

## The Luke Journey Days 1-30

### Day 1 - Read Luke 1:1-4

- What evidence are we given that we can trust Luke's book? Does that surprise us?
- *Dear Father, please help me to journey through this book with an open heart and mind that I might become more certain of the things taught here. Amen*

### Day 2 - Read Luke 1:5-25

In Bible times, when a king arrived, a messenger would be sent to get people ready. Today is the announcement about the announcer!

- What was going to be special about this baby John?
- Where might our hearts need to be turned back to others, and to God's wise ways?

This is more than Zechariah struggling to believe what God has said. He is really demanding God give him a sign.

- Is there anywhere we are refusing to believe what God says?
- *Dear Father, please help me to be a person who lives ready to meet the King. Help me to grow in trust of the words you say. Amen*

### Day 3 - Read Luke 1:26-38

Today a young girl, Mary, finds 'grace' (undeserved kindness - it's what the 'favour' word means) in the eyes of the Lord. What news she is about to receive!

- Who will this child born to Mary be? What will he do?
- Think of the different kingdoms which have come and gone through history. Think of different things we look to for security which seem so insecure at this time. How is it good news that 'his kingdom will never end'?
- 'For no word from God will ever fail' How does that encourage you to trust God's words in Luke?
- *Dear Father, please help me to trust in Jesus the King today that I might know the security that comes from being part of his never ending kingdom. Amen*

### Day 4 - Read Luke 1:39-56

People are generally excited about the birth of a new baby - but this is something very different!

- Why are Elizabeth and the unborn John so excited about the baby Mary is carrying?

- Who does Mary say the Lord is? What has he done for her? What will he do in the world through Mary's baby?

- God will turn the world upside down through Jesus - humbling the proud and self-sufficient, and lifting up those who recognise their need before God and others. Are there areas of your life that you are being proud or self-sufficient in how you relate to God or others? If so confess them and turn back to him in humility.

- *Dear Father, help me to live for your praise today. Help me to live humbly before you and others, recognising I need you to be my mighty Saviour, just as Mary did. Amen*

### **Day 5 - Read Luke 1:57-80**

God's first promise of a baby comes true - but God is in the process of keeping many more promises!

- How do Zechariah and Elizabeth surprise the neighbours? (57-66)

- What does Zechariah say the Lord is doing through the arrival of Jesus? (v67-75)

David and Abraham were the two key people in the Old Testament whom God made his promises of rescue for the world to. Now they are coming about!

- What situation will Jesus take his people from, and to? (75-79)

- If we are trusting Jesus today, what will it look like for you to serve him without fear, and in holiness?

- *Dear Father, thank you for your tender mercy that breaks forth in Jesus. Help me to rely on you alone to forgive and save me. Help me to live without fear today. Amen.*

### **Day 6 - Read Luke 2:1-21**

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas! But these verses aren't just for Christmas....

- Who looks like they are in charge of the events of this passage? (v1-2) But what signs do we get that someone else is in charge (v4-7)

(Hint: God made promises to David that God's king would come from his family and town. Where has this upheaval meant Jesus was born?)

- The birth of Jesus is 'good news' - what truths do we see in these verses which help us to see why it is 'good news?' (v8-21)

- How do these verses encourage you that God is in control, when today it looks like something else is in control of our lives?

- Pause to ponder and thank God for one part of the 'good news' you've seen here, that you might grow in joy at it.

- *Dear Father, thank you that you are in charge, even when it seems others things control our lives. Please would the news of Jesus the King and Rescuer become a source of joy for me today. Amen.*

### **Day 7 - Read Luke 2:22-40**

- What do Simeon (v25-27) and Anna (v36-38) have in common?
  - As Simeon and Anna look into the eyes of this young child Jesus, what do they see God is doing? (v29-32; v38)
  - Jesus will cause the falling and rising of many. Do you find yourself turning to or from Jesus as we journey through Luke?
  - Where do you find patient trust of God hard? How can Simeon's and Anna's experience encourage us?
- *Dear Father, thank you that the light and forgiveness Jesus brings is for all people everywhere. Help me to patiently trust you to keep your promises. Amen.*

### **Day 8 - Read Luke 2:41-58**

This is the only account we get of Jesus before he begins his adult ministry. So it must be important!

