

PUTTING YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION

DEVOTIONS ON:

LUKE



Presbyterian Youth

Quiet Times on Luke

Luke's gospel is the closest thing we have to an "authorised biography" of Jesus. Luke hadn't seen any of Jesus' miracles, heard Him teach or seen Him after he rose from the dead. Instead, Luke wrote his book by using written records, eyewitness accounts and observations during his travels through Palestine.

The result is a book that focuses on Jesus the man as much as Jesus the Son of God. Jesus was not God pretending to be human, he was totally human and totally God at the same time. He knows what human life is like because he experienced all its pain, sorrow and disappointment.

Luke himself was a doctor and the only Gentile (non-Jewish) writer in the New Testament. It is believed that he came to a faith in Jesus Christ through the apostle Paul's preaching. Luke remained good friends with Paul (the writer of many other New Testament books) and travelled around with him, even when Paul was arrested and sent to gaol for preaching the good news of Jesus Christ. Luke is also responsible for writing the book of Acts.

Getting more out of your Quiet Times

If you want to know who God is and what he wants you to do with your life, you need to spend time reading his book, the Bible. Make a regular time that will suit you every day (tick the boxes as you go to help you keep up to date). Find a good spot free from distractions. Start by talking to God, asking him to help you to concentrate and understand what you read. Read the Bible passage, maybe a couple of times.

Quiet Times On Luke uses direct quotes and paraphrasing from "The Bible For Blockheads" By Douglas Connelly, Zondervan Press, 1999.

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 30

Luke

Get the Point:

Band-aids don't heal. The problem of our sin must be dealt with at the very core. If this is not done, our pretence of religion will eventually be seen to be a fraud with disastrous results.

Something I've never thought of before:

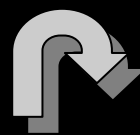
A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

What aspects of the tree/house illustrations emphasise the importance of obedience? What aspects emphasise faith?



A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

☐ DAY 29

Luke 6:37-42

Get the Point:

In these simple words, Jesus exposes the sinfulness of the human heart. We're happy to list the faults of others (either out loud or in our heads), but we certainly hope God doesn't do the same for us! In fact, we hope he will forgive us ... and then we fail to forgive others! The good news is that God has provided the solution for this sin through Jesus.

Something I've never thought of before:

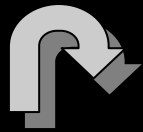
A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

Are you pleased you are not one of the hypocrites Jesus is describing in this passage? (Be careful—this is a trick question!)



A Verse to Remember:

As you read through the passage, use these points to guide your reading:

Get the Point:

The main idea of the passage summarised in a short sentence.

Something I've never thought of before:

An idea or verse that you have never noticed before in the passage. It may give you new understanding of what the passage is saying.

A question I have about the passage, and who I am going to ask:

Write any verses, word or ideas that you don't understand or have a question about. Write down who you are going to ask about your question so that you will follow it up, and get answers.

What example is given for how God wants me to live?

Look out for a command that is given for what God wants us to do, or an example of how Jesus lived that we should follow.



One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

Because of the example or command given, write down a specific and practical thing you are going to do to change - and then do it!

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

A few points to think about that may help you know what to pray about. It is important that prayer and Bible reading go hand in hand, as we learn more about God and talk to him as well.

A Verse to Remember

Write down a verse that stuck out to you, and see if you can memorise it.

These points are a really helpful guide to lead you through your quiet times. You can use these points with any passage from the Bible that you are reading. You might like to work out the main point yourself, and pray through what God has shown you.

Get the Point and To Ponder...and Pray were first published in "Australian Presbyterian" and are reproduced with permission.

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 1

Luke 1:1-13

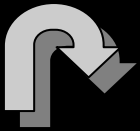
Get the Point:

In this version of the Christmas story, Luke is careful to give us details of the historical setting so that we would be convinced that it is accurate and consistent with God's plan for salvation revealed throughout the Old Testament.

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:



One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

Zachariah and Elizabeth are role models of persistent and humble devotion to God in disappointing and hard times. Does your life show these qualities to a watching world?

How would you answer people who say the Bible is fiction?

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 28

Luke 6:27-36

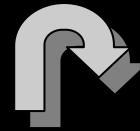
Get the Point:

One of the most destructive forces in the world today is revenge, from suing each other when things go wrong, through hurting each other when families break up, to going to war with each other in an endless payback loop. Jesus warned His followers about the treatment to expect from the world if they joined His side; now He tells them how to respond to this treatment. This teaching is no less surprising than yesterday's!

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:



One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

What reasons does Jesus give for us to 'love our enemies and do good to them' (v.35)

Is there someone that you find hard to love? Pray that God will help you to show them the same love that Jesus shows to us.

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 27

Luke 6:12-26

Get the Point:

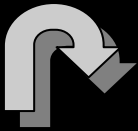
Jesus is outlining for his followers what his Kingdom is all about. It will surprise them because of its unexpected content. Jesus had shown His power but he was very direct in telling them that his Kingdom was about poverty, hunger, hardship, rejection, misrepresentation & persecution. Hardly an encouraging pep-talk for would-be recruits!

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:



To Ponder . . . and Pray:

Is the Church today more motivated by Jesus' recruiting methods or by the world's marketing methods? What about when it comes to measuring success? Are we happier when the media congratulates us or ridicules us?

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 2

Luke 1:14-25

Get the Point:

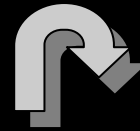
Zechariah was dumbfounded by the significance of Gabriel's announcement. The difficulty he had in coming to grips with it caused him to be found unable to speak. But can we blame him? The son he was promised was going to tell everyone that the world's Saviour was coming!

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:



To Ponder . . . and Pray:

Is there anything about Christianity that you have trouble coming to grips with, or something that seems unbelievable or too good to be true?

Spend some time praying that God would help you to understand these things.

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 3

Luke 1:26-38

Get the Point:

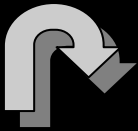
Luke leaves us in no doubt that the birth of Jesus was a medical miracle. It would have been impossible for Mary to become pregnant because she was still a virgin. Gabriel ("God is mighty") made sure she understood that the child she was to bear would be the Son of God, not the son of Joseph, and that she was highly favoured by God.

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:



To Ponder . . . and Pray:

Take time to think of what it meant for God to send his perfect and powerful Son as a fragile human baby to live in our sinful world.

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 26

Luke 4:1-13

Get the Point:

This is a practical example of what Jesus was saying yesterday: the Pharisees had missed the point and he was showing them what the Old Testament was really about.

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:



To Ponder . . . and Pray:

We can't truly grasp who Jesus is or why he came without the whole Bible; we can't truly understand the Bible without Jesus.

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 25

Luke 5:33-39

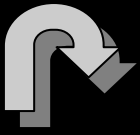
Get the Point:

God's whole plan of salvation had its focus on Jesus—right from the beginning of time. The whole Old Testament points to Jesus. The religion of the Jewish leaders had missed this, and so they didn't recognise Jesus when he came. There was no combining the two: people had to leave their false religion and follow Jesus.

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:



One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

What different warnings for the Church today can you see in the passage?

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 4

Luke 1:39-45

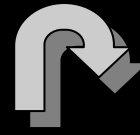
Get the Point:

Gabriel told Mary about Elizabeth so that the two could rejoice together over their miracles. Even the unborn John was excited! The Holy Spirit was moving everyone to acknowledge this unique, cosmic, world changing event in human history. Its importance was not lost on any of those present.

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:



One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

Do you sometimes struggle to take God at His word? What makes you doubt God's promise?

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 5

Luke 1:46-56

Get the Point:

After gaining further confirmation of the divine nature of her pregnancy from Elizabeth, Mary bursts into a song of humble gratitude, submission and praise to the Lord. It reflects the same attitude we have seen in Elizabeth, acknowledging the Lord's goodness and His power to turn the arrogant and false ways of the world upside-down.

Something I've never thought of before:

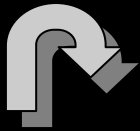
A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

When did you last pour out your heart in unrestrained praise to God for the great salvation he has graciously given to you?



A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 24

Luke 5:27-32

Get the Point:

Something I've never thought of before:

Becoming a Christian is not about what we were, but about what we become. The Jewish leaders never got this. Jesus had come to transform broken, messed up sinners into beautiful, healthy saints. We can't participate in this process unless we first see we need it.

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

Do you still have any non-Christian friends? What active efforts do you make to introduce them to Jesus? Is it working?



A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 23

Luke 5:17-26

Get the Point:

The Bible makes it quite clear that all sickness is the result of sin being in the world, but not necessarily the direct result of the sin of one person. Jesus makes this point in John 9:3. In the case of the paralytic it seems there was some connection between the condition of his body and the condition of his heart before God. But the point Jesus is making is that it is more important to be fixed spiritually (ie: to have your sins forgiven) than be healed physically. The physical healing here really only served to prove the crowd that Jesus did have power to forgive sin.

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:



To Ponder . . . and Pray:

Have you laid your entire sinful, broken life at Jesus' feet?

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 6

Luke 1:57-66

Get the Point:

Why can the simple matter of naming a child be such a hassle? Surely long-standing family traditions are more important than the whims of pedantic parents! It does matter when obedience to God's word is involved. Zechariah had received specific instructions about the naming of this very special child God had provided-and, after all, he did want to be able to speak again (see v.20)!

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:



To Ponder . . . and Pray:

God's will is revealed to us through the Bible. Are you committed to obeying Him, even in the 'little things', especially when there is pressure from your family and friends to compromise?

Do you recognise God's work in all aspects of your life?

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 7

Luke 1:67-80

Get the Point:

Luke makes it clear (v.67) that in this song Zechariah was speaking prophetically under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (just as Luke was doing when he wrote this!). In his song Zechariah refers to the promise of salvation that Mary's son will bring & to the part his own son will play in preparing for it. The focus of John's ministry will be God's forgiveness of sin.

Something I've never thought of before:

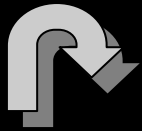
A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

Take some time to praise God for someone who has had an influence in leading you to know Jesus.



A Verse to Remember:

1

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 22

Luke 5:12-16

Get the Point:

Jesus said that faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains (Matt. 17:20, 21:21). The leper has plenty of faith; he just doesn't know whether Jesus wants to heal him. What if it is part of the divine will that he remain a leper? The point of the mustard seed tale is that getting our prayers answered has less to do with how much faith we have and more to do with where we direct it.

Something I've never thought of before:

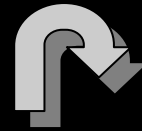
A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

We should take our example from the man who responded to the question "Do you believe in the power of prayer?" , with, "No, I don't. I believe in the power of God, therefore I pray."



A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 21

Luke 5:1-11

Get the Point:

It is no coincidence that some of the other disciples were fisherman. Their boats made great pulpits for large crowds giving Jesus space and allowing good sound transmission. The occupation itself provided a good illustration of what their new calling would involve - being fishers of men. Lastly, Jesus calls ordinary people engaged in their lowly tasks to come and experience God's mighty power working through them as they respond in obedience to His commands (cf 1 Cor. 1:26-29).

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

What specific truth or command is God teaching you through today's passage?

How can you respond in obedience to this?



A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 8

Luke 2:1-7

Get the Point:

Luke outlines for us the important circumstances of Jesus' birth: it was firmly rooted in time & place in human history; the sovereign Lord devised an amazing plan to get Mary and Joseph from Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in the south (over 110 km) at just the right time; it endorsed the fact that Jesus was in the line of David; the manger demonstrated how far God was willing to descend to reach us.

Something I've never thought of before:

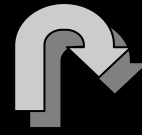
A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

God was able to arrange all the details Jesus' birth exactly according to plan, even though many "free-will" decisions of human beings were involved. Why then do we find it difficult to trust Him completely with the little details of our daily lives?



A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 9

Luke 2:8-20

Get the Point:

What a contrast! The angels from heaven are commissioned to announce the Saviour's birth and they announce it to working class men! This unique, one-off scoop is told to shepherds! "The Saviour of the whole world is born and you will find Him a baby in a feed trough in a cattle shed!". Surprisingly, this is how God does things even if we find it hard to understand.

Something I've never thought of before:

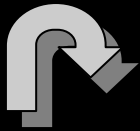
A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

Do you find it hard to understand why God uses "the little guy" (people of little or no significance) to do great things?



A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 20

Luke 4:38-44

Get the Point:

It would have been tempting for Jesus to specialise in a spectacular ministry of exorcism: impressive, attracting large crowds, putting Satan in his place and making disturbed people whole. But this was not God's way. He reinforced this when He met the temptations in the wilderness. The Father's way led to a cross of shame; it required patience to wait for the proper time; it involved spending long periods of time alone with the Father in prayer and changing hearts from the inside through faith. It was going to be hard.

Something I've never thought of before:

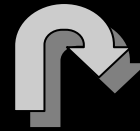
A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

In what areas of your life do you find it toughest to walk with God? How are you tempted to take the easy road? How can knowing that Jesus has been there before you help?



A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 19

Luke 4:31-37

Get the Point:

Satan had long laid claim to the hearts of men. But now his territory is being challenged by the promised redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. He recognises the true identity of Jesus when Jesus' own countrymen fail to do so. Evidence that the Kingdom of God has truly come is conclusive and overwhelming.

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:



To Ponder . . . and Pray:

Saying you believe that God exists does not make you a Christian. Even Satan believes in God! (Read James 2:19)

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 10

Luke 2:21-35

Get the Point:

Simeon was another heart God had prepared to recognise the true Messiah when He came. As Simeon became old he knew the time must be close at hand. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he wasn't put off by the fact that this child's parents were so poor that they could only offer the minimum sacrifice for circumcision. He knew that he was holding the future hope of the whole world, just as God had promised.

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:



To Ponder . . . and Pray:

If God had prepared His salvation in the sight of all people, why did so many miss it? What causes this blindness?

Take some time to pray that God would open the world's eyes to see what they need - a Saviour.

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 11

Luke 2:36-40

Get the Point:

Anna had been dealt a hard blow as a young wife, but rather than turn against God in bitterness, she devoted the next sixty years of her life to serving Him with constant and utter devotion. God enabled her also to recognise the baby Messiah and to proclaim Him to others who were looking forward to His coming. It would be 30 more years before the rest of the world would see what Anna, Simeon, the shepherds and Zechariah already knew. Patience is a fruit of the Spirit!

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:



One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

How persistent and constant is your prayer life and devotion to God, especially when difficulties and disappointments arise?

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 18

Luke 4:22-30

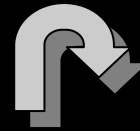
Get the Point:

Most of us find that people who know us well think of us differently than those who don't. The difficulty Jesus had with the hometown crowd is that they had made up their mind that He could not be God's Messiah because they had known Him as the little carpenter's Son. Even if they saw His miracles they still would not believe. The final insult came for them when Jesus referred to some Old Testament instances where God did miraculous things for despised foreigners, outside the Covenant, instead of for His own people.

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:



One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

Do you have any pre-conceived ideas that prevent you from fully accepting God's revelation about Jesus in the Gospels?

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 17

Luke 4:14-21

Get the Point:

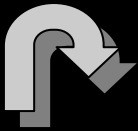
The Jews were never in doubt as to who Jesus was claiming to be; their only problem was that they couldn't accept His claim and therefore had no choice but to write Him off as a deceiver or a fruitcake. That is why, in the end, they had to dispose of Him. At least they were acting consistently! It is incredible that so many people since have wanted to accept Jesus as a good teacher and say that they follow Him but they do not believe what he taught.

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:



To Ponder . . . and Pray:

Why do so many people fail to see that you can't accept Jesus' teaching about loving one's neighbour and enemy, while at the same time rejecting His claim to be God (John 4:11)? Do you?

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 12

Luke 2:41-52

Get the Point:

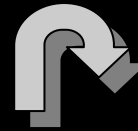
There are times in our lives when following Jesus first puts pressure on family or other relationships. Even as a young lad, and long before He began His public ministry, Jesus settled his priorities and set us an example in dealing with the tension between the requirements of the First commandment (Put God first) and the Fifth commandment (Honour your father and mother).

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:

One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:



To Ponder . . . and Pray:

How do you keep a balance between putting God first and other responsibilities (for example: honouring your mum & dad)?

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 13

Luke 3:1-6

Get the Point:

The ministry of John the Baptist was very important. Although he was only the fore-runner of Jesus, his powerful message & the direct way he proclaimed it had a significant part to play in setting the stage. He is a role model for us in the urgent task of evangelism today.

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:



One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

Why do you find it hard to tell your friends about Jesus? Pray for one of those friends now.

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 16

Luke 4:1-13

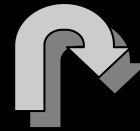
Get the Point:

At the beginning of His public ministry, immediately after His baptism and in the care of the Holy Spirit, Jesus faced the tempting power of the Devil. These temptations look back to the same deception that Satan used on Adam and Eve in the garden. They also look forward to the temptations Satan has used to try to deflect the Church from its mission over the last 2000 years. Unlike Adam & Eve, Jesus successfully withstood the test. Sadly, the Church has also failed in different ways at different times. What about us?

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:



One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

Take time to relate each of Jesus' temptations to the equivalent faced by Adam & Eve (Gen 3:6). In what ways has the Church fallen into the same traps? Can you see it in your worship or evangelism (see also 1 John 2:16)?

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 15

Luke 3:21-38

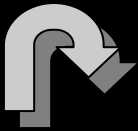
Get the Point:

Luke has made it clear that Jesus was the Son of God by the Holy Spirit (1:26-35). He now shows how He is also the son of God through the line of Adam(3:23-38). Through baptism, Jesus was identifying with the sons of Adam. John's baptism was for repentance from sin (3:3) - although he was sinless, Jesus was obedient to the Father's will in all things. In light of such obedience (unlike Adam's disobedience) no wonder that the Holy Spirit identified with Him, and the Father expressed His pleasure.

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:



One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

When did you last thank Jesus for coming to bear all your sins?

A Verse to Remember:

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

DAY 14

Luke 3:7-14

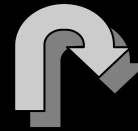
Get the Point:

To those that were waiting with expectant hearts for John to deliver the Good News, it was exactly that—Good News! But those who were living their own way and not God's way didn't want to hear it or accept it. John did not allow this to stop him from fulfilling his task of telling a corrupt society that God's day of reckoning had come.

Something I've never thought of before:

A question I have about the passage, and who I'm going to ask:

What example is given for how God wants me to live:



One thing I need to change to live the way God wants:

To Ponder . . . and Pray:

Gospel literally means 'good news'. Write down what is so good about it.

Is this the message you're telling/showing your friends and family?

A Verse to Remember: