend doing a social / fun thing one week each series, instead of a bible discussion, to help your group celebrate being God's gathered people, to build trust, and to give you a chance to 'speed up time'.

(See chap 5 & 6 of Getting Started as a Group Leader for tips on how to best use these).

DATE	BIBLE	DATE	BIBLE
4-8 Feb	<b>Kick off the Year!</b>	18-22 Mar	Luke 16:1-15
11-15 Feb	Luke 11:1-28	25-29 Mar	Choose your own
18-22 Feb	Luke 12:13-34	1-5 Apr	Luke 18:15-30
25 Feb-1 Mar	Luke 13:22-35	8-12 Apr	Luke 19:28-44
4-8 Mar	Luke 14:25-35	19 Apr	<b>Good Friday</b>
11-15 Mar	Luke 15:11-32	21 Apr	<b>Easter Sunday</b>

## RECOMMENDED COMMENTARY

A few Small Group leaders have asked for a recommended commentary for each teaching series. 'The Message of Luke' by Michael Wilcock in *The Bible Speaks Today* series is great! It will give you a solid overview of the whole book, and some good details for each section that we're looking at.

## AND DON'T FORGET

We have the greatest privilege as Christians: we get to follow Jesus! Don't forget how incredible it is to know and serve the God who made everything and who bent over backwards to save us.

*- Geoff and the Maturity Team*

# KICK OFF THE YEAR • 4-8 FEB

**DIRECTION:** This'll be your first Small Group meeting for the year. So kick it off with something fun, like dinner together. And kick it off with something important: a chat about what sort of Small Group you want to be. Flesh out some expectations together so your group can start the year well.

Use the advice in chapter 2 of *Getting Started as a Small Group Leader* to work out how you'll have this convo. Below is a suggested way to do this. Beforehand print out, or get everyone to download, the *Small Groups Infographic* from [www.saltchurch.info/resources/small-group-leaders](http://www.saltchurch.info/resources/small-group-leaders).

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**PRAY TO START:** That this year we'd be a Small Group who help each other know God better and learn to love each other like God loves us.

**LAUNCH:** If you could spend 80 hours doing something this year, what would you spend those 80 hours on?

**DISCUSSING EXPECTATIONS:** We're going to spend about 80 hours together this year as a Small Group. As we kick off today let's start by deciding what sort of Small Group we want to be (or 'reminding each other' instead of deciding if your group hasn't changed from last year).

The best place to start is in the bible, so (either as a group or in pairs) read: **Hebrews 10:19-25, Ephesians 4:11-16, and Colossians 3:16-17**

- What 'one another' or 'each other' language do you notice?
- What are we meant to do 'to' or 'for' each other? Why is that?
- What might stop you from meeting regularly with us this year?
- How do these verses motivate you to overcome those obstacles?

Small Groups are slightly different at every church. So have a look at the *Small Groups Infographic* to see how they work at Salt Church.

- Does anything here surprise you? Excite you? Or is anything unclear?
- The big reason we have Small Groups is so we can help each other know God better and learn to love each other like God loves us. There are lots of practical ways we can do that. Let's decide how now.

*See chapter 2 of Getting Started as a Small Group Leader for more info on how to have this discussion. You could write this out on butcher's paper / a whiteboard / chrome cast to a TV, so everyone can see what you're discussing and agreeing to.*

**FINISHING UP THE EXPECTATIONS CHAT:** Once you've finished talking about these ideas make sure to land them.

- Before you finish up, say back to the group: we've seen *this* is why we're meeting, *this* is the kind of group we want to be, and *these* are the big things we want from each other.
- Take a photo of your butcher's paper / whiteboard / screenshot and post it on your group's Facebook page during the week, so people can have a visual reminder of it.
- As a leader, get ready to encourage and remind people of these expectations again over the next few weeks as your group meets.

**PRAY TO END:**

1. Praise God for a new year where we'll grow to know Him better and learn to love each other like He loves us.
2. Pray for God's help to be an encouraging group, the kind of group that He and we want it to be.
3. Pray for people you can invite to the launch of our new Gathering times (starting Sun 17 Feb)

# LUKE 11:1-28 • 11-15 FEB

**DIRECTION:** Here's the clash of cosmic beings: God and Satan, good and evil. In the middle humanity is caught up into it. Which kingdom will you be part of? What side of the battle will you choose? Jesus shows us how blessed we are to be part of the Kingdom of God by faith through grace.