- What is the problem at the beginning of the passage (v41-46)? Where do they find Jesus?
  - What is the reaction of those who hear Jesus (v46-47)?
  - Mary and Joseph were in one sense understandably worried. But what are the first words we hear Jesus say in Luke's gospel? What does it show about what Mary and Joseph (and us) need to learn about Jesus' priority and mission?
  - Jesus begins to show us the close relationship to the Father that he has as the Son. He shows us he has come to be about the Father's mission. How will that encourage us to love Jesus more today? What will it look like for us to be about 'His Father's business today?'
- *Dear Father, thank you that Jesus is your beloved Son who came to carry out your mission. Help me to grow to love him more as I see more of who he is. Amen.*

### **Day 9 - Read Luke 3:1-20**

- Why do you think Luke tells us so much detail about the beginning of John's ministry? (esp. v1-2) How does Isaiah the prophet help us understand what John is called to do? (v4-6)
- John warns the religious leaders that it is not family connection nor religious heritage which means we are ready for Jesus' return. But rather a turning back to God, which shows itself a changed life.
- What will that look like in the lives of those who spoke to John? (v10-14) What will it look like in your life?

- How is it possible to live this changed life? (v15-16) What is the warning to us to make sure we are ready by faith for Jesus' return? (v17-18)

- *Dear Father, thank you that Jesus is the coming Lord. Thank you that he is able to change us deep within by his Spirit. Help us to live lives turned back to him, producing good fruit. Amen.*

### **Day 10 - Read Luke 3:21-38**

- Yesterday, we saw baptism was a sign of turning from sin. Today Jesus is baptised. But he never sinned, so he had no need! Why do you think he joined with the people in baptism? (v21-22)

- The kings in the Old Testament were called 'sons of God' and were anointed - how is Jesus anointed here, and shown to be THE Son? (v22)

- Are there any names from the Old Testament you recognise in this list? In earlier days we've mentioned God had made promises to rescue the world to two men - David and Abraham - promises which would come through one of their descendants - can you find them in Jesus' family tree? (v23-38). What is that telling us about Jesus?

- If Jesus was going to undo the chaos which Adam had caused, he would have to be fully human like Adam. Who does Luke trace Jesus' lineage back to? (v38)

- If Jesus is God's loved son, how has Luke been helping you to love him too? God has clearly been working through history here. Can you look back at your life and see times God has been working in your history?

- *Dear Father, thank you that Jesus is was willing to fully identify with us - by being fully human, and by joining with sinners in baptism. Help me to look to him in trust today, knowing he understands our human experience. Amen.*

### **Day 11 - Read Luke 4:1-13**

- What are the three ways the devil seeks to tempt Jesus? (v3, 6-7, 9-11) How is each temptation a challenge to Jesus' mission?

- What does Jesus do in response to each temptation? (v4, 8, 12)

- Don't worry if you don't, but if you know any parts from earlier in the Bible, can you see any similarities and differences between Jesus here, and Adam in the Garden of Eden and Israel in the desert?

Jesus perfectly obeys and trusts his Father, where Adam failed in the Garden, and Israel failed in the Desert and wandered for 40 years. Jesus is obeying in our place. He is the true Adam, the true Israel come to bring a new humanity!

- How does this good news help us to trust Jesus all the more, especially when we recognise our failure to obey God? Have you ever learnt a verse or two from the Bible to help you in temptation?

