

CHRISTIAN  LIFE CENTER

LUKE

BIBLE READING JOURNAL



TAP INTO GOD'S TRUTH





TAP INTO GOD'S TRUTH

The Bible stands apart from any other literary work—it consists of an entire collection of books, each written by a diverse group of people, spanning centuries. What makes the Bible truly extraordinary is that its varied human writers found inspiration from a singular divine author—God himself. When referring to the scriptures, the apostle Paul uses the term “inspired by God,” which translates to “God-breathed” in Greek. That means the words of the Bible possess the potential to effect profound change and transformation in our lives. Paul goes on to help us understand that all of Scripture is “inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness.”

In our attempt to understand who God is, discern His purposes, and grasp His truths for our lives, neglecting the Bible is not an option. In a very real sense, the Bible serves as the “instruction manual” for life. The Creator of our existence has outlined standards, plans, and purposes for us within its pages. Without studying the contents of this “instruction manual”, we remain oblivious to His intentions and lack the guidance to live according to His design.

Unfortunately, many individuals don't give much effort in exploring the depths of the Bible. Sometimes, this stems from laziness or misplaced priorities, or just struggling to understand the text they are reading. Its true, the Bible can prove challenging to understand at times. And while its foundational teachings can be understood by children, numerous aspects within its pages demand additional effort and guidance.

If you want to get the most out of the Bible, you need to learn how to read and interpret it for yourself.

We hope this journal will help you do just that. This journal was created to help you get the most out of your biblical reading and study as you tap into the eternal truths God reveals to us throughout Scripture. And to help you create a plan and habit of reading the Bible on a regular basis.

KEYS FOR YOUR READING

Using the acronym **TAP**, we have created key sections in this journal to help you tap into God's truth.

Truth

In our exploration of the Bible, it's crucial to stay attuned to the main themes and essential teachings, while avoiding getting too sidetracked by secondary matters. It's like peering through a telescope to see the big picture before delving into the details with a microscope. The Bible isn't a riddle book or a coded message, so there's no need to search for intricate symbols and hidden meanings. Instead, focus on what it meant to the original readers and how those insights apply to your life today. In doing so, you unveil the timeless truths that God desires for us to grasp.

As you write in this section each day, write down the eternal truth(s) that the Holy Spirit is revealing to you from your reading.

Application

The ultimate goal of reading and studying the Bible is not to showcase theological expertise or engage in intellectual debates, but rather to apply its teachings to our everyday lives. Bible study is not about impressing others; it's about allowing God's Word to bring about a transformative impact. So, as you read the Bible, listen to the Holy Spirit attentively—and then respond with obedience. With that in mind, as we read the Scriptures, we should do it with humility and an open heart, prepared to be both challenged and changed by God's truths. An open-minded attitude is key. Let go of preconceptions, assumptions, and prior knowledge. Embrace the potential for fresh revelations each time you engage with the Bible. Its pages are a wellspring of inexhaustible truths.

As you write in this section, write down how you will obey God's eternal truth(s) and apply His word to your life.

Prayer

The Bible is a book filled with spiritual wisdom and diving into it requires a spiritual mindset. You engage in studying the Bible spiritually when your reading is partnered with prayer. This approach allows the Holy Spirit to shed light on the understanding and application of its truths in your life. So, let your reading and study be wrapped in prayer. This will let the Holy Spirit guide your exploration of the profound insights within the pages of the Bible.

And as you write in this section, write a prayer asking God to help you to live out the eternal truth you have read about.

Sabbath Days

The Sabbath is a weekly oasis in the hustle and bustle of life. It's a day set apart for rest, reflection, and connection—with both God and others. Imagine it as a divine reset button, reminding us to pause, recharge, and recalibrate our focus on what truly matters. In the rhythm of our fast-paced lives, the Sabbath acts as a steady heartbeat, offering a space for spiritual rejuvenation. It's not just a break from work but a sacred invitation to experience the richness of God's presence and delve into the truths embedded in His Word. Observing the Sabbath isn't a legalistic duty; it's a relational embrace, an intentional choice to honor God's design for our well-being and find a sanctuary of peace amidst life's demands. Embracing the Sabbath means recognizing that we're not just called to be doers but also to be dwellers in the rest God provides, ensuring our souls are nourished, inspired, and ready to obey Him in the week ahead.

On these days, reflect on the past week and write down what God has taught you and how thankful you are for it.





