

B8 - God the Son

Study 1 - Good News for All!

BIBLE READING:
Luke 2: 21-35

KEY VERSE:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Romans 1: 16

Dr Luke, the writer of the third Gospel, presents the Lord Jesus, who is the Son of God, as being truly human. You will remember, from previous studies, that Matthew thinks mostly of Jesus as King, and Mark considers Him as God’s Servant. Luke, however, sees Him as the ideal Man who has come for the blessing of all mankind and not only for the Jews.

Note the following points in Luke’s Gospel which indicate that Jesus is the Saviour for ALL mankind:-

1. The genealogy (or family tree) in **chapter 3** goes right back to Adam, the first man, whereas Matthew’s Gospel, which was written mainly for Jews, goes no further back than to Abraham, the ‘father’ or founder of the Jews.
2. It is Luke’s Gospel which sets the birth of Jesus against the background of the Roman Emperor and his decree that **“ALL THE WORLD”** should be taxed (registered). (**Luke 2: 1**)
3. It is only in this Gospel that the angel’s message to the shepherds on the night of the Saviour’s birth is recorded, **“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be FOR ALL THE PEOPLE.”** (**Luke 2: 10**)
4. When the Infant Jesus was taken to the Temple at Jerusalem for the performing of customary Jewish ceremonies, a godly man named Simeon took the Child up in his arms. In his prayer to God, he spoke of Him as God’s salvation prepared for ALL PEOPLE, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of the people of Israel. (**See Luke 2: 30-32**) Note that Simeon mentioned the Gentiles before the Jews!
5. Luke gives a detailed account, in **chapter 4**, of our Lord’s preaching in the synagogue at Nazareth, His hometown. When the congregation refused to believe His claims to be their Messiah, He reminded them of what had happened in the days of two well-known

prophets of Old Testament times. The point our Lord made was that at that time, God had bestowed His favour on two non-Jews, or Gentiles. It was a warning to the unbelieving Jews of Nazareth that ‘history would repeat itself’. If THEY would not accept Christ’s good news, some GENTILES would!

6. One of the best-known verses in Luke is found at the end of the story of Zacchaeus. (**19: 10**) When Zacchaeus came down from the tree and warmly welcomed Jesus into his home, the Lord said, **“today salvation has come to this house”**, and then added, **“The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost”**. Here again, the Gospel of Luke is portraying a Saviour FOR ALL, for all are indeed lost and in need of salvation.
7. Luke finishes his Gospel by telling us that the risen Lord instructed His disciples to preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins in His name **TO ALL NATIONS**. (**Luke 24: 47**)

These points help us to see that Luke’s Gospel takes a broad view of our Lord’s purpose in coming to earth. Luke, who was probably a non-Jew (a Gentile) writes his Gospel in such a way that Gentile readers will see that here is a message of good news for them - the Gospel of Christ is for the whole world. In **Luke 3: 6** we read, **“ALL FLESH (everyone) shall see the salvation of God”**.

In the light of these facts, there are two important things for us all to consider:-

1. Each of us, at a personal level, needs to repent, believe and receive the forgiveness of our sins.
2. When we have taken this step, it is then our responsibility to pass on this world-wide message. The Gospel is indeed **“the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes”**. (**Key Verse**)



This is the fourth of five units on **God the Son**.

B8 - God the Son

Study 2 - Lost and Found

BIBLE READING:
Luke 15: 1-24

KEY VERSE:
“This Man receives sinners and eats with them.”

Luke 15: 2

In the time of Jesus, tax collectors were looked upon as traitors because they worked for the Romans. All true Jews hated them! Other people, who lived wicked lives, were equally despised. ‘Tax collectors’ and ‘sinners’ were social rejects! The Lord Jesus, however, always had time for those people whom everyone else rejected! He was **“a Friend of tax collectors and sinners”**. (Luke 7: 34)

He was, of course, often criticised for showing compassion and friendliness towards such. Pharisees and scribes sneered at Him, as the Key Verse indicates. They were implying that it was altogether wrong of Him to do so. THEY would never be found in such bad company!