*- Dear Father, thank you that Jesus obeys where I fail. Thank you that he is the true Adam, the true people of God. Help me to trust him to make me part of his new humanity. Help me to look to you, through the Bible, as a means of help in trouble and temptation. Amen.*

### **Day 12 - Read Luke 4:14-30**

Local elections have been postponed. But if they had been on, we would have been receiving manifestos of what the parties were going to do. Here is Jesus' opening manifesto!

- As Jesus takes up the words of Isaiah 600 years before, what does he say he has come to do? For who? (v18-19)
- While Jesus will do some of these things literally - he will heal the blind, and show compassion on the poor, God always meant this to be a greater freedom on offer. What do you think that freedom is?
- How do the home crowd respond to Jesus at the beginning? (v22) What about at the end? (v24-29)
- The crowds think they know who Jesus is (local boy come good - v22 ) and they think they have a claim over him (they can tell him what to do - v23). How can thinking we know who Jesus is or thinking Jesus has to do what we want, lead us to not respond to him rightly? Is that true in any area of your life?
- *Dear Father, thank you that Jesus has come to bring good news. Help me to get to know Jesus on his own terms, and so find true freedom in him. Amen.*

### **Day 13 - Read Luke 4:31-44**

We are bombarded with words every day - some true, others fake; some you can trust, others not so much. But here are words which set themselves apart.

- What do the crowds recognise about Jesus? (v32; v36-37) How does Jesus do to demonstrate the authority of his words? (v33-35; v38-41)
- Jesus has come to do away with evil. So it is no surprise that evil forces raise their heads more during Jesus' ministry. What things do the evil spirits recognise about Jesus? (v34; v41)
- The irony is these evil spirits have grasped what the crowds have not yet understood. But why do you think Jesus doesn't want the demons to be the ones who announce who he is?
- Jesus could have made his name drawing huge crowds as a healer (v42) But what is Jesus' priority? (v43-44) How do you treat Jesus' words? Do you let them have authority in your own life? How do you measure the others words we hear in life, against his?
- In the midst of the busyness - Jesus took himself off alone to pray (v42) Is that something that you need to discover for yourselves?

*- Dear Father, thank you that Jesus' words are good news, and carry your authority. Help me to find life in hearing them, trusting them and obeying them. Amen.*

### **Day 14 - Read Luke 5:1-11**

Prepare to get wet feet today!

- How does Peter respond to Jesus' words? (v5)
- How is Peter a model of being a follower of Jesus here (especially when we want to do something different than Jesus' words?)
- What happens when he does follow them? (v6-7)
- Why is Peter's response to Jesus – a surprise? The right one? (v8-10)
- Peter is right – because of our sin, we can't be in the presence of the holy God. But what is Jesus' offer and promise?
- How might following Jesus be costly for you? What here encourages you that it is a cost worth counting?

*Dear Father, thank you that only through Jesus can we be unafraid in your presence. Thank you he calls us into the family business. Help us to be fishers of people today. Amen.*

### **Day 15 - Read Luke 5:12-32**

We get two of three short episodes to help us understand the heart of Jesus' mission.

- What is the man's problem in v12-16? But what does this condition need more than just healing? (a word is repeated 3 times in v12, v13, v14)
- How is Jesus willing to break boundaries? What is the amazing outcome? (v13)

The man's skin disease is a picture of humanity's 'sin' disease - it isolates us from others, it makes us unclean before God and so isolates us from him.

- Considering all the miracles Jesus has been carrying out, what do you think the paralysed man's friends expect Jesus to say? (v17-19) But what does Jesus say? (v20)
- A doctor will always treat the most pressing issue first. You would seek to mend a deep, bleeding cut, before a little graze. What is Jesus saying this man's (and our) greatest need is?

Jesus then demonstrates that he has the authority to do what is unseen (forgive people's sin) by doing the thing people can see (making the man walk again).

- Does it shock you that Jesus says your greatest need is to have your sin forgiven before God - more than physical health, the perfect relationship, the career we want, a nice house, or whatever..? Why do you think that is? Yet what is the wonderful encouragement of these verses if we realise that?

