

The BIG READ in the NORTH EAST: Session 1 (January/February)

READING LUKE FOR ALL IT'S WORTH: Stockton, Durham, Lobley Hill, Alnwick

Introduction: what are the gospels and how should we read them?

In the middle: the story of Jesus

Leading up to it: the story of Israel

going on from it: the story of Jesus' followers

The wider context . . . God's creation, good but spoiled, and the stories of those who presently run it

leading to

how we learn to live in this story ourselves:

reading the story: episodes and omnibus; alone and together; silent and aloud; ecumenically!

The family history; the project and the call; the rescue and the new life; the older brother

And the major question:

The kingdom and the cross!

Luke's own introduction: chapters 1—2

A word to my friend Theo

The priest and his wife . . . and the Temple

The prophet and the coming king

The royal story of David's son

The family story of Abraham's offspring

The strange, dark story of Caesar, his power and his census

And, in the middle . . . the boy who asks the questions.

Where is this leading? Where might it take us?

Patterns, themes and pictures

Mary and her story

God's Kingdom Launched: 3.1—9.50

Isaiah and the coming of God/John the Baptist and the coming of Jesus (3)

Jesus anointed, tempted, announcing God's new reign (4.1-30)

Healings and challenges (4.31—6.16)

The new covenant ('the sermon on the plain') (6.17-49)

The unexpected kingdom (7.1—9.17)

The unexpected king (9.18-36)

Challenges and questions (9.37-50)

Where has this brought us? Where are we in this picture?

The Road to Jerusalem: 9.51—19.27

The Temple, the King, the Cross and the Kingdom: 19.28—23.56

'Did you not know?' The dawn of God's new creation and new covenant: 24

All that Jesus Continued to Do and Teach: Acts!