The Lord answered their criticisms by telling three stories or parables. The ‘heavenly meaning’ is that God is very pleased to welcome unworthy sinners. If they are truly sorry about their sins, and come back to Him, He is well-pleased. Indeed, He finds more joy in them than in self-righteous people who have never admitted how sinful they really are!

Now think about the three parables:

1. THE LOST SHEEP (VERSES 3-7)

One sheep, out of a flock of 100, went missing. It was lost! The shepherd valued it highly, so out he went, searching tirelessly until he found it. Then, he carried it home and lost no time in telling his friends and neighbours about its safe return. Jesus explained that it is like that in Heaven when one ‘lost’ sinner repents of his sin and comes to the Lord for salvation. There is joy over one who is ‘found’, more than over ninety-nine who never discover that they are ‘lost’ and in need of being saved. Remember from Study 1 what **Luke 19: 10** teaches.



2. THE LOST COIN (VERSES 8-10)

The Lord Jesus repeated His teaching by telling a second story. A woman had lost one silver coin. She has nine others left, but she finds no comfort in that! She is concerned about the lost one, and so she searches everywhere until she finds it. Her joy is unbelievable! Quickly she spreads the good news, calling upon her neighbours to rejoice with her. Again the Lord explained His meaning. **“Tax collectors and sinners”** are not to be despised and avoided; God cares about them and when they genuinely turn from their sins, God is delighted.



3. THE LOST SON (VERSES 11-24)

The ‘Prodigal Son’ is perhaps the best-known of all Jesus’ parables. He was very wasteful. (‘Prodigal’ means ‘wasteful’) He misspent the money his father had given him, behaved very badly and dishonoured his father’s name by his sinful behaviour. In spite of all, his father longed for his home coming.

When eventually the son came back and acknowledged how wrong he had been, what a welcome he received! He was completely forgiven and restored to his former position in the family.

As in the first two parables, Jesus is answering the Pharisees and scribes who are condemning Him for caring for ‘social outcasts’. It is as if He is saying: ‘All of you are happy when you find what you have lost, be it a sheep, a coin, or a son. God, too, welcomes and forgives people who have strayed far away from Him, if they repent and return. You, therefore, ought not to condemn Me for being a Friend to sinners.’

When we are troubled in our minds about our sins, there is an excellent example of a prayer of repentance. **“I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,’ and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.”** (Psalm 32: 5)

Answer Sheet

B8 - God the Son

Study 1 - Good News for All!

Name: _____ Return address on back of answer sheet

Address: _____

1. Answer the following questions:

- a) What was Luke's occupation? (**Colossians 4: 14**) _____
- b) To whom was his Gospel first written? (**Luke 1: 3-4**) _____

/2

2. Answer TRUE or FALSE to the following:

- a) Jesus referred to Himself as 'the Son of Man'. _____
- b) In Luke's Gospel, the genealogy of Jesus goes back only as far as Abraham. _____
- c) Simeon took the infant Jesus into his arms. _____
- d) Jesus' hometown was Jericho. _____
- e) Luke's Gospel stresses that the Saviour is for all. _____

/5

3. Read **Luke 2: 25-32** again.

- a) What kind of person was Simeon? _____
- b) What did the Holy Spirit reveal to him? _____
- c) What did Simeon mean when he said, "**my eyes have seen Your salvation**"? _____
- d) Who is this salvation for? _____

/4

4. Read the story of Jesus preaching in the synagogue at Nazareth in **Luke 4: 16-30**, and answer the following:

- a) What day of the week was it? _____
- b) From what Old Testament prophet did Jesus read? _____
- c) What were the opening words of His preaching, after He had finished reading? _____
- d) Which two Old Testament prophets did He mention? _____
- e) How did the congregation react to what He said? (**verses 28, 29**) _____

/6

5. Answer the following:

- a) Explain in detail what is meant by the phrase - "**the Saviour of the World**" (**1 John 4: 14-15** may help you) _____
- b) Does the concept of the "**Saviour of the World**" mean that the whole world will be saved? Give reasons for your answer. _____

/6

6. When the Lord Jesus rose from the dead, to whom did He say the Gospel was to be preached? _____

/2

THINK: Have you received the Good News about the Saviour and put your trust in Him? Are you passing on the Good News about the Lord Jesus to other people?

TOTAL = /25

Answer Sheet

B8 - God the Son

Study 2 - Lost and Found

1. Answer the following:

a) Why were tax collectors so despised by many Jews? _____

b) Why do you think tax collectors were eager to hear what Jesus had to say? (**Luke 15: 1**). _____

c) Explain from **Luke 15: 2**, the criticism which the Pharisees and scribes made of Jesus. _____

 /6

2. Draw arrows between each pair of associated words.

shepherd

woman

father

God

angels

son

coin

sheep

 /4

3. Write the words which the son actually said to his father when he arrived home.

 /2

4. All three parables are a 'picture' of us. In what way?

 /2

5. Express, in your own words, the main lesson which is being taught in the three parables.

 /3

6. Answer the following:

a) How did the man celebrate finding his sheep? _____

b) How did the lady celebrate finding the coin that was lost? _____

c) How did the father celebrate his son coming back home? _____

d) What do **verses 7 and 10** tell us about celebrations in Heaven? _____

 /5

7. Explain **Luke 19: 10** in your own words?

 /3

THINK: Has there been joy in Heaven because you have forsaken your sins and trusted the Saviour?

TOTAL = /25

Answer Sheet

B8 - God the Son

Study 3 - A Stranger says, "Thank You"

1. Write a sentence explaining who the Samaritans were.

 /2

2. Fill in the missing words:

- a) This healing miracle took place along the border between _____ and _____ .
 b) To travel from Galilee to Judea you would have passed through _____ .
 c) Samaritans worshipped at _____ .

 /3

3. In what way does the account of the ten lepers fit in with Luke's overall presentation of the gospel?

 /2

4. Read *Leviticus 13: 45-46*, and write down three regulations which applied to lepers.

 /3

5. Leprosy caused family separations. Explain from *Isaiah 59: 2* two ways that sin affects our relationship with God.

 /2

6. One of the lepers returned to Jesus. (verses 15-19)

- a) What religion/nationality was he? _____
 b) Name THREE things which he did on his return. _____
 c) What did the Lord Jesus say to him? _____

 /5

7. Answer the following:

- a) Suggest two ways in which we can show our thankfulness to the Lord Jesus for saving us. _____
 b) Why do people today not value what the Saviour has done for them? _____

 /4

8. Answer TRUE or FALSE to each statement:

- a) Jesus told ten lepers to go to the priests. _____
 b) Nine lepers were healed. _____
 c) Jesus asked three questions when the Samaritan returned. _____
 d) Leprosy may be thought of as a 'picture' of sin. _____

 /4

THINK: Have you trusted the Lord Jesus for cleansing you from sin and are you thankful for this each day?

TOTAL = /25

Answer Sheet

B8 - God the Son

Study 4 - The Criminal who went to Heaven

1. Find the verse in the Bible Reading which mentions where Jesus was crucified.

- a) What is the verse number? _____
- b) What was the place called? _____
- c) Where were the criminals crucified in relation to Jesus according to the verse? _____

 /3

2. Who said?

- a) **"Father, forgive them..."** _____
- b) **"He saved others..."** _____
- c) **"If you are the King..."** _____
- d) **"Are you not the Christ (Messiah)..."** _____
- e) **"Lord, remember me..."** _____
- f) **"Today you will be with Me..."** _____

 /6

3. Explain how the account of the two criminals fits in with the overall theme of Luke's gospel.

 /2

4. The Bible Reading includes the last words of Jesus before He died. Write them out.

 /2

5. The criminal was saved 'at the last minute'. Explain why it is foolish to delay one's salvation to the very end of life.