*- Dear Father, thank you that Jesus has authority on earth to deal with our biggest problem. Help me to recognise my need of forgiveness before you, and to trust Jesus who is willing to make me clean. Amen.*

### **Day 16 - Read Luke 5:27-32**

This is the third of three short episodes to help us understand the heart of Jesus' mission.

- What was Levi's job? (v27) What do you know about tax collectors in Jesus' day?

Tax people get a bad wrap today. But in Jesus' day they were seen as traitors collaborating with the Romans, and thieves!

- So why is it a surprise that Jesus wants Levi on his team? What is the surprise of how Levi responds? (v28-29)

- The religious leaders complain that Jesus is mixing with sinners (v30). How does Jesus' answer explain what he is doing in coming to earth? (v31-32)

- Do you think that there is anyone in the 'healthy/ righteous' group that Jesus mentions? How do the religious leaders show they are not in that group either?

- Jesus has come as the 'great physician' - but what do you need to recognise about yourself to enjoy his 'healing' work? (v31-32) Are there ways you are tempted to look down on others as below you or below Jesus?

*- Dear Father, thank you that Jesus is the Great Physician. Help me to recognise that I am a sinner, and so turn back to you. Help me to treat others as Jesus treats them. Amen.*

### **Day 17 - Read Luke 5:33-6:11**

Yesterday we began to see tensions between the religious establishment and Jesus' good news. That only grows today.

- What is the religious leaders' complaint? (v33) How does Jesus response answer them? (v34-35) (In the Old Testament the Lord himself was described as a Bridegroom!)

- The religious leaders are trying to fit Jesus into their system of religion. It was a system that sought to honour God, but by adding extra rules to God's good commands they were actually rejecting him, trying to prove themselves before God. How does Jesus' parable show that you can't just fit Jesus into our existing patterns of thinking? (v36-39)

- What is the religious leaders' complaint? (6v2) How does Jesus response answer them? (v3-5) (In the Old Testament think who it is that created the Sabbath!)

- What is the religious leaders' complaint? (v7) How does Jesus response show them up? (v8-10)

- Where might you be seeking to 'add' Jesus to your old pattern of life, rather than allowing him to change your life? Where might you be seeking to add rules to what God has said to try to be 'good enough' for him?

*- Dear Father, thank you that Jesus brings a life that is totally new. Help me not to push Jesus aside by trying to be good enough for you, but rely on him to be good for me. Amen.*

### **Day 18 - Read Luke 6:12-26**

Jesus begins to call a new people marked by a new attitude.

- What does Jesus do before he appoints the apostles? (v12-13) How is that a pattern for us, and a challenge to us as we make decisions in life?

- How are the values of Jesus' kingdom topsy turvy from the values of the world around us? (v20-26)

- What is it about having little in life (being poor) which often leads people to look to Jesus, which we don't do when life is all fine? (v20)

- What is the uncomfortable mark of being a disciple which Jesus highlights twice? (v22-23)

- What encouragements do you find here to live out the upside down values of Jesus' kingdom?

*- Dear Father, thank you that Jesus brings your blessing. Help me to be willing to embrace Jesus and the upside down kingdom, even when that puts me at odds with others around me. Amen.*

### **Day 19 - Read Luke 6:27-42**

Jesus' new people will be marked by his kingdom values.

- What is the big command Jesus is giving his people (v27-31) How is that totally opposite from what we normally would want to do?

- How did Jesus live this out though (think what he did from the cross?)

- Jesus speaks in the strongest terms here to make his point. Of course there are times when giving someone something they ask for would be the opposite of loving them, and letting someone slap you is not about self-defence, but about not seeking revenge. But don't miss the startling point! Where do you need to ask for Jesus' help to live his Kingdom way here - think specifically?

