

STUDY GUIDE

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED...

Luke 1-4

TERM 1 | 2026

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Come, Thou Long Expected...

*... "For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel."*

Luke 2:30-32

Longing has a way of shaping us. When promises stretch over generations, hope can either deepen...or quietly fade.

By the time Luke opens his Gospel, God's people have been waiting a very long time. Waiting for a son of David. Waiting for a king who would bring justice and peace. Waiting for God himself to act. And when he finally does, he comes in ways that are both breathtaking and bewildering: a child born in obscurity, welcomed by shepherds, recognised by the faithful few, and destined to rule—not by force, but by faithfulness.

In Luke 1-4 we meet Jesus as the long-expected King, and yet not the king we would naturally choose. He is God's own Son—God in human flesh—entering our world in humility, obedience, and weakness. He comes not to grasp power, but to give himself. Not to flatter our expectations, but to expose and reshape them.

That makes these opening chapters both deeply comforting and quietly confronting. If Jesus truly is this King, then he doesn't simply meet our longings—he reorders them. He invites us to trust God's promises, to wait with faith, and to follow him in a way that looks far smaller and more costly than we might expect... and yet leads to true life.

This term gives us many opportunities to respond together: to pray as a people who are waiting on God, to explore and share the hope found in Jesus, to encourage one another across generations, and to gather around the Lord's table as we're reminded again of the humble King who gives himself for us. And as we move toward Easter, Luke's opening chapters remind us that the cross is not an interruption to Jesus' kingship, but its deepest expression.

Above all, don't miss the chance to join a Home Group this term. As we open Luke's Gospel together, we'll grow in Jesus' love, learn how to show his love in our life together, and be equipped to share the hope of this long-expected King with a world still waiting.

Find a Home Group and join up at
<https://shorehope.church/home-groups>

Home Groups List

MONDAY NIGHT - MOUNT COTTON

Timing: Monday, 7.30 pm

Leaders: Joel and Kirsty Hughes

Location: Mount Cotton

Contact: Joel 0458 132 862

TUESDAY EVENING - REDLAND BAY

Timing: Tuesdays, 5.30-7pm

Leaders: Geoff and Julie Handley

Location: Usually Redland Bay (check this week's plan with the leaders)

Contact: Geoff 0439 158 814

WEDNESDAY MORNING - VICTORIA POINT

Timing: Fortnightly on Wednesday, 10am

Leaders: John Nicholls

Location: Victoria Point (church building)

Contact: 0435 800 270

WEDNESDAY MORNING - REDLAND BAY

Timing: Wednesday, 9.30am

Leaders: Chester and Christine Turvey and Leath Olsen

Location: Redland Bay

Contact: Chester 0428 276 179, Leath 0439 454 727

THURSDAY AFTERNOON - VICTORIA POINT

Timing: Thursday, 4.00pm

Leaders: Jesse Drost and Raj Gupta

Location: Victoria Point

Contact: Jesse 0407 894 755

SUNDAY AFTERNOON - REDLAND BAY

Timing: Fortnightly on Sundays, about 12.30pm for lunch followed by Bible study

Leaders: Russell Williams and Beren Matthews

Location: Usually Redland Bay (check this week's plan with the leaders)

Contact: Russell 0423 248 193, Beren 0422 113 484

Praying for 2026

Last year, as Shore Hope's Elders reflected on 2025, we were encouraged by the new rhythms of evangelism God has been establishing among us, and we recognised again the ongoing importance of our Home Groups as we encourage one another to keep trusting Jesus. But alongside these encouragements, we became particularly convinced of the need to **grow in prayer** in 2026.

Prayer is not simply a helpful discipline or a wise addition to busy plans. It is the way God's people express their dependence on him—trusting that he is already at work, and that any lasting fruit in our lives and church will come from his hand, not our own efforts. As we look ahead to a year full of good opportunities, we want to resist the temptation to rely on momentum or organisation alone and instead commit ourselves afresh to seeking our heavenly Father together.

Hopefully you've already taken a Date Claimer for 2026 (if not, grab one from the welcome table or ask someone to get a copy). Having key dates in our diaries helps us plan well and prepare thoughtfully—both to attend events ourselves and to prayerfully consider who in our lives might be encouraged by them. But it also allows us to pray ahead, committing the weeks and months of the coming year to God, asking him to shape our hearts and to do his work in us as individuals and as a church family.

