

The Gospel of Luke

Since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you ... so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Luke 1:2,3

Lesson 1: Luke the Man

Lesson 2: Luke and Songs

Lesson 3: The Culture

Lesson 4: The Women

Lesson 5: The Balance of Luke

Lesson 6: The Parables

Lesson 7: The Miracles

Lesson 8: Journey to Jerusalem

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Lesson 1: Luke the Man

1. Share what you already know about Luke.
2. Other sources tell us the Luke was born in Antioch. This would make him a Gentile. Find in each text other clues to the life and person of Luke.
 - Colossians 4:14
 - Luke 1:1-4
 - Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-20
 - Acts 16:10ff; 20:5ff; 27-28

3. If you were a new Christian, how might your perspective of faith be different from someone born into the faith? See Ephesians 2:11ff. How might being a Gentile have influenced the way Luke records his gospel?

4. In what ways might being a doctor have an effect on the way Luke: a) views the events of Jesus' life and b) records his gospel?

5. Themes unique to the book of Luke are:

6. Consider highlighting text in Luke in different colors that reveals:
 - his career as a doctor
 - evidence of his roots as a Gentile
 - his heart for the lost

7. How is the Gospel of Luke bringing you closer to Jesus?

For next week, read through the Gospel of Luke.

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Lesson 2: Luke and Songs

1. Tell about a time when words were not enough to convey your joy, only music would do.
2. Find “Mary’s Song” in Luke 1:46-55 and “Zechariah’s Song” in 68-79. Which other gospel writer also includes these songs?
3. Refer to the themes of Luke from Lesson 1. Which of the themes do you find are supported by the inclusion of these songs?
4. Referring to “Hannah’s Song” found in 1 Samuel 2:1-10, find and list the parallels or similarities with “Mary’s Song.”

5. As you read the book of Luke this week, react to this statement: “In some ways, the Gospel of Luke is a musical about Jesus.”

6. How is the Gospel of Luke bringing you closer to Jesus?

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Lesson 4: The Women

1. Brainstorm ways women serve Jesus and each other in our church.
2. Search out and list below the women mentioned in the book of Luke.
 - Luke 1-4
 - Luke 5-8
 - Luke 9-12
 - Luke 13-17
 - Luke 17-21
 - Luke 22-24

3. Compare the many ways women served Jesus in Luke's day with today.

4. How is the study of the Gospel of Luke bringing you closer to Jesus?

"Women are recipients of God's favor; widows are given a prophetic voice within the Lucan narrative. Women come to Jesus in faith. They are healed and forgiven. Women are disciples and full members of the new community of faith. They are partners with Jesus in mission and witnesses to the crucifixion, empty tomb, the angelic announcement of the resurrection and resurrection appearance. They are commissioned by Jesus as witnesses and are to receive the empowering of the Holy Spirit." <http://hdl.handle.net/2123/804> "Women in Luke's Gospel"

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Lesson 5: The Balance

1. Talk about people in your life whom you are called to respect.
2. Research the texts below and note the similarities in the events described.
 - Luke 1:5-20 and Luke 1:26-38
 - Luke 1:46-55 and Luke 1:68-79
 - Luke 2:34-45 and Luke 2:36-68
 - Luke 5:36-39 and Luke 5:36-69

Luke 7:11-17 and Luke 8:49-56

- Luke 7:36-50 and Luke 18:9-14
- Luke 8:1-3 and Luke 8:1-3
- Luke 8:43-48 and Luke 18:35-42
- Luke 13:10-16 and Luke 14:1-6
- Luke 15:4-7 and Luke 15:8-10
- Luke 23:26 and Luke 23:27

This listing becomes even more powerful when you realize that Jews in Jesus day often had a disdain for women and “harshly attacked” women. (Bailey p. 99).

3. If you have felt more greatly respected by Luke's (Jesus') respect for women, how will you more greatly respect others in your life?

4. How is the Gospel of Luke bringing you closer to Jesus?

Bailey, Kenneth E. Finding the Lost Cultural Keys to Luke 15. St Louis, Concordia Publishing House, 1992.

Luke 12:16-21

Luke 13:6-9

Luke 14:7-14

Luke 14:15-24

Luke 15:8-32

Luke 16:1-9

Luke 16:19-31

Luke 18:1-8

Luke 18:10-14

4. How can you see God using Luke's own person in recording his gospel?

5. Here are four miracles not reported in the other three gospels: the crippled woman, man with swollen limbs, ten men with skin disease and the ear of the high priest's servant. In which category do they fall?

6. What are some purposes of the miracles which are recorded in Scripture?

7. How has the recording of miracles in the Gospel of Luke brought you closer to Jesus?

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Lesson 8: The Journey to Jerusalem

1. How might someone who knows you well finish this sentence when you have moved away?
“She was always...”

2. Based on what you know about the person of Luke, you might say, “Luke was always...”

3. Luke often describes Jesus as one who was constantly “on his way to Jerusalem.” Some say Luke was confused about the geography of the land. Others think he simply reported the events out of order. One explanation is that he used the traveling image with purpose, to draw attention to the reason for which Jesus came to earth: to suffer, die and rise again, all in Jerusalem. Search out the following texts. Note an event that is happening at the time.
 - Luke 9:51
 - Luke 9:53
 - Luke 13:22, 33
 - Luke 17:11
 - Luke 18:31
 - Luke 19:11
 - Luke 19:28
 - Luke 19:41

Tell what you see as a purpose of Luke’s writing style.

4. Comment on the following thought by one author on the purpose of Luke's style:

"He saw our Christian life as a journey with Jesus, a living with him through suffering to glory. That is why the gospel ends with the beautiful account of the two disciples who walk on their way to Emmaus (Luke 24,13-35). Jesus is with them all the time, explaining Scripture to them so that they understand what God is doing in their lives. Luke tells us through this that the Risen Jesus is with us in the people he gives us as companions on the road." ['Notes on the Formation of the Gospels', by John Wijngaards; published in *Background to the Gospels* (Bangalore & Ann Arbor 1981)]

5. How has Luke's travel narrative brought you closer to Jesus?