

Lutheran Church of Australia

How to read the Bible

June

Read through the New Testament

Daily Devotions with thought-starters and prayer

© Pastor Richard Haar

Get Into It Any Way You Can!

June 1st - Luke 9:1-20.

Reflect: First Jesus tells his disciples to feed the crowd of over 5,000. Then he himself feeds them. We are often not equal to the task but Jesus always gives in abundance!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, teach me to always trust in your great generosity. Amen."

June 2nd - Luke 9:21-43.

Reflect: Peter had just confessed that Jesus was the Christ (the Messiah). He had still one more thing to learn: That this meant the cross, both for Jesus and for his followers!

Prayer: "Lord, help me to deny myself, take up my cross daily and follow you! Amen."

June 3rd - Luke 9:44-62.

Reflect: What excuses do you come up with for delaying following (or obeying) Jesus? How would you summarise the cost of following Jesus in your own life?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, give me both the faith and the courage to follow you. Amen."

June 4th - Luke 10:1-20.

Reflect: Jesus says that although the harvest is plentiful, the labourers are few. We are "blessed" (v 23) to know Jesus. Others will also be blessed if we tell them about him!

Prayer: "Here am I Lord, send me to work in your harvest field. Amen."

June 5th - Luke 10:21-42.

Reflect: Jesus turns the question around from "Who is my neighbour?" to "What kind of neighbour am I to others?" The Good Shepherd teaches us to be Good Samaritans!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, may your love fill me and flow out to others."

Amen."

June 6th - Luke 11:1-28.

Reflect: We all need to grow in prayer: Both in knowing what to say (Jesus shows us the kind of things to pray for in the Lord's Prayer) and in being persistent in prayer.

Prayer: "Lord, help me to grow and mature in my prayer life. Amen."

June 7th - Luke 11:29-54.

Reflect: Even though you are a Christian, have you sometimes neglected justice and the love of God? Has your lifestyle in some way hindered others entering (v52)?

Prayer: "Merciful Saviour, forgive my failures and renew my faith. Amen."

June 8th - Luke 12:1-21.

Reflect: The parable of the Rich Fool has a lot to say to our materialistic culture! If a "man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions", what does?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to find my life's riches in you. Amen."

June 9th - Luke 12:22-40.

Reflect: It's all a question of priorities: God doesn't deny us the necessities of life. On the contrary, when we trust in God (seek his kingdom), these too will be provided!

Prayer: "Lord, help me to put you first in my life and to trust in your care. Amen."

June 10th - Luke 21:41-59.

Reflect: How much has God given you? How much has he entrusted you with? How responsibly are you exercising his trust in you? Are you ready to give account?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to be a good steward of your gifts to me. Amen."

June 11th - Luke 13:1-17.

Reflect: Each of us are living in the "one more year of grace" because of Jesus. God is keen that our lives bear fruit. That's only possible because of and by God's grace!

Prayer: "Jesus, renew me by your grace and produce in me much fruit. Amen."

June 12th - Luke 13:18-35.

Reflect: Does Jesus need to repeat his words of woe about Jerusalem over our country? Your church? Your home? Jesus is still willing! How about us?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, make my heart willing to respond to your call. Amen."

June 13th - Luke 14:1-14.

Reflect: Jesus wants to teach us here about compassion, humility and hospitality. How do these values differ from those of the world around us?

Prayer: "Lord, help me to live my life according to your values. Amen."

June 14th - Luke 14:15-35.

Reflect: Many people wrongly imagine that entry into God's kingdom is by merit. What does this parable of the Great Banquet teach us about grace and salvation?

Prayer: "Lord, thank you for graciously inviting me to your eternal banquet. Amen."

June 15th - Luke 15:1-32.

Reflect: Re-read the three parables of the lost sheep, coin, and son and take special note of the joy that accompanies them being found. God rejoices over us being found!

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, thank you for welcoming me home. Amen."

June 16th - Luke 16:1-31.

Reflect: In what ways is money a rival to God? In what ways can money be a servant of God? It all depends on your attitude! What does God think of your heart?

Prayer: "Lord, free me from the love of money and teach me generosity. Amen."

June 17th - Luke 17:1-19.

Reflect: Being able to keep on forgiving is only possible if there is an "increase in our faith." Faith is marked not only by a forgiving heart but a grateful one too (v 17-19).

Prayer: "Lord, may my life be full of faith, forgiveness and gratitude. Amen."

June 18th - Luke 17:20-37.

Reflect: Most people around us seem totally blind to spiritual realities - just like in Noah's or Lot's time. We however need to take notice and be ready at all times!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, create a hunger for you in me and in our nation. Amen."

June 19th - Luke 18:1-17.

Reflect: "God be merciful to me a sinner!" We will never stop needing to pray that prayer this side of eternity. Thank God that he **IS** merciful to us sinners!!!

Prayer: "Lord, never let me forget that I have everything by your grace! Amen."

June 20th - Luke 18:18-43.

Reflect: It's hard for wealthy people to enter God's kingdom because they habitually depend on their riches rather than calling on God's help. Does that describe us too?!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you that you can do the impossible for me! Amen."

June 21st - Luke 19:1-27.

Reflect: Zacchaeus' heart, values and lifestyle was changed completely through his encounter with Jesus' acceptance and love. These are what change us as well!

Prayer: "Dear Saviour, thank you for loving and accepting me. Amen."

June 22nd - Luke 19:28-48.

Reflect: If Jesus rode a donkey through your neighbourhood, what kind of reception would he get? What would happen if he turned the church furniture upside down?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, by your grace, may I always be ready for your arrival. Amen."

June 23rd - Luke 20:1-19.

Reflect: People today still ask by what authority Jesus (and his church) makes his claims? Tragically people still reject the cornerstone. Don't be one of them!

Prayer: "Lord, help me to recognise who you are (Saviour) and to follow you. Amen."

June 24th - Luke 20:20-47.

Reflect: Often people want to argue a point from the Bible as a way of avoiding facing up to Jesus' claims. When they finally meet Jesus they too are often astonished.

Prayer: "Well said, Teacher! Yes Jesus, you alone can teach us the Truth. Amen."

June 25th - Luke 21:1-19.

Reflect: If you knew for certain that the world would end in six months time, how would that fact change your life? What would you do differently?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to be ready for your return at all times. Amen."

June 26th - Luke 21:20-38.

Reflect: In the midst of trouble and uncertainty, what encouragement do you draw from Jesus' promise that his words will never pass away? This is solid ground!!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, I know that whatever happens to me, I am safe with you. Amen."

June 27th - Luke 22:1-23.

Reflect: Only a "friend" can betray you. Judas shared the Last Supper with Jesus and still betrayed him. When have you been tempted to betray your friend Jesus?

Prayer: "Lord, have mercy on me a sinner. Please keep me loyal to you! Amen."

June 28th - Luke 22:24-46.

Reflect: Jesus is THE great example in servanthood and in prayer. What does Jesus' serving and self-giving and Jesus' earnest prayer in the garden teach you?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for all that you went through to save me. Amen."

June 29th - Luke 22:47-71.

Reflect: Imagine it! Jesus heals one of those who came to arrest him! When everyone else is consumed by hatred or fear, Jesus alone shows love and compassion!

Prayer: "In times of stress and danger, help me to be more like you, Lord. Amen."

June 30th - Luke 23:1-25.

Reflect: In a way we are all like Barabbas! We are all guilty. We all deserve punishment. But Jesus has been condemned instead of us and we have been set free!

Prayer: "Lord, you were crucified so that I might be forgiven! THANK YOU! Amen."