- If we find this hard (which we will!), how is God the Father and his treatment of us an encouragement? (v35-36)

- What measure are you using in how you relate to others (be it criticism, generosity, forgiveness...)? (v37-39)



*- Dear Father, thank you that you are kind to the ungrateful and merciful to the undeserving. Thank you that you loved me and forgave me in Jesus when I was your enemy. Help me to live this way to others. Amen.*

### **Day 20 - Read Luke 6:43-49**

Jesus continues to show us what defines his kingdom people.

- Where does Jesus say our words and actions flow from? (v45) What picture does he give to show this? (v43-44)

- What do your words show about your heart? (v45)

- How do these verses cause us to throw ourselves on the Father for mercy? (v36)

Our words and actions – though at times marked with kindness and love – also show up a problem deep within. The short tempered word, the gossip, the white lie – they all show up a problem in our heart. There is a problem with the tree of our heart. We need Jesus to forgive us and make us new!

- What is the difference between the two builders? (v48-49) What two different responses to Jesus do they represent? (v47 and v49)

- How have you been seeking to hear Jesus' words and put them into practice recently?

*- Dear Father, please help me to be a wise builder. Help me to hear Jesus' words, come to him and put them into practice. Amen.*

### **Day 21 - Read Luke 7:1-17**

- What does the Centurion seek Jesus for? (v2-3) Why do the Jewish elders say Jesus should come? (v4-5) How is the Centurion's response totally different? (v6-7)

- What does the Centurion understand about Jesus' words and their authority? (v7-8)

Jesus is amazed at the Centurion's faith - can you imagine that? Amazing, Jesus! Here is a Gentile (a non - Jew) who shows great trust in him.

- Why is this second scene so sad? (v12) What two ways does Jesus respond in the face of death? (v13; v14-15)

In one sense we are all in a procession heading towards the grave. We don't like to think about that, but sadly that is reality. Jesus faces death with compassion (his heart goes out to the grieving) and power (that one day he will raise all those trusting him to life) How does that encourage you to trust Jesus with your death?

*- Dear Father, help me to be humble before Jesus, knowing I am not worthy to receive from him. Please help me to trust the power of Jesus' words - words which promise to raise me to life one day as I trust Him. Amen.*

## Day 22 - Read Luke 7:18-35

Matthew's gospel tells us John was in prison when he sent his disciples to Jesus (v18). John had preached the Messiah would bring great acts of judgement. But Jesus seems only to be doing works of mercy. John is puzzled.

- What does John do? (v18-20) What answer does he get? (v21-22) If Jesus is a different king than we expected, what encouragement is there in v23?
- There was no one greater than John in the Old Testament period (v27-28). But if you are trusting Jesus what remarkable privilege to you have? Why? (Hint - what have you been able to experience that John didn't?)
- What did Jesus compare the religious leaders to? How are they never satisfied with the way God has revealed himself? (v31-34)
- Are there any ways you making excuses for ignoring the truth about Jesus or never satisfied with how God is working in the world, or about His church?
- 'But wisdom is proved right by her children' As God's people acknowledge God's ways of working are right - they show God to be wise (and themselves to be truly wise) What could you be praying for yourself from these verses?
- *Dear Father, help me to recognise that your ways are right, even when I don't understand them or think you should be working differently. Help me to enjoy the privilege of being of knowing Jesus and being in your kingdom. Amen.*

## Day 23 - Read Luke 7:36-50

'But wisdom is proved right by all her children.' Today we meet a lady, 'a child' who has understood God's wonderful way, and a man who hasn't.

- What type of person is Simon? (v36, v39) Why type of person is the woman? (v37)
- How does the woman respond to Jesus? (v38,44-47) How does Simon respond to Jesus? (v44-47)
- How does Jesus' parable explain the difference in the woman and Simon's response? What is Jesus' conclusion? (v47)

Jesus is not saying that her sin is forgiven because she loved lots. Her love for Jesus does not earn his forgiveness. But that her great loves shows he has understood just how much she has been forgiven.

- Do you realise just how big a debt of sin God has forgiven you, if you are trusting Jesus? If you so, how should that begin to show itself in your life today?
- *Dear Father, thank you that the eternal debt of my sin has been paid in full by Jesus. Help me to be full of love for you and for others in response. Amen.*

## Day 24 - Read Luke 8:1-21

In each situation - whether to individuals (7:48-50) or to crowds (8:1) Jesus' establishes his kingdom by his word. But how should we respond?

- What wonderful picture do we get of the make up of Jesus' early followers? What does Luke draw our attention to? (v2-3)
- What are the four soil types in Jesus' parable? (v4-8) What do each represent? (v11-15)
- Which of the four soils best reflects your response to Jesus' word in the Luke Journey? Why?
- Jesus' word reveals what we are like on the inside (v16-18). What is the challenge/encouragement of how we respond to Jesus' words? (v18)
- Jesus is not being mean to his family. He is showing that there is a greater family being created - his people. What does it mean to be in that family? (v21)
- What are practical ways, with God's help, you can seek to put Jesus' words into practice?
- *Dear Father, thank you that Jesus gives us knowledge of the kingdom when we ask him for it Help me to be good soil - to hear and obey. Amen.*

## Day 25 - Read Luke 8:22-56

We saw that being in Jesus' kingdom meant responding to Jesus' word. Today we see how powerful that word is.

- Luke highlights Jesus' power over the four great problems humanity faces. What are they? (v22-25; v26-39; v43-48; v49-56) How do we see here, just how bad they are?
- How does Jesus overcome each of them?
- Jesus contrasts two different responses to life and him - fear and faith. Where can you see each of those responses in the episodes?
- How does what we see of Jesus help us to turn to him in faith, not from him in fear? Are there particular things which you are fearing? Bring them to Jesus in prayer.
- Jesus doesn't promise necessarily to heal those who follow him in the here and now. He sometimes still allows us to go through the effects of evil, nature, sickness and death. But one day he promises he will do away with all of these when he brings his new creation. Jairus had a period when he heard the promise of life for his daughter, but it was not yet a reality. How are we in the same place? How do these verses help us keep going in the wait?
- *Dear Father, there are many things in life which I can't control, and I often live in fear. Help me to turn to Jesus and not away from him in these times, and trust him for the day he will make all things new. Amen.*

## Day 26 - Read Luke 9:1-17

In Jesus' miracles we get a 'taste' of the kingdom. Jesus now sends the apostles out to make that kingdom known.

- What instructions to the apostles get given for their task? (v3) Why do you think they are to take so little?
- This is an urgent mission - they are not to stop to make special preparations - they are to go! What does that tell us about the importance of Jesus' message?
- How is people's response to the disciples (for good or ill) a sign of their response to Jesus? (v4-6)
- If you are following Jesus, what different reactions can you expect as you live and share his message with the world?

The question of Jesus' identity is becoming greater. Herod is worried and confused - he knows Jesus can be John - he killed him (v7-9). Jesus now shows us who he is.

- In the Old Testament, the Lord God provided bread for his people in the desert. What does this miracles tell us about Jesus' identity?
- The people ate, were satisfied - and there was food left over! How does this help you trust Jesus when you worry about his provision, or the goodness of his ways?
- *Dear Father, thank you that your Son is the true Bread of Life - help me to trust Jesus for eternal life and physical life. Help me to be satisfied in him. Amen.*

## Day 27 - Read Luke 9:18-27

Herod has asked who Jesus is. The disciples earlier asked the same question. Now Jesus asks them...

