



Passion

Luke 22 – 24

by Mike McKinley

Passion

The good book guide to Luke 22 – 24

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introduction: good book guides

Every Bible-study group is different—yours may take place in a church building, in a home or in a cafe, on a train, over a leisurely mid-morning coffee or squashed into a 30-minute lunch break. Your group may include new Christians, mature Christians, non-Christians, moms and tots, students, businessmen or teens. That’s why we’ve designed these *Good Book Guides* to be flexible for use in many different situations.

Our aim in each session is to uncover the meaning of a passage, and see how it fits into the “big picture” of the Bible. But that can never be the end. We also need to appropriately apply what we have discovered to our lives. Let’s take a look at what is included:

- ↔ **Talkabout:** Most groups need to “break the ice” at the beginning of a session, and here’s the question that will do that. It’s designed to get people talking around a subject that will be covered in the course of the Bible study.
- ↓ **Investigate:** The Bible text for each session is broken up into manageable chunks, with questions that aim to help you understand what the passage is about. **The Leader’s Guide** contains **guidance on questions**, and sometimes ☑ additional “follow-up” questions.
- 🗺 **Explore more (optional):** These questions will help you connect what you have learned to other parts of the Bible, so you can begin to fit it all together like a jig-saw; or occasionally look at a part of the passage that’s not dealt with in detail in the main study.
- **Apply:** As you go through a Bible study, you’ll keep coming across **apply** sections. These are questions to get the group discussing what the Bible teaching means in practice for you and your church. 🗨 **Getting personal** is an opportunity for you to think, plan and pray about the changes that you personally may need to make as a result of what you have learned.
- ↑ **Pray:** We want to encourage prayer that is rooted in God’s word—in line with his concerns, purposes and promises. So each session ends with an opportunity to review the truths and challenges highlighted by the Bible study, and turn them into prayers of request and thanksgiving.

The **Leader’s Guide** and introduction provide historical background information, explanations of the Bible texts for each session, ideas for **optional extra** activities, and guidance on how best to help people uncover the truths of God’s word.



why study *Passion*?

What difference does the cross of Jesus Christ make to the way you live?

For some, the answer is simple: no difference at all. Most humans live, love, work and die without being in any way influenced by the fact that Jesus of Nazareth was crucified 2,000 years ago.

For Christians, the answer is different. Christians hold that the death of Christ is the centre of human history, because it has changed their eternal futures completely. They have certain hope of life with God beyond death.

But perhaps many Christians are still missing something important when they think about the cross. We tend to think of Jesus' final hours only in terms of the future. We think the cross is great, and we'll definitely need it when we die... and that's about it.

And yet, for the writers of the New Testament, the cross didn't change only the future, but everything about the present, too. For them, the cross is the reality that shapes the way Christians should think about every detail of our lives right now, from our marriages to our money, from our suffering to our success.

So these six studies are about a past event which has changed the future, but which can and should direct our present, too. As we look at Christ's Passion through the eyes of Luke's Gospel, we'll be taught, shocked, encouraged, challenged, and deeply moved by the words and actions of the Lord Jesus. We'll see that there are no wasted words, spare characters or unimportant moments. Everything Luke relates to us has a purpose for our lives today.

The cross of Jesus, we'll see, is all we will need, and all we will have, on the last day of our lives. But wonderfully, Luke will show us that it's also all we need for today, and tomorrow, and each day up until that last one.

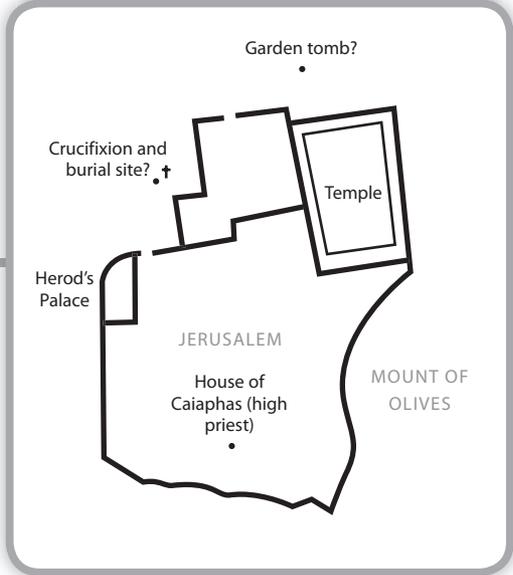




BIBLE TIMELINE

Where does Luke 22 – 24 fit into the whole story of God's word?