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**PRAY TO START:** We'd better see who Jesus is and what He's done for us.

**CONTEXT:** *This is about seeing how this passage fits into the chapter and book*

- What has happened so far in Luke's gospel? Flick through it to get some snapshots.
- Where is Jesus travelling to at this point in Luke's gospel?

## Read Luke 11:1-28

**OBSERVATION:** *This is about getting an overview of what the passage says.*

- What kingdoms are in this passage? What differences are there between them? How do they affect each other?
- What type of Father do we have? What gifts does He give?

**MEANING:** *This is about deciding what big idea/s the author is explaining to us*

- Why do you think these 2 bits (v1-13 & v14-28) are next to each other?
- What do you think Luke wants to show by comparing these kingdoms?

APPLY: *This is about reflecting on how the passage impacts your life – your head (beliefs), heart (emotions) and hands (actions).*

- What confidence does this passage give us in our battle against Satan?
- How can you shape your prayer life to be more like Jesus' prayer?
- Jesus promises that the Father will give the Holy Spirit to everyone who asks for him.

Who do you know that needs to enter God's Kingdom by receiving the Holy Spirit (i.e. become a Christian)?

PRAY TO END:

1. Praise God that Jesus defeated Satan and given us the Holy Spirit.
2. Pray for the people you thought of who need the Holy Spirit, and for people you can invite to the launch of our new Gathering times (starting Sun 17 Feb)

# LUKE 12:13-34 • 18-22 FEB

**DIRECTION:** *'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also'.* There are some big themes in this passage, like fear, greed, anxiety, materialism and an eternal perspective. But the biggest theme is this question: will you trust Jesus? Will you treasure Jesus?

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**PRAY TO START:** That we would treasure Jesus more than anything else.

**LAUNCH:** What's one thing you're worried about at the moment?

**CONTEXT:** *This is about seeing how this passage fits into the chapter and book*

- What did we learn about God's Kingdom last week?

## Read Luke 12:13-34

**OBSERVATION:** *This is about getting an overview of what the passage says.*

- What are the main things Jesus says about possessions?
- What are all the different analogies Jesus uses in this passage?

**MEANING:** *This is about deciding what big idea/s the author is explaining to us*

- What analogy strikes you the most? Why?
- What do you think it means to 'seek His kingdom' (v31)?
- What does v32-34 have to say about our hope and where to put it?

APPLY: *This is about reflecting on how the passage impacts your life – your head (beliefs), heart (emotions) and hands (actions).*

- What things might you be treasuring in your life more than Jesus?  
What could it look like to submit that part of life to God and trust him?
- How can our group help each other not to worry but instead to ‘Cast all your anxiety on him (i.e. God) because he cares for you’ (1 Peter 5:7)?

PRAY TO END:

1. Praise God that He knows what we need and promises to provide.
2. Pray this week we wouldn't be afraid or worried but would seek God's Kingdom first & treasure Christ more than we treasure anything else.

# LUKE 13:22-35 • 25 FEB-1 MAR

**DIRECTION:** We're called to make every effort to enter the Kingdom of God through the only way possible: through Jesus Christ. Especially because few people will enter that Kingdom. That fact brings Jesus no joy – he has intense sorrow for the many people who have rejected him and who will. If *we* are to enter, we must look to Jesus and trust him for our whole lives.

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**PRAY TO START:** Ask God to help us have his heart for lost people.

**LAUNCH:** What's a thing you're doing or have done that took lots of effort?

**CONTEXT:** *This is about seeing how this passage fits into the chapter and book*

- If you were a Pharisee in Jesus' time how do think you would have reacted to him?

## Read Luke 13:22-35

**OBSERVATION & MEANING:**

- Does anything shock you when you read this? What things?
- What's the gist of Jesus' reply to the question in v23? What do you think he wants the person asking the question to care about?
- What picture does Jesus give of life outside God's kingdom (aka hell)?
- What's the gist of Jesus' reply to the Pharisees in v31?
- Why is Jesus going to Jerusalem?

APPLY: *This is about reflecting on how the passage impacts your life – your head (beliefs), heart (emotions) and hands (actions).*

- How does this passage warn you? How does it encourage you?
- What could it look like to 'make every effort to enter through the narrow door' (v24)?
- How does Jesus feel about Jerusalem and the many people who will reject him?
- As you think about the thousands of people in the Illawarra who don't know Jesus and are headed to hell, how do you feel about them?