- Who did different people think Jesus was? (v18-19) If Jesus asked that question today, what answers might people give?
- Jesus gets very personal. Who does Peter come to realise Jesus is? (v20). It is as if Jesus asks that question of you. Who do you believe Jesus is?
- Peter declares Jesus to be God's only chosen representative on earth. What then is the shock of v21-22?
- What is the call that the crucified King makes to us? (v23-26) Why would ignoring Jesus (even if you got everything you wanted in life in return) be a terrible exchange? (v25)
- What will it look like for you to 'deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me'? (v23)
- *Dear Father, thank you that Jesus is your chosen King. Help me to be willing to deny myself and follow him, that I might enjoy the life he holds out to me. Amen.*

## Day 28 - Read Luke 9:28-36

Jesus has been declared the Messiah - God's King. But with the news he will be killed, it doesn't look like he is. But today we get a taste in the present of what we will all see in the future...

- What happens while Jesus was up the mountain? (v28-31) What do you think they mean? (Hint: In the Old Testament, the Lord was pictured as bright light, Moses and Elijah were the two most important Old Testament messengers).

- Moses and Elijah speak about Jesus' 'departure' (v31) - literally that means his 'exodus'. The Exodus was when the Lord rescued his people. What does that help us understand about what Jesus is going to do?

- A voice again speaks from heaven. (v34-35) What does God the Father want us to know about Jesus?

- Though the great prophets, Moses and Elijah, had been with Jesus - only Jesus is left. What do you think that teaches us about Jesus' importance?

- It doesn't always look like Jesus is God's glorious king. Maybe we don't always live our lives as if he is. How does this 'taste of the future' help change how we think and act?

- *Dear Father, thank you for giving us a taste in the present of what one day all the world will see Jesus to be. In the days I struggle to believe he is the king, or live as if he is, please help me to fix my eyes on this future. Amen.*

## Day 29 - Read Luke 9:37- 50

We have been told to 'listen to Jesus' but now we have three short episodes where the disciples still have much to learn...

- This is a terrible situation for this father and his son. But why haven't the disciples been able to drive this demon out? (v41) How should have people been responding to Jesus' power?

- Everyone is marvelling at what Jesus could do. But what does Jesus want the disciples to have fixed in their minds? (v43-45)

- The disciples can't understand Jesus would defeat darkness and evil, not through powerful miracles, but his cross. What do we often look to defeat darkness and evil in our world?

- The disciples also struggle to understand that following a crucified Messiah will mean being servants. What are they arguing about? (v46) How does Jesus correct them (v47-50) (Hint a little child in Jesus' day had little status - welcoming a little child is about humbling yourself to welcome the lowest)

- Where are we tempted to seek greatness through being more important than others, rather than *serving the least*?

- *Dear Father, thank you that Jesus was willing to welcome the least, and so welcome me. Help me to leave my pride at Jesus' cross and become great through serving. Amen.*

## Day 30 - Read Luke 9:51-62

We face a turning point in Luke's gospel. The shadow of the cross begins to cast its darkness over the scene. But Jesus knows what is to happen...

- What does Jesus know? (v51) What does it lead him to do? (v51)

- There was no love lost between the Samaritans and the Jews. What do the disciples want to do when the Samaritans won't welcome Jesus? (vv52-54) What does Jesus do instead? (v55) Why do you think that is?

Jesus is heading to the cross. He is God's king, and one day he will return as judge. But now is not the time for that. Now is the time of rescue.

- Jesus now shows us the cost of following him. There are three promises to do so, two with hesitations. What is Jesus' response to each? (v57-62)

- These are shocking verses about the cost of discipleship. Jesus is not calling us to be hurtful to our families, nor neglect our responsibilities. Elsewhere Jesus models care for our families. Following him should make us better family members. But he is challenging our priorities. Who will we put first - Jesus or them? Where do we find our priorities between following Jesus, and our families 'rub'? Are there areas where we know they take priority over him?

- *Dear Father, thank you that Jesus resolutely headed to the cross. He did not turn back, so that I could be brought back. Help me to count the cost of following him, that he would be my number one priority. Amen*