As a further expression of this prayerful beginning to 2026, we scheduled a Week of Prayer before school returned. The daily emails were an encouragement to pray, and our prayer night an invitation to gather with others for a time of corporate dependence on our heavenly Father—giving thanks, bringing our needs before him, and listening together for his guidance.

In addition, our Commissioning Service will be a time to pray not only for those serving in specific leadership roles—such as Home Groups, Shore Hope Kids, and Youth—but also to recognise and pray for every member of our church family as we serve Jesus in many different ways throughout the week: in workplaces, homes, schools, and communities. As God sends us out, we want to do so prayerfully, trusting him to sustain and use us for his purposes.

Will you commit to praying this year? What might it look like for you to "pray continually," as the apostle Paul encourages us to do? And how might you need the encouragement and prayers of others to keep going as we walk together through the year ahead?

Hope Explored

Sharing the Hope We Have in Jesus

Last year, *Taste & See* was a great encouragement as people explored the Christian faith in a warm, relational, and clear way. We're planning to run *Taste & See* again after Easter.

But we also recognised the opportunity **post-Christmas**—a time when many people are reflecting on life, hope, and what really matters. With that in mind, we're excited to be running **Hope Explored**, beginning on **1 February**.

Hope Explored is a short, three-week course created by Rico Tice (Christianity Explored), designed to introduce people to Jesus by addressing three of the biggest questions people ask:

- *What can I really hope in?*
- *Where can I find peace?*
- *What is my life for?*

Each week focuses on one of these themes—**Hope, Peace, and Purpose**—and shows how Jesus uniquely offers what we're all searching for. Rather than assuming prior knowledge, the course opens the Bible and lets people see for themselves who Jesus is and what he offers.

WHAT THE COURSE IS LIKE

Hope Explored is deliberately **short and accessible**, making it easy to invite others to come along. Each session includes:

- A clear and engaging video presentation
- Time to read and reflect on a Bible passage together
- Open discussion, where questions are welcomed and no one is pressured to speak

The course is designed for people who wouldn't call themselves Christians, while still being reassuring and refreshing for those who already trust Jesus. You don't need to be an expert to invite someone or to be involved—Hope Explored helps us **listen well, love people, and let God's word do the work**.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR US AS A CHURCH

At Shore Hope, we long to grow in knowing Jesus, showing his love, and sharing his hope with others. Hope Explored gives us a simple, realistic way to do that together. It helps us create space for honest conversations about life, while clearly pointing people to the hope, peace, and purpose found in Jesus.

We're praying that God would use this course to help people take their first steps toward Jesus, and to strengthen our confidence as a church family in sharing the gospel with clarity and love.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Pray

Pray that God would be at work in the hearts of those who come, and that we would depend on him as we share our hope.

Invite

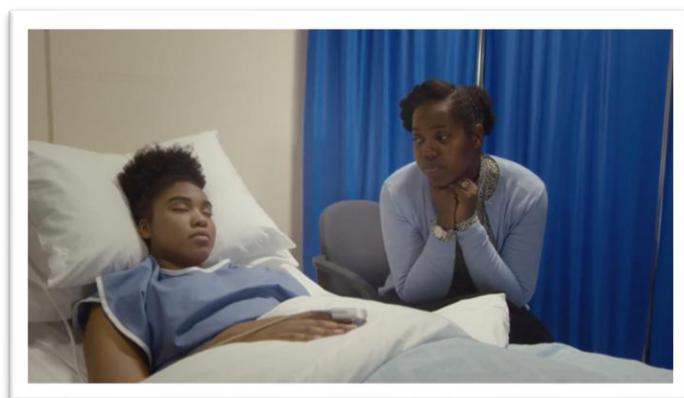
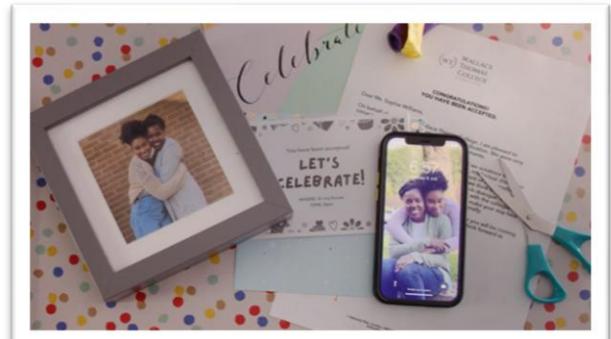
Think about who you could invite—a friend, neighbour, family member, or colleague—and take a simple step to ask them to come with you.

