



Ripple  
Effect

MODULE 3 | **The Real Jesus**

**Leader's Guide**



## Session 2

# Reading Luke's Gospel with three questions

**Key idea:** *As we read Luke's Gospel, we will focus on Jesus and how people responded to him.*

**Key encouragement:** *You don't need to be an expert Bible teacher to read Luke's Gospel with others.*

**Practical challenge:** *Familiarise yourself with three questions that will help us read Luke's Gospel well.*

**Session goals:**

- *Learn to use three questions to read Luke's Gospel with someone investigating Jesus: Jesus. People. Me.*
- *Gain confidence that Jesus is willing and able to meet our needs, the most important of which is our need for forgiveness.*
- *Pray for each other and each other's friends.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 2.

In each session we will read one passage in Luke's Gospel and discuss it using three questions. The stories we've chosen draw attention to Jesus' offer of forgiveness. By the end of the module, we'll have eight passages ready to read with a person investigating Jesus.

### Share

From the Relationship Network Worksheet, share about two more of the five people you hope to invite to read Luke's Gospel with you.

- Share a little bit about your relationship with them and the conversations, if any, that you have had about Jesus and Christianity.

*What do they think about Jesus and Christians? What are their opinions based on? People's opinions about Jesus might be different from their opinions about Christians and the church.*

*Start where your group members are at and encourage them to take a small step forward. If they need to make friends with people who aren't Christian—then pray for that. If they need an opportunity or courage to tell someone that they are Christian—then pray for that. etc.*

**Pray**

The first few chapters of Luke are filled with people singing with joy about the birth of Jesus. Zechariah sings of his son John's privileged role in pointing people to Jesus.

you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,  
to give his people the knowledge of salvation  
through the forgiveness of their sins,  
because of the tender mercy of our God

Luke 1:76-78 (NIV)

- | Thank God for Jesus and the mercy and forgiveness he offers to all who trust him.
- | Pray for your family and friends. Ask God to help them receive and rejoice in Jesus' offer of mercy and forgiveness.
- | Ask God to use us in this process, in any way he chooses, including by inviting them to read Luke's Gospel with us.

**Train*****Skill: Three questions***

Our three questions are about Jesus, the people who encountered him, and how Jesus relates to us 2,000 years later. They can be used for discussing almost any passage in any Gospel. The questions, in their most general form, are:

**Jesus:** What do we learn about Jesus in this story?

**People:** What do we learn about the people who met Jesus?

**Me:** What is my response to Jesus and this story?

These questions keep us focused on Jesus and how he affected the people around him. They start with the primary historical documents about Jesus, not secondary or personal opinions. They challenge us to consider the relevance of Jesus to us personally today.

***Luke's Gospel***

In Luke 4-9 we meet all sorts of people with all sorts of needs coming to Jesus for help. We will read one of their stories today.

1. Read Luke 5:17-31 and discuss the three questions:
  - a. Jesus: What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
    - *What does he say and do? Why?*
    - *How does he treat people?*
    - *What do we learn about his relationship with God?*
    - *What does Jesus want people to understand about himself, themselves and God.*

- b. People: What do we learn about the people who met Jesus?
  - *What are we told about them and why might this matter?*
  - *What do people think about Jesus? Why?*
  - *What do they want from Jesus? Why?*
  
- c. Me: What is my response to Jesus and this story?
  - *What stood out for me?*
  - *Who am I most like?*
  - *What questions do I have about Jesus and this story?*
  - *Do I agree with Jesus?*

*Under each of the three questions are expansion questions. You can find more examples in the document attached to this session. These expansion questions help discussion keep moving and stay focused on Jesus. Over time you'll discover which ones work best for you and your group.*

*We do not need to discuss every detail of the passage, either in RE3 sessions or when we are reading Luke with someone investigating Jesus.*

2. Review your discussion.

*This section is designed to help group members 'notice' how the discussion evolved and where it got stuck or distracted.*

*When you are leading, it is easy to be intimidated by this process. Remember that RE3 is about ordinary Christians prayerfully trusting God to use us as we read Luke's Gospel with others. It is not about running the 'perfect' Bible study. If you model being relaxed about this process, including the things you would do differently if you had your time again, you'll help your group members be more relaxed when they are reading Luke's Gospel with someone investigating Jesus.*

In each session we will review our discussion so that we notice how it evolved and what questions or comments moved it forward or deeper. We might also notice questions and comments which distracted us or took attention away from Jesus. Noticing these things will help us become better skilled at reading Luke's Gospel with others.

