

luke

THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS

Luke 1:1-80

January 3, 2021

1. In the opening verses of the gospel (1:1-4), what does Luke reveal about his purpose for writing the account and his process for doing so?
2. The angel, Gabriel, appears to both Zechariah (1:5-25) and Mary (1:26-38) to declare to each that they would have a son. Compare the two interactions. How are these stories similar and how are they different?
3. Think of the last time God placed before you a unique opportunity to serve Him. Did you respond more like Zechariah or more like Mary?
4. Two songs are sung in praise for what these births reveal about God's plan (1:46-55, 68-79). Use these two songs to generate a list of what God would accomplish through these two babies.

Luke 2:1-52

January 10, 2021

1. Luke is very attentive to set the events within their Roman political contexts (1:5; 2:1-2; 3:1-2, et al.). What are the implications of the birth of Christ for these government figures?
2. Describe each of those in this section who celebrated Jesus' birth.
3. How do you think you would have reacted had you been one of the shepherds?
4. There were doubtless many stories from the childhood of Jesus. Why do you think Luke chose to include this one from his journey to Jerusalem at the age of twelve (2:41-51)?

Luke 3:1-37

Jan 17, 2021

1. Valleys are lifted, mountains are brought low, the crooked paths are made straight and the rough places are smoothed (3:4-5). A highway is being made between God and his people. How does the ministry of John aid the development of that highway?
2. In response to John's admonition to, "Bear fruit in keeping with repentance," (3:8) different members of the crowd ask three times, "What then shall we do?" (3:10, 12, 14) If you asked John the same question, what specific charge would he give you?
3. What does the interaction between John and Herod (3:18-20) reveal about the relationship between the Kingdom of the Christ and the kingdom of Rome?
4. Biblical lists of generations are rarely just that; they also carry a spiritual meaning. What seems to be the spiritual meaning behind Jesus' family tree (3:23-38)?

Luke 4:1-44

Jan 24, 2021

1. Satan poses three temptations to Jesus, each posing a different threat. What is the nature of the threat behind each of the temptations?
 - a. Command this stone to become bread. (4:3)
 - b. If you will worship me. (4:7)
 - c. Throw yourself down. (4:9)
2. Challenge: The quotation from Isaiah (4:18-19; Isaiah 61:1-2) is the theme of Jesus' ministry. Take time this week to commit 4:18-19 to memory.
3. Jesus' ministry is to the poor, the captive, the blind and the oppressed. These descriptions are not just physical but also those who are respectively spiritually bankrupt, trapped by sin, ignorant (or agnostic) and afflicted. Which best describes you before your life was changed by the good news of Jesus?
4. Those in Jesus' hometown first "marveled at the gracious words" (4:22) that Jesus spoke, then they attempted to "throw him down the cliff" (4:29). What did Jesus say that could have caused such a reaction?
5. What do you learn about Jesus from his interaction with demons (4:31-37, 40-41)?

Luke 5:1-39

Jan 31, 2021

1. In response to witnessing a miracle, Peter falls to Jesus knees and says, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord” (5:8). Why would Peter react this way? Was this a good response? Explain your answer.
2. Which parts of the encounter between Jesus and the leprous man would you describe as “expected” and which would you describe as “exceptional”?
3. What does Jesus’ interaction with the lame man and the Jewish leaders (5:17-26) reveal about the mission of his ministry?
4. Levi assembles a great feast, inviting tax collectors and sinners (5:29), and Jesus was willing to eat with them (5:30). What lessons can we apply from both actions when sharing our faith with others?
5. Jesus’ answer to the Scribes and Pharisees (5:33-39) seems cryptic. How is it an appropriate answer to their objection?

Luke 6:1-49

Feb 7, 2021

1. Luke records two consecutive scenes on Sabbaths (6:1-11). What do you think Luke is trying to communicate in these two stories?

2. Would you rather be poor, hungry, weeping and hated, or be rich, full, laughing and praised? Does your answer change considering Jesus' words (6:20-26)?

3. Jesus concludes the section about loving our enemies (6:27-36), by calling the Most High our Father. Use this section to answer the following two questions:
 - a. What are the practices of God's children?

 - b. What are the promises to God's children?

4. Summarize the main points from Jesus admonition about judging (7:37-42).

5. Compare the section about fruit trees (6:43-45) to the section about the two houses (6:46-49). What theme do they share?