What can you do about it this week?

PRAY TO END:

1. Praise God for making a way for people to be saved through His Son.
2. Ask God to help us have his heart for the lost.
3. Ask God to help us persevere in trusting Jesus for our whole lives.

# LUKE 14:25-35 • 4-8 MAR

**DIRECTION:** Jesus doesn't beat around the bush, doesn't soften things, doesn't butter people up, doesn't pretend that following him is an easy choice. He's as direct as you can get – following Jesus means you die to you to live for him. But what a privilege it is to follow him! He transcends and trumps all our other loyalties, even to our closest relationships like family.

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**PRAY TO START:** Ask God to help us better see the cost of following Jesus.

**LAUNCH:** What's something / someone you follow, e.g. sports team, celebs?

**CONTEXT:** *This is about seeing how this passage fits into the chapter and book*

- So far in Luke, what has Jesus said about how or why to follow him?

## Read Luke 14:25-35

**OBSERVATION:** *This is about getting an overview of what the passage says.*

- What images does Jesus use to talk about how or why to follow him?
- What tone do you think Jesus might have been using as he says this?

**MEANING:** *This is about deciding what big idea/s the author is explaining to us*

- What do you think Jesus means when he says:
  - You must *'give up everything you have'* to be his disciple?
  - His disciples must *'hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life'*?
- Why do you think Jesus talks about *'sitting down to consider the cost'* in the 2 stories (of the tower-builder and the king going to war)?

APPLY: *This is about reflecting on how the passage impacts your life – your head (beliefs), heart (emotions) and hands (actions).*

- When you started to follow Jesus do you remember ‘counting the cost’?
- What has it cost you to follow Jesus? What have you gained?
- Think about your other close relationships, and the people or things you follow – do they help you follow Jesus, or do they get in the way?
- This passage shows us people can’t afford *not* to follow Jesus – like the tower-builder you can’t make a start with Jesus and then stop; like the King-at-war you can’t oppose Jesus and win that battle.

Who do you know that is living as Jesus’ enemy, or is in danger of not following Jesus to the end? Spend time praying for them.

PRAY TO END:

1. Praise God that we get to follow our Lord Jesus and be his disciples.
2. Pray for those we know who are in danger of not following Christ to the end, or are living as Jesus’ enemies – that God would be merciful.

# LUKE 15:1-2, 11-32 • 11-15 MAR

**DIRECTION:** There's something beautiful and reassuring in this well-known parable. There's repentance, hope and forgiveness for the youngest son, from the God who seeks out and receives His lost children that come back to him. There's patience, gentleness and love for the older son, from the God who is not a slave-master but a loving Father. Whether we're more like the younger son or the older son we have a loving Heavenly Father!

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**PRAY TO START:** Thank God for this great opportunity to read His word and to remember how He treats us.

**LAUNCH:** When's a time in your life you made a mistake or bad decision?

**CONTEXT:** *This is about seeing how this passage fits into the chapter and book*

- What's been the main response of the Pharisees and teachers of the law to Jesus? What about from the tax collectors?

## Read Luke 15:1-2 and v11-32

**OBSERVATION:** *This is about getting an overview of what the passage says.*

- Split into pairs and try to re-tell the story to each other, without looking at the passage.

Then look back at the passage and see: what did you leave out?

**MEANING:** *This is about deciding what big idea/s the author is explaining to us*

- How do you think the younger Son feels when his Father takes him back? What does this show us about God?
- How do you think the older Son feels when his Father speaks to him about the younger son? What does this show us about God?

- What audience is Jesus talking to (v1-2)? Why do you think Jesus tell *this* story to *this* mixed audience?
- What one verse would you pick to sum up the whole section?

APPLY: *This is about reflecting on how the passage impacts your life – your head (beliefs), heart (emotions) and hands (actions)*

- Do you think you're more like the younger son or the older son?
- Do you tend to celebrate and feel excited...
  - When people become brand-new Christians?
  - When people repent and apologise for their sin?
  - When you get to serve and do things for God?
- How can we show God our thankfulness for making us alive?

PRAY TO END:

1. Praise God for His compassion and patience – the He's made us alive who were dead, and has found us who were lost.
2. Pray God would help us treat others like He's treated us, and that we'd celebrate what He does.