 /3

6. The two criminals were on either side of Jesus.

- a) Explain how they were also divided in their attitudes towards Him. _____
- b) In what way did one of the criminals 'change his attitude'? _____

 /4

7. Answer the following:

- a) What had the criminal to do to obtain from Jesus the assurance that he would be with Him in paradise?

- b) How can anyone today be assured of going to Heaven? (**See John 3: 36, John 5: 24, John 6: 37b**)

- c) When is the best time to be saved according to **2 Corinthians 6: 2**?

 /5

THINK: Have you the assurance that you will be with the Lord Jesus in Heaven?

Return your completed answer sheet to:

TOTAL = /25

UNIT TOTAL = /100

8/2026

© Bible Educational Services.
Visit www.besweb.com for information.
Registered Charity UK CIO 1186004

B8 - God the Son

Study 3 - A Stranger says, "Thank You"

BIBLE READING:

Luke 17: 11-19

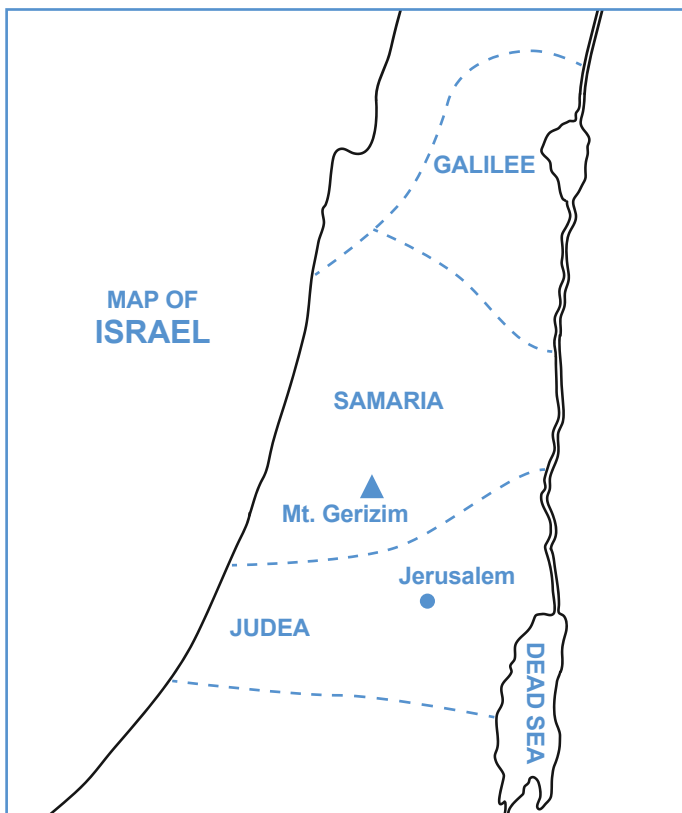
KEY VERSE:

**"Oh give thanks to the Lord!...
make known His deeds among the
peoples!"**

Psalms 105: 1

The healing of the ten lepers is found ONLY in the Gospel of Luke. Of special note is the fact that the one who came back to thank the Lord Jesus for making him well was a Samaritan.

Who were the Samaritans? The map shows the area where most of them lived; it was known as Samaria. This ethnic group had arisen from the inter-marriage of Jews and Assyrians, many years before the time of Christ. They were, therefore, despised by the Jews, who looked upon them as a mixed race. One of the Gospel writers tells us that **"Jews have no dealings with Samaritans"**. (**John 4: 9**) As people who were not full-blooded Jews, they had no part in the worship of God in the Temple at Jerusalem. Instead, they had established their own system of worship on Mount Gerizim. (See map)



We can be confident that God, by His Spirit, directed Luke to include this story, because it helps to emphasise the theme which runs right through his Gospel. You will recall, from Study 1, that Luke stresses that Jesus is the Saviour for ALL. He came to save Jews, Gentiles and even Samaritans! No one is excluded. This also agrees with the commission given by the risen Lord Jesus to His apostles before His Ascension. (**Acts 1: 8**)

Now let us examine some details of this incident:-

1. THEIR DISEASE.

Verse 12 introduces ten lepers. Leprosy was a very serious skin-disease, which, in some forms, was highly infectious and could result in severe disfigurement of the body. Under Old Testament laws, therefore, a leper was excluded from social contact with other people. If he saw someone approaching, he was to cry, **"Unclean! unclean!"** (**Leviticus 13: 45-46**)

The physical plight of a leper is a picture of our own spiritual condition before God. Just as leprosy was a spreading and unclean disease, which resulted in death, so our sins have rendered us unclean and unfit for Heaven.

2. THEIR DISTANCE.

Luke notes that they stood **"at a distance"**. It is most likely that nine of them were Jews, and as such, they would know the Old Testament's regulations about leprosy. Even the one Samaritan among them would understand what the Law said. So all ten of them knew how serious their condition was, and accepted what God's Law declared!

The spiritual lesson is plain for us. **"Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you."** (**Isaiah 59: 2**)

3. THEIR DESIRE.

They shouted **"Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"** (**verse 13**) It is obvious that they had some knowledge of who Jesus was; they must have heard of His wonderful healing power. Believing that He had the answer to their great problem, they appealed sincerely and trustingly to Him.

4. THEIR DELIVERANCE.

Their appeal was not in vain! At once, the Lord told them to go to the priests. A leper would only do this if he felt he had been cured. The fact that all ten of them at once acted upon what Jesus said, shows their faith in Him, and in response to that faith, the Lord performed a mighty miracle, and all ten were immediately healed.

The conclusion is important! How many returned to give thanks and praise to God? Only one!! Jesus noticed this and remarked that the thankful one was a **"foreigner"**, meaning he was not a Jew, but a Samaritan. Jesus had a special word for him and commended him for his faith. (**verse 19**) This man is an example for us as we too ought to show gratitude and praise to the Lord Jesus for cleansing us from our sin.

B8 - God the Son

Study 4 - The Criminal who went to Heaven

BIBLE READING:

Luke 23: 32-46

KEY VERSE:

“And He (Jesus) said to him, ‘Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise.’”

Luke 23: 43

Throughout his Gospel, Luke continues to emphasise the power and willingness of the Lord Jesus to save all kinds of people. This Study brings us to the day of His death, and Luke clearly shows that, even then, the Lord Jesus was the **“Friend of sinners”**.

It is well-known that two criminals were crucified with Jesus. The fact that one of them repented and received forgiveness is found ONLY in Luke’s Gospel. It fits in perfectly with the theme which runs right through all the earlier chapters - the Lord has a message of forgiveness and hope FOR ALL, if they will only turn to Him, in repentance and faith.

Note the following facts about this unnamed criminal who died beside Jesus.

1. HE CHANGED HIS ATTITUDE.

In the early stages of the crucifixion, this man joined with the other criminal in hurling abusive and hurtful words at Jesus. (**Read Matthew 27: 44; Mark 15: 32**) But there came a point where his attitude changed; he became aware of how wrong HE was! The One hanging beside him was altogether different, for He had done no wrong!

2. HE CONFESSED HIS WRONG-DOING.

His first words (**verse 40**) were a rebuke to the other criminal who was still shouting insults at Jesus. In doing so, he admitted that he was receiving **“the due reward”** of his deeds. He knew full well what crimes he had committed, and he understood clearly that his punishment was deserved.

How dreadful to see the sad end to which sin and wrong-doing lead! Here is a warning to us all. **“The wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6: 23)** We may not be criminals, but all of us need to understand how serious our sin is; like the criminal on the cross, we should confess our wrong-doing to God.

3. HE CAST HIMSELF UPON THE SAVIOUR.

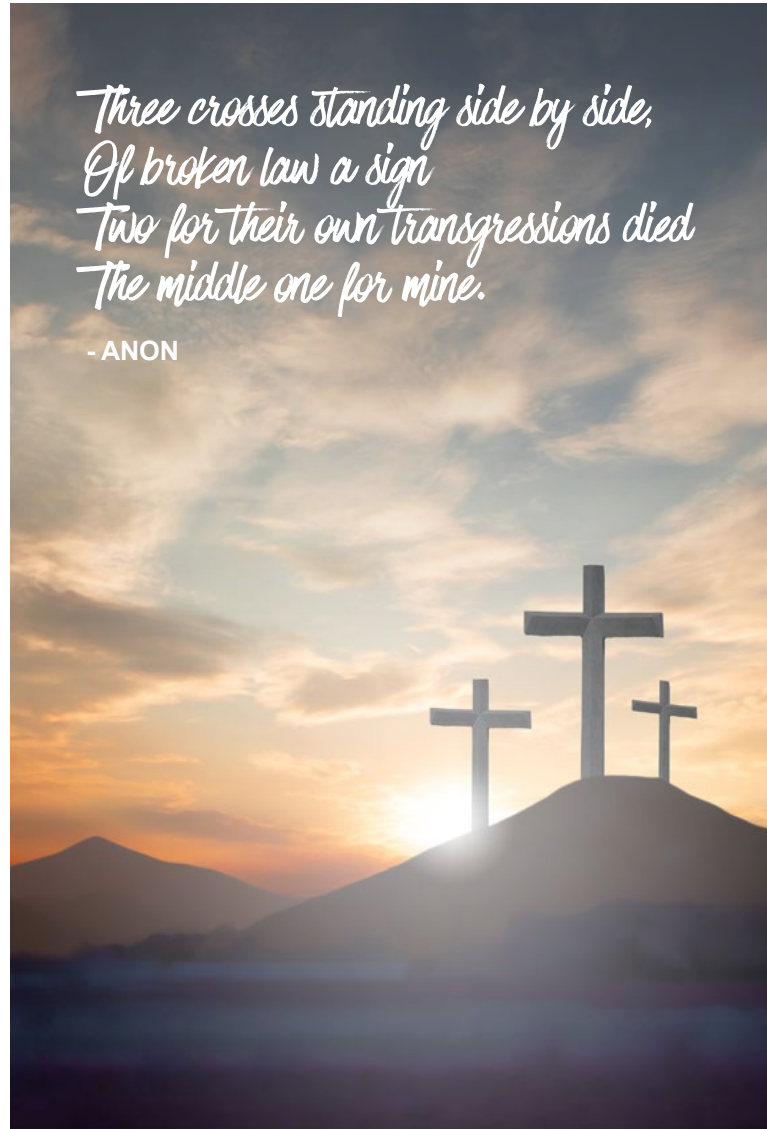
Next he then turned to Jesus and said, **“...remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”** These words express his faith! Clearly he had understood the uniqueness of the Person beside him – God’s King, the Messiah, who, one day would set up His Kingdom. From his changed and repentant heart, the criminal cried for mercy! He had no other hope! It was a wise decision to commit himself to the Lord Jesus for his personal eternal salvation.

4. HE WAS COMFORTED BY A SURE PROMISE.

The promise which the Lord made to him is found in the Key Verse - **“You will be with Me in paradise.”** Shortly afterwards, he died, having this wonderful assurance that he would be in paradise with the Lord Jesus. (Note: ‘paradise’ is a pictorial way of speaking of Heaven.) Here, then, is Luke’s concluding account of how warmly the Saviour welcomes sinners, when they are truly sorry for their sins and put their trust in Him. It is much better to take that step when we are young rather than leaving it until the end of life, as the criminal did! **“Behold, NOW is the day of salvation.” (2 Corinthians 6: 2)**

*Three crosses standing side by side,
Of broken law a sign
Two for their own transgressions died
The middle one for mine.*

- ANON



This is the fourth of five units on **God the Son.**