OVERVIEW

The Gospel of Luke is the most extensive book in the New Testament and the first of two penned by Luke himself. Unlike some Gospel writers who walked with Jesus, Luke, a skilled physician and meticulous researcher, delves into the life and ministry of Jesus. He isn't just recounting personal experiences; he's like an investigative reporter, crafting a vivid narrative based on eyewitness accounts. His unique style, characterized by lengthy, detailed chapters, aims to provide a comprehensive picture, incorporating historical context that sets him apart from other Gospel writers.

Luke has a specific goal in mind—he writes for Theophilus, a friend and recipient of the book of Acts. Luke's purpose is clear: to ensure certainty in the truths about Jesus. This mission extends to us today, inviting us to grasp the profound teachings conveyed in this Gospel. Over 24 chapters, we journey from John the Baptist's birth, paving the way for Jesus, to the intense events of Holy Week, culminating in the resurrection. Immerse yourself in the narrative; let the scenes unfold in your mind. Pray for a fresh revelation of Jesus as you explore the accounts of his life.

DAY 1

LUKE 1

Context

Luke starts his Gospel with a clear mission: to affirm the stories of Jesus for Theophilus, ensuring his faith is steadfast. Before this, there was a 400-year silence, yet a glimmer of hope emerges. Enter two couples: Zechariah and Elizabeth, along with Mary and Joseph. The angel Gabriel reveals their roles in ushering in God's Kingdom, particularly John preparing the way for someone greater. The chapter closes with pregnant Mary and John's birth.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 2

LUKE 2

Context

The Savior, Jesus Christ, is born! In a humble manger, born of a virgin, God's only Son enters the world. The first witnesses are lowly shepherds, summoned by angels in God's master plan. As they visit, praising God, Mary cherishes these moments, pondering God's goodness and her faithfulness. In the temple, Simeon recognizes Jesus as the promised Messiah, a light for all, and Mary marvels at these grand words. Twelve years later, Jesus, temporarily lost in Jerusalem, is found discussing profound matters with religious teachers. His response to Mary, "I must be in my Father's house," reflects a deeper understanding. Mary continues treasuring these experiences, witnessing Jesus grow.



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APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 3

LUKE 3

Context

Chapter 3 of Luke transitions from the early years of Jesus to John the Baptist's role as the proclaimer of Jesus' public ministry. John's calling emphasizes a higher standard, preparing followers for the heavenly leader, Jesus, amidst a world driven by earthly pursuits. Following the account of Jesus' baptism, Luke presents a genealogy, tracing Jesus' ancestry through a list of flawed individuals. These imperfect lives signify the intentional preparation for Jesus, reaching back to the very beginning. The names, filled with sinners, highlight God's careful plan for salvation, not a hasty response but a purposeful journey through generations. In Luke 3, the author emphasizes that the story isn't just a chronological sequence but a narrative of generational preparations for the Savior, unveiling the Truth needed for salvation.



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DAY 4

LUKE 4

Context

In the dramatic account of Jesus facing temptation, we witness the resilience of His spirit as He overcomes Satan's challenges with the strength of the Holy Spirit. Jesus's forty-day fast, though physically demanding, becomes a spiritual strengthening, emphasizing the transformative power of challenging experiences like fasting. Emerging from the wilderness, Jesus carries a heightened spiritual strength, illustrating the value of such trials for our sanctification and God's glory. Fasting, though tough, proves worthwhile for the profound spiritual growth it facilitates, echoing God's purposeful guidance through seasons of peace and wilderness in our lives. Returning to Nazareth, Jesus teaches from Isaiah in the synagogue, impressing the crowd initially. However, tension arises when He refuses to showcase miracles as proof and suggests God's love for both Jews and Gentiles. Recognizing the challenge of familiarity, Jesus faces hostility from the Nazarites, who attempt to harm Him. The chapter concludes with miraculous healings and deliverances, underlining the importance of Jesus's retreat to a desert place afterward.

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DAY 5

LUKE 5

Context

In Luke 5, we witness dramatic moments revealing the motivation behind Jesus' early ministry. In the story of the miraculous catch of fish, Peter, tired and frustrated after a night of unsuccessful fishing, responds in faith to Jesus' instruction. The catch is so immense that it could have marked an end to Peter's struggles, providing security and prosperity. However, Jesus, in a surprising twist, calls Peter to walk away from his profession, challenging him to a greater purpose beyond material success. Jesus also heals a paralyzed man and invites another to follow him.



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APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 6

LUKE 6

Context

In Luke 6, Jesus addresses the interpretation of Sabbath laws, challenging the Pharisees' legalistic view. By permitting his disciples to eat grain on the Sabbath, Jesus highlights the true purpose of the Sabbath—to bring life and rest to God's people, not to rigidly restrict their activities. This emphasizes that scriptural commands should be understood in the context of bringing life and rest to people in a fallen world. While the second half of Luke 6 might tempt readers to seek a symbolic interpretation, Jesus underscores the literal meaning of his commands. Loving enemies, refraining from judgment, lending without expecting repayment, and forgiving others are not suggestions but commands from the King of creation. Jesus rejects both strict legalism and a dismissive attitude toward God's commands. In essence, Luke 6 teaches that God's laws and commands should neither be overly elaborated on nor ignored. Approaching the Word requires considering both the letter and the spirit of the Law, understanding that they are interconnected and crucial for a comprehensive understanding.



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DAY 7

Sabbath Day

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DAY 8

LUKE 7

Context

Luke 7 presents multiple instances showcasing the compassionate character of Jesus. The centurion, a Roman soldier, demonstrates unexpected faith, trusting Jesus to heal his servant with just a word. Jesus acknowledges this faith, rewarding it with the miraculous healing of the servant. Another example is given in the grieving widow whose only son is restored to life by Jesus, displaying his deep empathy and ability to mend broken hearts. John the Baptist, facing doubt in his imprisonment, seeks confirmation of Jesus's identity. Despite John's wavering faith, Jesus responds with patience and kindness, offering reassurance and reminding him of the truth. The story of the sinful woman, aware of her shortcomings, boldly approaches Jesus, expressing her worship and repentance. Jesus, recognizing her genuine faith, extends forgiveness, demonstrating his boundless love and grace.



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APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 9

LUKE 8

Context

Luke 8 unfolds with various instances of Jesus exercising his earthly ministry in impactful ways. One notable focus is on the parable of the sower. In this teaching, Jesus imparts wisdom using farming metaphors, prompting initial confusion among the crowd. However, Jesus unveils the deeper meanings behind this lesson. The disciples, fortunate recipients of personal instruction from Christ, exemplify the privilege of having God reveal the secrets of His kingdom. This revelation is likened to a light in a dark world. The metaphor of a lamp underscores the responsibility to share the wisdom received from the Holy Spirit. Later, Jesus performs some breathtaking miracles that continue to solidify him as the true messiah.



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DAY 10

LUKE 9

Context

Luke 9 serves as a pivotal chapter, marking the conclusion of Jesus' ministry in Galilee and the beginning of His journey to Jerusalem. Amid teachings and preparations for the disciples, the overarching theme centers on the question "Who is Jesus?" This inquiry arises from various perspectives, including Herod, the crowd witnessing miracles, and Jesus prompting Peter to declare Him as "God's Messiah." The chapter delves into the cost of being a follower of Jesus, emphasizing the need to deny oneself, take up the cross, and recognize that losing one's life for His sake results in saving it. This sacrificial aspect is reiterated in later teachings. Additionally, the narrative highlights the humility required in welcoming others who seek to know about Jesus. Exploring the disciples' mission and Jesus' model of leadership, the chapter underscores the empowerment given to believers to proclaim the kingdom of God and participate in His work.

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APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 11

LUKE 10

Context

In Luke chapter 10, Jesus appoints seventy disciples to go ahead of Him to various towns and villages, preparing the way for His arrival. He instructs them with urgency, emphasizing the plentiful harvest and the need for laborers. The disciples embark on their mission, performing miracles and proclaiming the arrival of the kingdom of God. Upon their return, they joyfully report their success, noting even the demons submitting to them in Jesus' name. In response, Jesus expresses gratitude to the Father and shares insights about the privilege of witnessing these divine revelations. The chapter concludes with the famous parable of the Good Samaritan, illustrating the essence of true neighborly love and emphasizing the importance of compassion and mercy in our interactions with others.



