

Study of Luke Ch. 1

Opening

Pray. *You start off with prayer. Ask for God to be in your conversation and to increase faith through this time.*

What are some of your favorite stories you like to read, hear about, or watch? What do you like about them?

What is the best way to hear a story: read it, have someone tell it, or watch it for yourself? Why?

Study

What are some questions you have about Jesus, who He is, and His life? ***(Accept thoughtful answers. I don't know is not a thoughtful answer so encourage them to take a second to think through it. Come back to them if needed.)***

The Book of Luke was written by Luke who was an educated man, assumed to be a doctor. Luke was a believer in Jesus as the Christ and also wrote the Book of the Acts. While writing to a man named Theophilus, Luke also wrote to encourage the baptized and the unbaptized. The Book of Luke is written like a journey that captures the life of Jesus, the people whom He impacted, and the beginning of the Church.

Luke verified all that he wrote about in order that it might provide a historical context and a faith context. The focus of what we will see is how Jesus becomes the temple of the living God instead of a building. As we take this journey through Luke, take this opportunity to see your life journey connected with Jesus' life.

https://youtu.be/_OLezoUvOEQ

What do you know about John the Baptizer? Who was he? Why was he important? What was significant about him? *(Take answers from each person. Invite each person to contribute whether right or wrong.)*

Say something like: We may not know everything about John, but that's OK. Those in John's day did not understand a lot about him either. We're going to start our journey in Luke with learning about John the Baptizer. John is an interesting and different person with a specific Calling in his life.

Read Luke 1:1-4.

What words or phrases stick out to you? What are they telling you?

Why is Luke writing this Gospel (v.1 & 4)? ***(To compile a narrative of what has been accomplished among us and so that we may have certainty concerning what we know.)***

Where does Luke get his information (v.2)? ***(Eyewitnesses and ministers of the word)*** Why is that important? ***(It provides truthful and verified accounts. It also makes it legitimate as a record.)***

Read Luke 1:5-25.

What words or phrases stuck out to you as important. What is important about it?

Someone retell in your own words, what happened in this account. If you were Zechariah, how would you have felt during this exchange?

If you were in Zechariah's shoes, would you have believed Gabriel? Why or why not?

Why does Zechariah question the words of Gabriel? ***Zechariah struggles to believe because he is old and knows how human life works. He essentially believes in science over God's power. What's more, Zechariah was a priest in God's temple. It would be expected that he would have more faith than that!***

For many people, including some Christians, believing everything in the Bible is true can be difficult. Why would it be hard for some to believe everything in the Bible as true? ***Accept thought out answers. The important idea is to put ourselves in other people's shoes not to believe them, but to understand where they come from just as Luke did for his audience.***

The Bible is God's Word written through people, not written by people. What's the difference between these two phrases? ***Allow time to think through this and suggest answers. As conversation dies down, share this point. "Written through" means that God communicated His message and people were His vessels to communicate it. "Written by" means that people did the communicating for God, which can be miscommunicated.***

Say something like: What you believe about God's Word affects how you understand it and what you believe about God. Know what you believe about it.

Read Luke 1:57-80.

What words or phrases stuck out to you? Why? What is its importance?

Why didn't the people believe Elizabeth in naming their child John (v.59)? ***The tradition was to pass on family names and John was not a family name. Also, culturally, women would not have a say in this matter of family inheritance, yet we will see that Jesus includes all who have been ignored through culture and tradition.***

Read James 2:14-17. When Zechariah wrote the name John, his mouth was opened (v.63-64). Why was it opened after he wrote the name, John? (*Hint: go back and read v.20*) ***Zechariah not only needed to accept the words from God through Gabriel as truth, but he needed to live by them as well. Naming his son John was part of his faith in action.***

Zechariah speaks a prophecy about John. Tell it in your own words. What is being said in this prophecy (v.67-79)? ***Something like: Praise be to God! We will be delivered from our enemies as God spoke about through the prophets! John will be a special prophet to prepare the way of the Messiah!***

In verses 65-66 we see these phrases, “fear came on all their neighbors” and “all who heard them laid them up in their hearts”. What do you think is meant by these phrases? ***People could have been afraid of what was coming. They were already afraid of the things that had been going on with other false messiahs and leaders. Yet, they still took note and held them in their hearts where they would pray from. Simply, they were afraid yet hopeful.***

Mark of a Disciple: Faith in God’s Word

As disciples, we value God’s Word as truth. We know that the Bible teaches us who God is, what He wants for us, and how we can live in response to our salvation. In a day where truth is decided by opinion, we know that God’s Word is true because it has been verified throughout all time by God keeping His promises and by the eyewitnesses who vouched for it. We also see that our faith is not in vain as archeology continues to find the historical places and records that reaffirm what the Bible says.

How will you value God’s Word this week?

Create a plan to daily value God’s Word and share that with the group. It needs to be specific with times, places, and details. Make it realistic. Keep each other accountable this week. If you miss a day, pick up the next day.

Prayer Time

Take prayer requests. Have everyone write them down so that each day you may pray for one another. Then, pray for each other before you close.

Are there any fears or concerns around the pandemic? Please be sensitive to each other and listen. Respond with encouragement from God’s Word.