

**LIFE LET'S TALK  
EXPLORED**

stmatthew'schurch

## Welcome

Thank you for coming to Life Explored. We hope that these next few weeks will help you explore some of life's biggest questions. This is a safe space to ask any questions that you may have and we expect people to have all sorts of different opinions and questions. We don't expect you to agree with the course leader and want you to feel open to challenge and questions anything and everything that they say. Although we'd love to hear your views and questions, we don't expect you to do anything you feel uncomfortable with.

## How each session will run:

Each week, we'll start with a big question to get us thinking. Then we'll have a short talk that seeks to give a Christian answer to it from Luke's gospel (Jesus' life story as told by Luke). Then there will be the chance to discuss some questions related to the passage and the talk. Once again, all views are welcome, so please don't feel that your question is unwanted or irrelevant.

## How to get the most of this course

There are two things that we ask of course participants:

- 1) We'd love you to come to each session. The course has been designed to build on the previous week and to prepare you for the week ahead. If you can't make some sessions, that's OK, but the best thing is to make each one.
- 2) We'd love you to read or listen to some of Luke's Gospel between each session. We'll refer to Luke's Gospel regularly and we think it's really helpful for understanding some of the answers to life big questions. We'll provide a free copy for Luke for you and feel free to make notes, annotate it, scribble on it, or highlight it as you see fit!

## Week 1:

The Big Question: *“How could we know if God is real?”*

### Talk:

How could we know if God is real?

Luke: An Eyewitness Account

Luke's Claim: Jesus is the Son of God

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) What do you think of Luke's claim to be an eyewitness account of God's work in the world?
- 2) Who does Luke claim that Jesus is? What do you make of that claim?
- 3) If God came down to earth, what do you think he would say to us?
- 4) If God came down to earth, what should our response be?

Please read Luke 1-3 and bring questions and reactions next time.

## Week 2

What were your thoughts or questions about Luke 1-3?

The Big Question: *“How would you fix the world?”*

### Talk:

The world has problems

Jesus' Manifesto:

- He's promised by God
  
- He's anointed by God
  
- Jesus will do miracles and wonders
  
- He wins us freedom and favour

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Do you agree with Jesus' manifesto? What would you change about it?
  
- 2) What do you think of Luke's account of Jesus' miracles?
  
- 3) What do you think of Luke's claim that Jesus fulfils the Old Testament promises?

Please read Luke 4-7 and bring your questions and reactions next time.

## Week 3

What were your thoughts or questions about Luke 4-7?

The Big Question: *“why do bad things happen?”*

Talk:

Bad things happen to us

“What goes around, comes around” is wrong

Jesus says sin is our biggest problem

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Are you persuaded by Jesus' answer to why bad things happen?
- 2) What do you think is humanity's biggest problem?
- 3) What do you think of Jesus' statement that sin is our biggest problem?

Please read Luke 8-10 and bring your questions and reactions next time.

## Week 4

What were your thoughts or questions about Luke 8-10?

The Big Question: *“How could someone win God’s favour?”*

Talk:

How good are you?

Scandalous Restoration

Your free gift: God’s grace

Discussion Questions:

- 1) According to Jesus, what sort of people need to repent? Do you agree with his assessment?
- 2) From the stories in Luke’s gospel, what surprises you about who is accepted by God?
- 3) What does God’s free gift tell us about how God feels about us?

Please read Luke 11-14 and bring your questions and reactions next time.

## Week 5

What were your thoughts or questions about Luke 11-14?

The Big Question: *“How can there be justice in the world?”*

### Talk:

We all want justice

God cares about justice too

Jesus' death takes our punishment

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) According to Luke's gospel, why did Jesus die?
- 2) According to Luke, how does God balance the need for justice with a desire to welcome people to heaven?
- 3) What would be the right response to Jesus if he was dying for people's sins?

Please read Luke 15-19 and bring your questions and reactions next time.

## Week 6

What were your thoughts or questions about Luke 15-19?

The Big Question: *"Is death the end?"*

Talk:

We all die

Jesus rose from the dead, so we can too

Following Jesus saves our lives

Prayer:

Dear God,

I know that I am not worthy to be accepted by you. I don't deserve your gift of eternal life. I am guilty of rebelling against you and ignoring you. I need forgiveness.

Thank you for sending your son to die for me that I may be forgiven. Thank you that he rose from the dead to give me new life. Please forgive me and change me, that I may live with Jesus as my ruler.

Amen.

Discussion questions:

- 1) How could God prove Jesus' resurrection to you?
- 2) What difference would Jesus' resurrection make to you today or in the future?
- 3) What, if anything, stops you from wanting to follow Jesus?

Please read Luke 20-24 and bring your questions and reactions next time.

## Week 7

What were your thoughts or questions about Luke 20-24?

The Big Question: *“What do people worship?”*

Talk:

We all worship something

Are you worshipping the right thing?

Marks of true worshippers

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Is it possible to worship the wrong things? What might be the consequence of that?
- 2) What do you feel is helpful or difficult about prayer, the Bible and church?
- 3) Do you have any questions that we haven't discussed?

# Notes

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## Where to find out more

'**Explore: Time with God**' is a booklet (also available as an app for your phone) with a Bible reading programme for beginners who want to read for 10 minutes at a time regularly, with questions and background information.

"**A Fresh Start**" by John Chapman is a simple beginners book about how to become a Christian and why.

"**The reason for God**" by Tim Keller makes a rational step by step case for belief in the Christian God.

"**Confronting Christianity**" by Rebecca McLaughlin answers '12 hard questions for world's largest religion' including '**How can you say there's only one faith?**' and '**Doesn't Christianity denigrate women?**' '**How could a loving God send people to hell?**' and '**Doesn't science disprove Christianity?**'

Free articles, videos for those exploring Biblical Christianity:

[www.ChristianityExplored.org](http://www.ChristianityExplored.org)

[www.bethinking.org](http://www.bethinking.org)

[www.twowaystolive.com](http://www.twowaystolive.com)

Good Christian books and Bible study guides are available from:

The Good Book Company [www.thegoodbook.co.uk](http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk)

10 of those [www.10ofthose.com](http://www.10ofthose.com)

## Contact us

Feel free to get in touch with questions about Christianity or the Bible at any time. The Life Explored team are always happy to meet or send a reply.

[office@stmatthews.uk](mailto:office@stmatthews.uk) 01223 363545

You are welcome to visit church as little or often as you choose, on any Sunday at 10.30am or 5pm, with no commitment to keep coming.

[www.stmatthews.uk](http://www.stmatthews.uk)

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