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DAY 12

LUKE 11

Context

In Luke chapter 11, the disciples, captivated by the passionate prayer life of Jesus, request guidance on how to pray. Jesus responds with the profound and beautiful Lord's Prayer, offering a template for communication with God. He underscores the persistent and bold nature of prayer, encouraging them to seek, knock, and ask with unwavering faith. Amidst these teachings, Jesus imparts the importance of the Holy Spirit, the ultimate gift from the Father, as essential in our spiritual journey. As the crowds gather, some skeptics challenge Jesus' authority, prompting Him to deliver powerful teachings on the nature of darkness and light, emphasizing the need for spiritual discernment. The chapter builds up to a powerful rebuke against the religious leaders, exposing their hypocrisy and neglect of justice. Jesus confronts them for their obsession with external rituals while living a life of corruption. He calls them to a deeper authenticity, urging a transformation from the inside out. In this chapter, Jesus not only reveals the profound mysteries of prayer and the spiritual realm but also calls His followers to a radical authenticity and justice, challenging them to embrace the transformative power of His teachings.



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DAY 13

LUKE 12

Context

In Luke chapter 12, Jesus imparts profound lessons to a multitude of listeners, warning against hypocrisy and encouraging a fearless faith in the face of persecution. Addressing His disciples, Jesus emphasizes the Father's care, assuring them that their worth far surpasses the value of sparrows, and even the very hairs on their heads are numbered. He calls for an unwavering commitment to Him, even in the face of opposition. Jesus challenges materialistic desires, urging listeners to seek eternal treasures rather than earthly riches that can fade away. He expresses that faithful and wise stewardship is crucial as His followers await His return, comparing them to servants awaiting their master's arrival. Jesus foretells divisions that His message will bring, acknowledging the disruption it will cause even within families. He calls for discernment in interpreting the times and stresses reconciliation before judgment. Urging readiness for the impending arrival of the Son of Man, Jesus paints a vivid picture of a master returning unexpectedly, reinforcing the importance of spiritual preparedness. This chapter is full of wisdom, highlighting the importance of trust in God, faithful stewardship, and readiness for the unfolding of divine plans in the midst of earthly challenges.



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DAY 14

Sabbath Day

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DAY 15

LUKE 13

Context

In Luke chapter 13, Jesus addresses the crowd, emphasizing the urgency of repentance and the need for a transformed life. He recounts two significant events—the tragic incident where Pilate mixed the blood of Galileans with their sacrifices, and the collapse of the tower in Siloam, resulting in deaths. Jesus challenges the notion that these tragedies occurred because the victims were more sinful than others. Instead, He stresses the importance of repentance for everyone, warning that without a change of heart, all could face spiritual peril. Jesus then shares a parable about a barren fig tree, symbolizing unfruitfulness. The owner, representing God, patiently gives the tree another chance to bear fruit, but the caretaker suggests cutting it down. However, the owner decides to give it one more year, demonstrating God’s mercy and the opportunity for repentance. The chapter concludes with Jesus healing a woman who had been bent over for 18 years, illustrating His compassion and the liberation that comes through faith. The overall message echoes the call to repentance, the urgency of a transformed life, and the boundless mercy of God.



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APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 16

LUKE 14

Context

Luke 14 unfolds with Jesus navigating the delicate landscape of humility and hospitality. The chapter commences with a miraculous healing, showcasing Jesus' compassionate authority over physical afflictions. As Jesus attends a Pharisee's banquet, He imparts profound teachings on humility, urging His audience to embrace the lowest place rather than seeking positions of honor. The parable of the great banquet resonates with a powerful invitation to partake in the kingdom of God, emphasizing the inclusivity of God's grace, which extends beyond societal boundaries. In a masterful blend of exhortation and illustration, Jesus challenges His followers to count the cost of discipleship, comparing it to the strategic planning of a builder or a king preparing for war. The call to forsake everything for the sake of following Christ echoes with urgency, underscoring the radical commitment required to be His disciples. The chapter culminates in the poignant metaphor of salt, encouraging believers to maintain the distinctive flavor of devotion and commitment in their journey of faith.



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DAY 17

LUKE 15

Context

Luke 15 unfolds as a poignant narrative of redemption and rejoicing. Three parables, the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son, converge to illuminate the extravagant grace of God. Each parable magnifies the fervent pursuit of the lost, be it a sheep, a coin, or a wayward son, by a compassionate and relentless Shepherd. The chapter resonates with the profound truth that God's joy is complete when the lost are found, and repentant hearts are welcomed into the fold. The Prodigal Son's narrative paints a vivid picture of a loving father, embodying the mercy and celebration awaiting those who turn back to God.