- a. Think back to each of the three questions: Jesus. People. Me. What comments or additional questions helped keep discussion focused on Jesus, moving forward and going deeper?

- b. What does this story teach us about forgiveness?
- *Jesus thinks forgiveness is our greatest need, even if it is not our only need.*
  - *Jesus is willing and able to forgive.*
  - *Jesus has authority to forgive because he is God.*
- c. What aspects of the story would you like to have discussed, or to have discussed more fully, if you had your time again?

*We can't discuss every question every time and we are always making decisions about what to leave out or what to return to later. It's the same with evangelism.*

Attached to today's session is a resource titled Expansion Questions. These questions can help keep discussion flowing and help people think more deeply about the passage. Which and how many of these we use depends on the passage, people's reading comprehension, their familiarity with Jesus and the Bible, whether they are an internal or external processor, how much time you have, etc. We're aiming for our discussion to feel more like a peer-to-peer conversation than a teacher-student conversation.

3. Pray. Thank God that Jesus is willing and able to forgive us. Ask God to help our family and friends see their need for forgiveness too.

*You could do this all together, or break up into pairs, or ask one person to pray for the group.*

RE3 is about ordinary Christians prayerfully trusting God to use us as we read Luke's Gospel with others. It is not about running the 'perfect' Bible study. If God has given us an opportunity to read Luke's Gospel with someone, then it's been a good day, even if it didn't go exactly the way we hoped it would.

### **Revise**

Read Luke 4:14-7:35 in one sitting. In these chapters we hear Jesus' teaching and see some of his miracles. Both give us glimpses of what life is like in God's kingdom. After you have read these chapters answer the three questions.

- Jesus: What do we learn about Jesus?
- People: What do we learn about the people who met Jesus?
- Me: What is my response to Jesus and these stories?

Read the Expansion Questions attachment.

- For each of the three questions, choose one expansion question that you find interesting. Use it to add to your answers above.

Connect with other group members during the week.

- Share with each other your response to the Me question. When someone else shares spend a few minutes praying for them.

### ***After Session Reflection***

- *How comfortable are people sharing and praying?*
- *How competent are people at reading the Bible?*
- *What went smoothly and what do I need to rethink?*
- *Did we miss anything important?*
- *What can I do or change to make the sessions run more smoothly?*

*Again, set the tone by posting to the group chat earlier rather than later in the week.*

*Pray for yourself, your group, and the people they are praying for.*





# Expansion Questions

RE3 uses three questions to structure discussion on Luke's Gospel. They focus on Jesus and how he affected the people around him. The last question encourages us to see how Jesus could affect us. For some people and groups these questions by themselves will be enough for fruitful discussion. Other people or groups might need more prompting. That's where expansion questions come in.

This resource contains examples of expansion questions that help keep discussion flowing and encourage us to think more deeply about the passage. Which and how many of these we use depends on the passage, people's reading comprehension, their familiarity with Jesus and the Bible, whether they are an internal or external processor, how much time you have, etc. We're aiming for discussion to feel more like a peer-to-peer conversation than a teacher-student conversation.

## **Jesus: What do we learn about Jesus in this story?**

- | What does Jesus say and do? Why does he say and do these things?
- | Who does Jesus think he is? What evidence does he offer?
- | What do we learn about Jesus' character and motives?
- | What do we learn about Jesus' relationship with God? His relationship with people?
- | What does Jesus want people to understand about himself, themselves, God, and their world?

## **People: What do we learn about the people who met Jesus?**

- | Who are the people in the story? (Don't forget the crowd who watch and assess Jesus but have not committed to following him.)
- | What do they say and do? Why?
- | What do they think and feel about Jesus? Why?
- | What are we told about them and why might this be important?
- | What do we learn about their circumstances, character, values and motives?
- | What is their relationship with God like? With Jesus? With other people?

## **Me: What is my response to Jesus and this story?**

- | What stood out for me in this story?
- | Who do I connect with in the story? Who am I most like or least like? Why?
- | What questions do I have about Jesus and this story?
- | How do I feel about this story?
- | What do I think about Jesus? Do I agree with Jesus? Why?
- | What does this tell me about trusting and following Jesus?

When preparing to read Luke's Gospel with someone it can be helpful to think through the Me question not only from your own perspective but also from their perspective. This helps you to love them well as you seek to view life from their perspective and better understand their joys, fears, hopes and griefs. God-willing, it will give you an opportunity to share with them how knowing Jesus could meet their deepest needs.

Keep learning at  
[ripple-effect.net.au](http://ripple-effect.net.au)