Luke 7:1-50

Feb 14, 2021

1. Contrast the Jewish elders' evaluation of the centurion (7:4) with the centurion's evaluation of himself (7:6). Why would they be different?
2. What struck Jesus as being so remarkable about the centurion's faith? How can Christians today show the same kind of faith?
3. Use the chart below to compare the contents of this section with the speech Jesus made in Nazareth.

Luke 7:1-34	Luke 4:16-30
7:2	4:27
7:12	4:26
7:21-22	4:17-19

4. John was the one preparing the way for Jesus, who himself witnessed the descent of the Spirit and the voice of the Father (3:21-22). What would now motivate him to question whether Jesus is the Messiah (7:18-20)?
5. Imagine two Christians sitting side by side in a church pew; one acts like Simon, the other like the sinful woman. What would be the biggest differences in the way in which they lived their faith?

Luke 8:1-56

Feb 21, 2021

1. List each of the women in this chapter and a brief description about her.
2. What major theme connects the Parable of the Sower (8:4-8), its explanation (8:9-15), Jesus' teaching about the lamp (8:16-18), and his statements about his family (8:19-21)?
3. Both the disciples (8:25) and the Gerasenes (8:35-37) reacted to Jesus with fear. For the disciples it brought them closer to Jesus, but it inspired the Gerasenes to send Jesus away. How can fear be valuable for faith and how can it be detrimental?
4. What did Jairus' daughter and the woman with the discharge have in common (8:40-56)?

Luke 9:1-62

Feb 28, 2021

1. In this chapter the twelve will take large steps to becoming proclaimers of the gospel. What does Jesus specifically do to train and equip them (9:1-6, 10-17)?

2. Three answers are given to identify Jesus—Herod (9:7-9), the crowds (9:18-19), and the disciples (9:20). How do each answer the question, “Who is Jesus?”

3. Jesus responds to the declaration of faith by the disciples by telling them that he will go to a cross and die (9:21-22). Even more, they must also take up their own cross (9:23-27). What are the implications for the modern follower of Jesus?

4. The growing process for the disciples is also filled with many failures. What mistakes are made by the disciples in each of the following sections?
 - a. 9:28-36
 - b. 9:37-43a
 - c. 9:43b-45
 - d. 9:46-48
 - e. 9:49-50
 - f. 9:51-56
 - g. 9:57-62

Luke 10:1-42

Mar 7, 2021

1. While the seventy-two go out to spread the gospel, God does some amazing things. What do Jesus' sayings reveal about our part and God's part in evangelism (10:1-11; 17-24)?
2. Some rejection is to be expected when sharing the good news. How does Jesus' pronouncement of woe to the three cities (10:12-16) shape the way you think about rejection?
3. Hospitality becomes a major theme in the chapter—to the traveling teachers, by the Samaritan and by Martha (10:3-11, 29-37, 38-42). What should a Christian do to apply the hospitality principles in the chapter?
4. The lawyer, seeking to justify himself asks, "And who is my neighbor?" How would Jesus answer (10:29-37) have shocked and challenged him?

Luke 11:1-54

Mar 14, 2021

1. After giving a model prayer, (11:1-4), Jesus gives examples of a friend (11:5-10) and a father (11:11-13) responding to requests. What are these two illustrations supposed to teach us about prayer?
2. What larger implications about Jesus and his ministry are found in the discussion about exorcism (11:14-25)?
3. There is a blessing for those who hear the word and keep it (11:27-28), and a curse for those who refuse to listen (11:29-32). The light and lamp serve to illustrate being receptive to the Jesus' teaching (11:33-36). How can you improve your ability to be receptive to the words of Jesus?
4. The charges are very specific against the Pharisees (11:37-44) and their lawyers (45-54). Use this section to compose a list of the attitudes and actions of a modern Pharisee.

Luke 12:1-59

Mar 21, 2021

1. People experience a range of emotions that include big fears and everyday anxieties. Jesus challenges both (12:4-7, 8-12, 22-34). Create a list of big fears and everyday anxieties you have:

Big Fears

Anxieties

How has your faith in Jesus enabled you to address and cope with those emotions?

2. Two parallel statements are made: "One's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions" (12:15), and, "Life is more than food, and the body more than clothing" (12:23). How do these two statements help you assess what is valuable in life?
3. Jesus tells three stories which illustrate preparation in our relationship with God (12:13-21, 35-48, 39-40). What do each of these stories teach about how to be ready?
 - a. 12:13-21
 - b. 12:35-48
 - c. 12:39-40
4. The conversation about preparedness contains several ominous statements (12:46-48, 49, 51, 56, 58-59). What impact do you think Jesus was hoping these statements would have on the hearts of disciples?