LUKE 22 – 24 c33AD



1

Luke 22 v 39-62

ARREST OF A KING

talkabout

1. What (if anything!) makes you cry?

- What makes you feel anguished?

investigate

We're jumping in at almost the end of a story. In the first 22 ½ chapters of his Gospel, Luke has shown us that Jesus is a man like no other; in fact, that he is the Son of God. But on this night, celebrating the Passover meal with his friends, Jesus has revealed that he knows that one of his disciples, Judas, has agreed to betray him into the hands of his jealous rivals. The stage is set for the most difficult night of Jesus' life.

Read Luke 22 v 39-46

2. What does Jesus ask his Father, God, to do (v 42)?

DICTIONARY

Mount of Olives (v 39):

a hill just outside Jerusalem.

Disciples (v 39): Jesus' eleven closest friends, chosen by him.

Anguish (v 44): severe mental or physical pain.

- Read Isaiah 51 v 17. How does this verse help us understand Jesus' plea to his Father?

3. Jesus is beginning to experience what he will go through in full as he dies the next day. How does this foretaste make him feel (v 44)?

4. Why does all this make the second half of Jesus' prayer in verse 42 amazing?

➔ **apply**

Why did Jesus drink the cup he could have avoided? So that sinners (us) don't have to—so that we never need to feel the greatest anguish there can be.

5. How does this passage show what it means for Jesus to love his people?

6. In the Lord's Prayer, we say to God: "Your will be done" (Matthew 6 v 10), just as Jesus did on the Mount of Olives. How is this challenging?



getting personal

Jesus tastes the cup of God's wrath, and it staggers him. It knocks him to the ground. But it doesn't shake his love for his people. As he faces the cup of hell, Jesus says to his Father: *I will take it for them.*



Have you asked him to take the cup for you?
If you have, when in your life do you most need to remember how much Jesus loves you?



explore more

optional

Look at what Jesus commands his followers in verse 40. How well do they obey him?

Why might it seem more sensible to get some sleep than to stay up praying?

How does this challenge us as Jesus' followers today?



investigate

▶ **Read Luke 22 v 47-62**

7. What similarities are there between Judas and Peter?

DICTIONARY

Twelve (v 47): the disciples.

High priest (v 50): the most senior position in the Jewish religion; he had great political power, too.

Peter (v 54): a disciple; one of Jesus' three closest friends.

Galilean (v 59): someone from Galilee, the area Jesus had grown up.

And yet one of these two disciples has gone down in history as a villain, the other as a hero. Why?

8. **Read Matthew 27 v 3-5 and John 21 v 1-9, 15-19.** What differences are there between how Judas and Peter respond to their parts in Jesus' arrest and trial?



- How do the religious leaders respond (Matthew 27 v 3-5)?

As we look at the conduct of Judas, Peter and the religious leaders, we see that this truly is a time “when darkness reigns” (Luke 22 v 53).

9. How does this serve to make Jesus’ willingness to drink the cup even more amazing?

apply

10. Why do we sometimes not “weep bitterly” about our sin?

11. How do the religious leaders, Judas and Peter show us the different ways we can try to deal with guilt?

12. How can we be like Judas and Peter, in ordinary, everyday ways?



getting personal

How do you deal with your guilt? Seek to shift it; try to work it off; carry it as it crushes you; or give it to Jesus to deal with? Is there a weight of guilt you need to take to Jesus right now?

If you are a Christian, Jesus knows your every weakness, failure, and sin. He knows the worst about you. And he died for you anyway. How does that make you feel?



pray

Confess to God:

- the reality and seriousness of your sin.
- your guilt, and any ways you've been trying to deal with it instead of giving it to Jesus.

Thank God:

- that Jesus took the cup you deserve.
- that Jesus took the guilt you have.
- that you can be honest about your sin, knowing that it is forgiven.
- that he loves you so much.