Come

Consider attending yourself, especially if you're inviting someone. Your presence and welcome can make a big difference.

Encourage

Help create a culture where exploring Jesus is normal, supported, and celebrated.



HOPE|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST FUTURE
YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE?

Partners in Discipling Kids and Youth

Throughout the Bible, God's pattern for discipling children is clear: faith is primarily nurtured in the life of the (often extended) family, as parents and carers live out trust in Jesus day by day, speak about him naturally, and pray with and for their children. Church ministries are a great gift, but they are never meant to replace this calling. Rather, they exist to **support, encourage, and partner with families** as together we seek to grow our kids and young people in Jesus' love.

That partnership is especially important in a church like ours, where children and young people are part of the wider church family—not a separate group on the margins. When kids see adults singing, praying, listening to God's Word, and serving one another, they are learning what it looks like to follow Jesus in everyday life.

Shore Hope Youth

Shore Hope Youth is entering its second year, and we thank God for the opportunities it has already provided—for growth, relationships, and opening the Bible together. We're also realistic: not every young person who comes along will "stick," and that can be discouraging. But youth ministry is long-term gospel work, built on prayer, patience, and loving persistence.

SHY continues to be a significant opportunity to invite young people—both from church families and beyond—to hear about Jesus, ask honest questions, and experience Christian community. Please keep praying for this ministry, for the leaders who serve faithfully, and for the young people God may be drawing to himself over time.

Supporting Kids during Church

In term 1 we are trialling running Shore Hope Kids before church. But whether or not it becomes permanent, we always want to help children engage with church alongside their parents and carers.

Children learn more than we often realise simply by being present in gathered worship. Singing songs of praise, hearing the Bible read, listening to prayers, and watching the Lord's Supper all shape their understanding of who God is and what it means to belong to his people.

To help with this, you may find this short article helpful, which offers practical tips for involving children during church services:

<https://growingfaith.com.au/articles/5-tips-for-involving-your-kids-in-church-services>

Small steps—talking beforehand about what will happen, quietly explaining parts of the service, or reflecting together afterwards—can make a big difference over time. (And this article has some practical tips for what to pack in your bag to help kids at different ages: <https://www.redemeingfamily.com/originals/surviving-church-with-young-children-tips-and-tricks-for-keeping-children-in-worship>)

Discipling Kids at Home

We also want to encourage families with simple, accessible resources to help build rhythms of prayer and Bible reading at home. Check out:

- **Kids Pray** - a child-friendly resource to help families pray together in age-appropriate ways:
<https://www.youthworks.net/resources/kids-pray>
- **Kids Read** - a helpful set of questions to use when reading the Bible together, designed to grow understanding and conversation:
<https://www.youthworks.net/kidsread>

None of these are about doing things perfectly. They are simply tools to help families take small, faithful steps as we grow in Jesus' love together.

As a church family, let's keep praying for our children and young people, supporting parents and carers, and trusting God to work patiently and powerfully in the next generation—often in ways we may not see straight away.

Term 1 Calendar

FEBRUARY

Sunday 1stCommissioning Service + Bring & Share Lunch
1st - 15thHope Explored

MARCH

Sunday 1stLord's Supper + Newish + Bring & Share Lunch
Sunday 8thCombined Service
Saturday 14thThe Men's Conference "Don't Give Up"
Saturday 21stAnnual Congregational Meeting

APRIL

Friday 3rdGood Friday/Easter Feast (with Lord's Supper)
Sunday 5thEaster Sunday

STUDIES

Study 1

Read Luke 1:39-56

1. What jumps out to you from the passage? What's interesting? What's unusual?
2. What questions does this passage raise? What's hard to understand? As a group, circle 1-2 questions to answer together from the passage.
3. Which verse do you think says the most important thing about who God is or what God has done? What does this verse have to do with the rest of the passage?
4. Consider whether Mary, Elizabeth, or John had any choice in their place in God's plans. How is their place in God's plans a blessing? How could it have made life difficult? How should this challenge the way we think of our role in God's plans?
5. We don't tend to focus much on the person of Mary in the Bible story (compared to people like Abraham, David, etc). Why might this be the case? What do we learn about her character and example?