Luke 13:1-35

Mar 28, 2021

1. “No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish,” (13:3) is followed by a story about a barren fig tree (13:6-9). What is Jesus teaching about true repentance? `
2. The Sabbath was meant to celebrate God’s deliverance from Egypt and Israel’s freedom (Deuteronomy 5:15). How is this meaning of the Sabbath displayed in Jesus’ healing (13:10-17)?
3. Is the kingdom of God vast and permeating or small and exclusive? Use 13:18-30 to answer the question.
4. Despite the enemies that Jesus had in Jerusalem (13:31-32) and its long history of rejecting prophets (13:34), Jesus longs to gather them as a hen gathers her brood (13:34). How does this section inform and encourage you regarding the unlovable people in your life?

Luke 14:1-35

Apr 4, 2021

1. Twice Jesus has responded to the objection of healing on the Sabbath by referencing the Pharisee's own treatment of oxen and donkeys (13:15; 14:5, ESV reads "son or an ox" in 14:5). What is Jesus highlighting by this response?

2. Use the chart below to diagram the similarities between Jesus' two speeches. Indicate in which verses you find the shared words:

Luke 14:7-11		Luke 14:12-14
	He told/said	
	When	
	Do not... lest	
	But when	
	You will be... for	

3. What are the practices and promises that Jesus is trying to convey in his teachings around the table (14:7-24)?

4. Jesus gives three disqualifications regarding those who cannot be his disciple: if anyone does not hate his family (14:26), if anyone does not bear his own cross (14:27), and if anyone does not renounce all that he has (14:33). How do these statements challenge your own discipleship?

Luke 15:1-32

Apr 11, 2021

1. Jesus tells two stories about something that was lost that instigated a frantic search (15:3-10). List the things that, if you lost them, would inspire you to the same kind of search.
2. The story of the lost son is often called the “prodigal” son, based on the NKJV rendering of 15:13. Prodigal means excessive or extravagant. But the son is not the only one who exercises extravagance in the story. What actions of the father would you deem excessive?
3. What does the end of the story of the lost son reveal about each of the two brothers?
4. Jesus tells the three stories about lost things (15:3-7 Sheep; 15:8-10 Coin; 15:11-32 Son) to answer the grumbings about his eating with tax collectors and sinners (15:1-2). What lessons is Jesus teaching about his view of sinners?

Luke 16:1-31

Apr 25, 2021

1. Compare the plot of story about the dishonest manager (16:1-9) with the story of the lost son (15:11-32).
2. Jesus concludes the story of the dishonest manager by giving several specific applications (16:9-13). What does this section reveal about how to be a faithful manager of what God gives to you?
3. The teaching about divorce (16:18) might seem out of place or abrupt, but how does this statement fit into the larger conversation?
4. What aspects of the story of the rich man and Lazarus (16:19-31) would have been shocking to Jesus' audience?

Luke 17:1-37

May 2, 2021

1. Both the one who causes temptation, and the mulberry bush are cast into the sea (17:2,6). Are these statements meant to be a comfort or a challenge to the disciples?
2. Servants were rewarded for their faithfulness in a previous parable (12:37-38); the master even served them! Yet in this text (17:7-10), no such praise is offered for only having done what was commanded. How should reward and responsibility impact the daily life of those who desire to serve God?
3. How does the exchange between Jesus and the lepers (17:11-19) echo the themes introduced in the synagogue of Nazareth (4:16-30)?
4. How does the exhortation, "Remember Lot's wife," (17:32, cf. Genesis 19:26) summarize the warnings and instructions Jesus gives concerning the destruction of Jerusalem (17:20-37)?

Luke 18:1-43

May 9, 2021

1. Jesus' promise that justice would be swift (18:8) meant that the destruction of Jerusalem (17:20-37) would happen quickly. For Christians who today "cry day and night" to God, it may seem like justice has been delayed. How would you counsel or comfort someone anxious to see God's justice revealed?
2. The pharisee is contrasted with the tax collector and children (18:9-17). What attributes of the tax collector and the children should be emulated by Jesus' followers?
3. After a disheartening conversation with a wealthy man Jesus notes that wealth creates a special hinderance to entering the kingdom of God (18:24). Why is wealth such a spiritual danger?
4. Compare and contrast the disciples (18:31-34) with the blind beggar (18:35-43).