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DAY 18

LUKE 16

Context

Luke 16 unfolds with two powerful parables, the Shrewd Manager and the Rich Man and Lazarus. In the first, Jesus tells the story of a manager commended for his shrewdness, emphasizing the importance of using worldly resources wisely for eternal impact. The parable challenges believers to be intentional and strategic stewards of their resources, recognizing their role in God's kingdom economy. The second parable shows the eternal consequences of earthly choices, portraying the stark contrast between the rich man's indulgence and Lazarus's destitution. A reminder to prioritize God's kingdom values over temporary worldly pleasures.



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DAY 19

LUKE 17

Context

In Luke 17, Jesus imparts profound teachings on forgiveness, faith, and gratitude. He instructs his disciples about the essential nature of forgiveness, emphasizing a spirit of mercy and reconciliation. The chapter begins with a powerful reminder about the dangers of causing others to stumble in their faith, urging believers to prioritize love and understanding. Jesus illustrates the transformative power of genuine faith through the healing of ten lepers, emphasizing the significance of gratitude and acknowledging God's mercy. The chapter concludes with Jesus outlining the suddenness of His return, urging readiness and vigilance among His followers.



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DAY 20

LUKE 18

Context

The chapter opens with the parable of the persistent widow, illustrating the importance of tenacious prayer and unwavering faith. Jesus contrasts the humility of the tax collector with the self-righteousness of the Pharisee, emphasizing the transformative power of repentance and a humble heart. The chapter culminates with the encounter between Jesus and the rich ruler, highlighting the challenges wealth poses to entering the kingdom of God and the call to wholehearted surrender to follow Christ.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

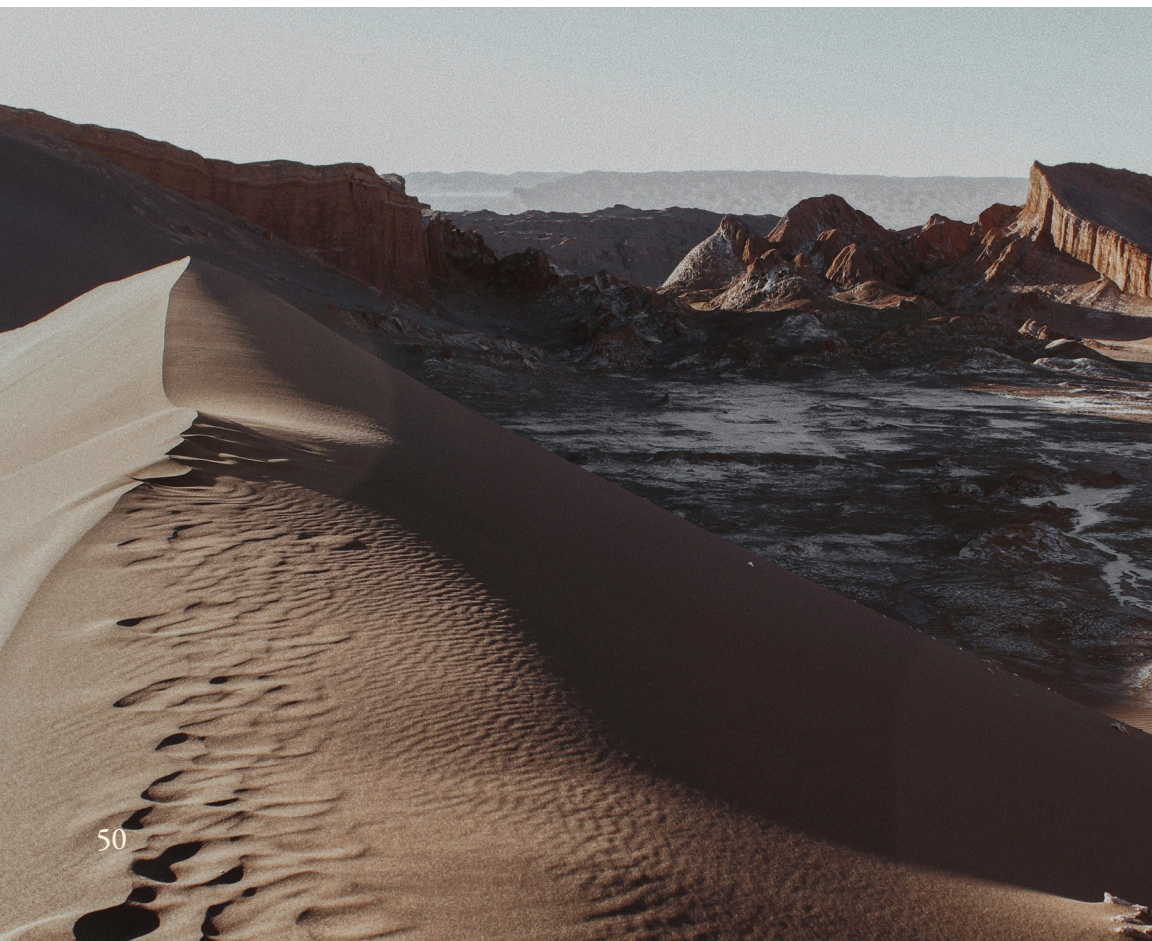
APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

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DAY 21

Sabbath Day

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DAY 22

LUKE 19

Context

In Luke 19, the narrative unfolds with the transformative encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus, a despised tax collector. Despite the opinions of others, Jesus chooses to dine at Zacchaeus' house, leading to a profound change in the tax collector's heart. Witnessing this transformation, Jesus declares, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." The chapter then transitions to the parable of the ten minas, emphasizing faithfulness and accountability in stewarding God-given resources. As Jesus approaches Jerusalem, a palpable anticipation fills the air, and crowds hail Him as the long-awaited Messiah during the triumphal entry.



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DAY 23

LUKE 20

Context

This chapter opens with religious leaders challenging Jesus' authority, questioning the source of His power. In response, Jesus masterfully navigates their inquiries, exposing their hypocrisy and prompting reflection on the authority of John the Baptist. The chapter unfolds with a parable about wicked tenants, highlighting God's patience and the consequences of rejecting His messengers. Then, the religious elite attempts to trap Jesus with questions about paying taxes and the resurrection, but His answers confound their attempts, showcasing His wisdom. Towards the end of the chapter, Jesus warns against the scribes' pride and hypocrisy, contrasting their displays with the sacrificial offering of a poor widow.



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DAY 24

LUKE 21

Context

In Luke 21, Jesus engages with His disciples near the temple, foretelling its impending destruction. He warns them of challenging times ahead, marked by wars, natural disasters, and persecution. Amidst these tribulations, He encourages steadfast faith, assuring that their testimony will bear witness even before rulers. Jesus prophesies the destruction of Jerusalem and the scattering of the Jewish people. He speaks of the signs heralding His second coming, using symbolic language to describe cosmic upheavals. Jesus stresses the importance of vigilance, urging His followers to stay spiritually alert, ready for His return.

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DAY 25

LUKE 22

Context

Luke 22 unfolds with the approaching Passover, and the religious leaders conspire to arrest Jesus. Judas Iscariot, driven by greed, agrees to betray Jesus to them. As the disciples prepare for the Passover meal, Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper, symbolizing His imminent sacrifice. During the meal, He predicts His betrayal, and the disciples dispute about their status. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus fervently prays, sweating drops of blood, while the disciples, overcome by sorrow, struggle to stay awake. Judas arrives with a crowd to betray Jesus, leading to His arrest.



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DAY 26

LUKE 23

Context

This chapter narrates the heartbreaking events leading to Jesus' crucifixion. The religious leaders bring Jesus before Pilate, accusing Him of stirring up the people. Pilate finds no guilt in Jesus but, gives in to the crowd's demands, releases Barabbas instead. Jesus, now sentenced to death, carries His cross to Golgotha. Along the way, Simon of Cyrene is compelled to help bear the burden. At the crucifixion site, Jesus endures mockery and agony, uttering words of forgiveness and promising paradise to the repentant thief beside Him. Darkness shrouds the land as Jesus breathes His last, and the temple veil tears. Joseph of Arimathea takes Jesus' body, placing it in a tomb.



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DAY 27

LUKE 24

Context

As we conclude our journey through Luke, we reach the climax of the Gospel narrative with the resurrection of Jesus. On the first day of the week, women, including Mary Magdalene, find the tomb empty. Angels declare that Jesus is alive, fulfilling His prediction of rising on the third day. Peter investigates, confirming the vacant tomb. On the road to Emmaus, two disciples encounter a stranger—Jesus incognito. They recognize Him during a shared meal, and, overcome with joy, they rush back to Jerusalem to share the news. While the disciples recount these events, Jesus appears among them, dispelling doubts, and emphasizes the fulfillment of prophecy. He commissions them to preach repentance and forgiveness to all nations, promising the Holy Spirit's power.



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