# LUKE 16:1-15 • 18-22 MAR

**DIRECTION:** Jesus wants us to have hearts fixed on God not money. Only one can rule our hearts: God *or* money. Money can be used to honour God or displease Him. Do we value what God values? And do we use the resources He's given us for Him or for us?

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**PRAY TO START:** Pray that we'd listen well to Jesus and His words today

**LAUNCH:** What's the last thing you bought?

**CONTEXT:** *This is about seeing how this passage fits into the chapter and book*

- What has Jesus already said about money/possessions in Luke?

## Read Luke 16:1-15

**OBSERVATION:** *This is about getting an overview of what the passage says.*

- Who are the different characters in the story?
- Which one verse would you pick to sum up the whole passage?

**MEANING:** *This is about deciding what big idea/s the author is explaining to us*

- What's the manager commended *for*? What's he a good example of?
- What do you think 'worldly wealth' and 'true riches' are?
- What does Jesus want us to see about money and God? Why do you think they are opposites (i.e. to love one you have to hate the other)?

APPLY: *This is about reflecting on how the passage impacts your life – your head (beliefs), heart (emotions) and hands (actions).*

*This could be a good chance for people to ask themselves some hard questions. You could get people to reflect on their own for a few minutes, then share with the group, or split into guys and girls (if you're in a mixed group) to share.*

- Do you think you are being trustworthy with the resources God has entrusted to you?
- Does the way you spend money show you love it or love God?
- Does the way you use your money show you care more about the kingdom-to-come than the here-and-now?
- What's one way you use the money God's given you this week, to love someone and 'gain friends' to live in 'eternal dwellings' with you?

#### PRAY TO END:

1. Praise God for His Spirit, who helps us listen to and apply His word.
2. Ask God to help us love Him and be faithful with what He's given us.
3. Ask God to help us use our money, time, energy – everything we have – to see people saved and welcomed into the eternal dwellings, of life with God in the new heavens and earth forever!

# CHOOSE YOUR OWN • 25-29 MAR

**There's no Bible Discussion Note for this week.** We'll look at the next bit of Luke (17:1-19) on Sunday, so we'll still get to hear it. But we won't look at it in our Small Groups because **we want to try something new – in your Small Group this week, choose your own adventure.**

In our groups we normally discuss part of the bible before it's preached on. This helps us as a church not to just let the 'expert' tell us what to believe but to wrestle with God's word for ourselves.

A downside though is we move quick! You might have started a great chat in your group one week, but by the next week we've moved on. We want to give you a chance to choose your own adventure – to continue one of those discussion, go back to something from the Luke series, or look at another topic / question / part of the bible your group wants to dig into.

## A SUGGESTION OF HOW:

### **Getting Ideas:**

A few weeks before this, let your group know there's a 'choose your own' week coming up. Ask if there's an idea from Luke 9-19 they want to talk more about, or some other topic / question / part of the bible they want to explore. Vote to find the most popular one and get prepping.

### **Getting Prepped:**

Once you have the topic / question, start brainstorming where in the bible the topic / question comes up. Or for a part of the bible, read it a bunch of times to work out what you think it means. Also ask your coach and other leaders if they know of other good places / what the passage might mean.

If you feel more confident as a leader, you could read up on the topic in a commentary / Bible Dictionary / systematic theology book (there's a bunch of these at 275 Keira St you can borrow).

## Packaging a Discussion:

There's a few ways to prep a Bible Discussion. Do what feels comfortable, based on how confident you feel as a leader. Here's some options:

1. Use the COMA method (we use it in these notes. It stands for: Context-Observation-Meaning-Application). Either just read the words in italics in these Notes. Or if you're up for it, write your own specific questions.
2. Use the 'Swedish Method' (see below for the steps in it)
3. Just ask 'what do you think?' and see where your discussion takes you.

If you're keen to learn more about the skill of creating studies you could check out the book *Writing a Small Group Study* by Richard Sweatman.

As always, you don't have to have all the answers or be the expert to be a Small Group Leader! Just get people into God's word and let Him teach and transform us by His Spirit.

## IF YOU'RE REALLY STUCK:

Instead of choosing your own thing, you can use the Swedish Method for the part of Luke we're up to (17:1-19). Read it, then ask 4 questions:

1. What stands out to you?
2. What's a question you have?
3. What do you think the big point is?
4. What's one thing you want to do in response?

Or if you haven't done a social / fun thing instead of a Bible Discussion this series, you can use this week to do that. See chap 5 & 6 of *Getting Started as a Group Leader* for tips on how to best use these to grow your group.

But we'd encourage you to give it a go! Your Small Group Coach can give you advice. And it can be a great way for your group to grow in ownership and to dig into something that's puzzling, troubling or exciting them.

# LUKE 18:15-30 • 1-5 APR

**DIRECTION:** Many things are impossible for humans: breathing underwater without oxygen tanks, running 100ms as fast as a cheetah... and saving ourselves. Only God can do that. That's what we learn when a ruler who loves money more than God walks away from Jesus and salvation; and when little children enter God's Kingdom, simply by *receiving* salvation. Will you come to Jesus like a child? Will you give up all you have to follow him?

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**PRAY TO START:** Ask God to help us follow Jesus no matter the cost.

**LAUNCH:** What's something you've given up? E.g. cigarettes, chocolate for a year, washing your clothes (hopefully not!)

**CONTEXT:** *This is about seeing how this passage fits into the chapter and book*

- What have you learned about following Jesus in this Luke series?

## Read Luke 18:15-30

**OBSERVATION:** *This is about getting an overview of what the passage says.*

- If you had to split this section into scenes, like in a movie, what scenes are there? Now give each scene a name to describe it.

**MEANING:** *This is about deciding what big idea/s the author is explaining to us*

- Why do you think Jesus uses 'a little child' to teach us how to enter God's Kingdom?
- What do you think the ruler's biggest problem is?
- What do you think is the difference between the children and ruler?
- What do you think Jesus is saying to Peter?

APPLY: *This is about reflecting on how the passage impacts your life – your head (beliefs), heart (emotions) and hands (actions).*

- How's it feel to know God has done the impossible and has saved us?
- Jesus values the babies and children brought to him far more than his disciples do. Does that encourage / challenge how you view children?
- What would you say if a child asked you how to enter God's Kingdom?
- The ruler's blind spot stopped him following Jesus. What things may be getting in the way of you following Jesus *wholeheartedly*?
- Think about your family and friends who aren't Christians: what's getting in the way of them following Jesus?

PRAY TO END:

1. Praise God for doing what is impossible for us, and saving us!
2. Pray for God's help to follow Jesus in every part of our lives.
3. Pray for our family and friends who aren't following Jesus – that God would do what's impossible for us to do, and would save them.

# LUKE 19:28-44 • 8-12 APR

**DIRECTION:** Finally we've arrived: Jesus rides into Jerusalem as the King, for his coronation. It's not your typical coronation ceremony though. There's no crowns, no victorious king on a horse, no royal guards. But yet, Jesus is the Messiah, God's glorious King and the Lord of heaven and earth.

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**PRAY TO START:** We'd never stop growing in our wonder of who Jesus is.

**LAUNCH:** What's the longest trip you've ever done?

**CONTEXT:** *This is about seeing how this passage fits into the chapter and book*

- From the whole Luke series, why does Jesus travel to Jerusalem? (You could check out 13:33-35 and 18:31-33)

## Read Luke 19:28-44

**OBSERVATION:** *This is about getting an overview of what the passage says.*

- What responses do different people make as Jesus enters Jerusalem?
- What verse would you pick to sum up the whole section?

**MEANING:** *This is about deciding what big idea/s the author is explaining to us*

- People make different responses to Jesus based on *who* they think he is. What clues do we get about who they think Jesus is?
- What do you think of Jesus' prediction about what will happen to Jerusalem?
- From this passage, who is Jesus? Why does Jesus come to Jerusalem?

## Read Zechariah 9:9-10

- How does this passage fill in our picture of what's happening in Luke?

APPLY: *This is about reflecting on how the passage impacts your life – your head (beliefs), heart (emotions) and hands (actions).*

- How does it feel to know Jesus is our King who brings us peace?
- Who do your friends and family who aren't Christians think Jesus is?
- Thinking back across this whole series in Luke 9-19: What things have you loved most? What have you found hardest to hear?

PRAY TO END:

1. Praise God for His goodness to us and all He's taught us in Luke 9-19.
2. Ask Him to help us follow our King Jesus all our days.



**saltchurch.**

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven,  
Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

*Luke 9:51*