Luke 19:1-48

May 16, 2021

1. Use the chart below to compare Zacchaeus with the rich ruler:

Luke 18:18-24	Luke 19:1-10
18:18	19:2
18:23	19:2
18:18	19:3
18:20-21	19:8
18:23	19:6

2. After reading the whole story about the nobleman (19:11-27), what is your impression of him? Is he an appropriate illustration for God in his coming kingdom?

3. Jesus lamented the city of Jerusalem (13:31-35), calling it the city that killed the prophets and announced it would be the city that would kill him. He concluded with an ominous statement, “And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord’” (13:35). How does this previous scene help you get a glimpse of what would have been going through Jesus mind as he enters the city and they sing his praises (19:28-40)?

4. Jesus again weeps for the city, prophesying its destruction (19:41-44). His next act is to violently attack the temple grounds (19:45-48). How are these two scenes connected?

Luke 20:1-47

May 23, 2021

1. Parables often include a surprising element which highlights its meaning. What is surprising about the parable of the wicked tenants (20:9-18)?
2. The goal of the questions posed to Jesus was to “catch him in something he said” (20:20). The questions are a trap. What is the lurking danger behind each question posed (20:19-40)?
3. Jesus counters their questions with two questions of his own (20:1-7, 41-44). What does Jesus accomplish by asking these two questions?
4. Imagine the exchanges of this chapter were a public debate at which you were a judge. Who won the debate and why?

Luke 21:1-38

May 30, 2021

1. After reading the story about the widow (21:1-4), are you proud of the widow or do you pity her?

2. Jesus' predictions (21:5-28) are a blend of hardship and hope for the disciples. List both the triumphs and the tragedies they will face.

Triumphs

Tragedies

3. Jesus urges the disciples to remain vigilant (21:29-38). What specifically can today's Christians do to apply these exhortations as we await Jesus' final appearance?

Luke 22:1-71

Jun 6, 2021

1. Jesus' final meal centers around the annual celebration of God's act in saving the Israelite people from Egypt (22:1-23). Jesus refocuses this meal to celebrate his own sacrifice. How does this new significance mirror the original meaning of this feast (Exodus 12:1-28)?
2. In what ways do you relate to Peter's desire and difficulties as he endeavors to be faithful (22:31-34, 54-62)?
3. How does Jesus' definition of greatness (22:24-30) differ from the world's?
4. In what ways are Peter and Judas similar? In what ways are they different?
5. Would you describe the trial of Jesus (22:63-71) as just? Explain your answer.

Luke 23:1-56

Jun 13, 2021

1. Both Pilate and Herod preside over the case (23:1-24). What do their words and actions reveal about their attitude about Jesus?
2. Luke encourages the reader to see the crucifixion through the eyes of those present. How do each of the people or groups reveal a different facet of Jesus's death:
 - Barabbas
 - Simon of Cyrene
 - Mourning Women
 - Rulers
 - Soldiers
 - Condemning Criminal
 - Confessing Criminal
 - Centurion
 - Crowds
 - Joseph
3. Which aspect of the trial, death and burial most inspires you to awe and appreciation for Jesus?

Luke 24:1-53

Jun 20, 2021

1. Throughout the resurrection account the disciples are transformed from confused, despondent and afraid to joyful, bold, and confident. What from this account will help you when you are feeling most unsure, overwhelmed, and scared?
2. What does the interaction between Jesus and the disciples (24:36-53) reveal about the nature of Jesus' body after the resurrection?
3. Jesus at multiple points declares that the Christ is the core message of all the Hebrew scriptures (24:27, 44-47). Use the table below to chart the key aspects of Jesus' story throughout the different sections of Scripture:

	Law of Moses	Prophets	Psalms
Luke 24:46-47	Genesis- Deuteronomy	Joshua-Esther and Isaiah- Malachi	Job-Song of Solomon
Suffer			
Rise on the Third Day			
Repentance and Forgiveness of Sins			
Proclaimed to All Nations			

4. Many aspects of Jesus' mission for the church are first seen in these final verses of Luke (24:44-53), including studying Scripture (24:45), exemplifying repentance and forgiveness of sins (24:47), and proclaiming the name of Jesus to all nations (24:47). What is this church doing to participate in that mission?