Application

Head: What truths from this passage do I need to understand or remember this week?

Heart: Where does this passage challenge, encourage, or confront me personally?

Hands: Who is one person God might be prompting me to pray for or share this story with? How might I take the first step towards that?

Study 2

Read Luke 1:57-80

1. What jumps out to you from the passage? What's interesting? What's unusual?
2. What questions does this passage raise? What's hard to understand? As a group, circle 1-2 questions to answer together from the passage.
3. Which verse do you think says the most important thing about who God is or what God has done? What does this verse have to do with the rest of the passage?
4. In verses 68-75 of Zechariah's song, which child is he singing about? Why is this surprising? How does this align with the special work God gave John the Baptist (see John 3:27-30)?
5. In what ways might we be tempted to make ourselves the focus of Christian ministry, instead of Jesus? How does the example of Zechariah and John the Baptist help us?

Application

Head: What truths from this passage do I need to understand or remember this week?

Heart: Where does this passage challenge, encourage, or confront me personally?

Hands: Who is one person God might be prompting me to pray for or share this story with? How might I take the first step towards that?

Study 3

Read Luke 2:1-21

1. What jumps out to you from the passage? What's interesting? What's unusual?
2. What questions does this passage raise? What's hard to understand? As a group, circle 1-2 questions to answer together from the passage.
3. Which verse do you think says the most important thing about who God is or what God has done? What does this verse have to do with the rest of the passage?
4. Take a moment to consider any Old Testament prophesies that are fulfilled here in Luke 2:1-21 (see 2 Samuel 7:11b-16, Isaiah 9:6-7, and Micah 5:2 if you get stuck). How do these fulfillments help us understand who Jesus is? How do they give us confidence in the certainty of what Luke has written (see Luke 1:1-4)?
5. After the angel and the heavenly hosts announced to the shepherds the birth of Jesus, we told they "hurried off" (Luke 2:16) and they "spread the word" (Luke 2:17). What's your attitude to spreading the good news of Jesus? Are you eager or unenthused? Discuss your answer.

Application

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Heart: Where does this passage challenge, encourage, or confront me personally?

Hands: Who is one person God might be prompting me to pray for or share this story with? How might I take the first step towards that?

Study 4

Read Luke 2:22-40

1. What jumps out to you from the passage? What's interesting? What's unusual?
2. What questions does this passage raise? What's hard to understand? As a group, circle 1-2 questions to answer together from the passage.
3. Which verse do you think says the most important thing about who God is or what God has done? What does this verse have to do with the rest of the passage?
4. Both Simeon and Anna are examples of waiting patiently for the fulfillment of God's promises (Luke 2:25,38). What characteristics stand out as they wait? How should these things characterise our waiting for Jesus' second coming (see 1 Peter 2:9 and 1 John 3:2-3)?
5. When Simeon sees Jesus he sings "For my eyes have seen your salvation" (Luke 2:30). Why is it significant that he sings "my eyes have seen your salvation" instead of "my eyes have seen the one who gives salvation"? How does the wording deepen our understanding of Jesus and what it means to have faith in him?

Application

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Heart: Where does this passage challenge, encourage, or confront me personally?

Hands: Who is one person God might be prompting me to pray for or share this story with? How might I take the first step towards that?

Study 5

Read Luke 2:41-52

1. What jumps out to you from the passage? What's interesting? What's unusual?
2. What questions does this passage raise? What's hard to understand? As a group, circle 1-2 questions to answer together from the passage.
3. Which verse do you think says the most important thing about who God is or what God has done? What does this verse have to do with the rest of the passage?
4. These verses are unique in the Bible in that they tell a story of Jesus as a boy instead of a baby or man. How should we interpret Jesus' treatment of his parents in light of Exodus 20:12 and his words "I had to be in my Father's house"?
5. Both in 2:51 and in 2:19, we're told that Mary "treasured all these things in her heart." Discuss what that means in light of Gabriel's message to Mary in 1:30-33. What can we learn from Mary here as she considered and pondered who Jesus is?

Application

Head: What truths from this passage do I need to understand or remember this week?

Heart: Where does this passage challenge, encourage, or confront me personally?

Hands: Who is one person God might be prompting me to pray for or share this story with? How might I take the first step towards that?

Study 6

Read Luke 3:1-20

1. What jumps out to you from the passage? What's interesting? What's unusual?
2. What questions does this passage raise? What's hard to understand? As a group, circle 1-2 questions to answer together from the passage.
3. Which verse do you think says the most important thing about who God is or what God has done? What does this verse have to do with the rest of the passage?
4. Look at the detail of 3:1-6. How do these historical and Old Testament references fit with Luke's goal for Theophilus given in 1:1-4? How would such details give Theophilus "the certainty of the things you have been taught"?
5. How would you describe John's preaching in these verses? How is he preparing "the way of the Lord?" Given the direct nature of his preaching, how is John proclaiming "the good news to them" (3:18)?

Application

Head: What truths from this passage do I need to understand or remember this week?

Heart: Where does this passage challenge, encourage, or confront me personally?

Hands: Who is one person God might be prompting me to pray for or share this story with? How might I take the first step towards that?

Study 7

Read Luke 3:21-38

1. What jumps out to you from the passage? What's interesting? What's unusual?
2. What questions does this passage raise? What's hard to understand? As a group, circle 1-2 questions to answer together from the passage.
3. Which verse do you think says the most important thing about who God is or what God has done? What does this verse have to do with the rest of the passage?
4. Read Psalm 2 and Isaiah 42:1-4. How do these passages help us understand what Jesus' baptism (3:21-22) is about? What does it teach us about Jesus and what he came to do?
5. Luke's genealogy of Jesus includes David (3:31), Abraham (3:34), and Adam (3:38). What does Jesus being born in their line teach us about him and what he came to do?

Application

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Heart: Where does this passage challenge, encourage, or confront me personally?

Hands: Who is one person God might be prompting me to pray for or share this story with? How might I take the first step towards that?

Study 8

Read Luke 4:1-13

1. What jumps out to you from the passage? What's interesting? What's unusual?
2. What questions does this passage raise? What's hard to understand? As a group, circle 1-2 questions to answer together from the passage.
3. Which verse do you think says the most important thing about who God is or what God has done? What does this verse have to do with the rest of the passage?
4. How is Jesus' experience in 4:1-2 like Israel's experience in Numbers 14:34-35? What are the differences in their experience?
5. Consider how the devil tempts Jesus in these verses. Why might he have chosen these temptations? What might that teach us about how the devil tempts us? What is Jesus' weapon in fighting temptation?

Application

Head: What truths from this passage do I need to understand or remember this week?

Heart: Where does this passage challenge, encourage, or confront me personally?

Hands: Who is one person God might be prompting me to pray for or share this story with? How might I take the first step towards that?

Study 9

Read Luke 4:14-44

1. What jumps out to you from the passage? What's interesting? What's unusual?
2. What questions does this passage raise? What's hard to understand? As a group, circle 1-2 questions to answer together from the passage.
3. Which verse do you think says the most important thing about who God is or what God has done? What does this verse have to do with the rest of the passage?
4. Here is Jesus' first sermon recorded in Luke. Initially, the audience "spoke well of him" (4:22). But as Jesus continues, their attitude changes - "All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this" (4:28). What does Jesus say that changes them? What is he uncovering in the human heart that is so difficult for people to digest?
5. How are Jesus' miracles in 4:35, and 4:39-41 evidence of the truth of Jesus' sermon in 4:18-21? What kind of authority is Jesus displaying? How is that authority both a comfort to us but also a challenge?

Application

Head: What truths from this passage do I need to understand or remember this week?

Heart: Where does this passage challenge, encourage, or confront me personally?

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SHORE HOPE

A REDLANDS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH