

# **Luke**

## A Physician's Examination of Jesus' Life

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# CONTENTS

## GETTING STARTED

How to Use this Discussion Guide .....	5
What Is a Q Place? .....	6
Q Place Guidelines .....	6
Q Place Discussion Tips .....	7
Tools for Studying the Bible in a Q Place .....	7
When You Are the Question-Asker .....	8

## Luke: A Physician's Examination of Jesus' Life

Introduction .....	9
1. <b>Luke 1—2</b>	
The Birth of Jesus .....	11
2. <b>Luke 3—4</b>	
John's Ministry; Jesus' Temptation and Preaching .....	19
3. <b>Luke 5—6</b>	
The Call and Training of the Twelve .....	29
4. <b>Luke 7—8</b>	
Desperate Situations .....	39
5. <b>Luke 9—10</b>	
Contrasts: Glory and Defeat, Rejection and Joy .....	49
6. <b>Luke 11—12</b>	
Harsh Words and Great Promises .....	57
7. <b>Luke 13—14</b>	
People in Danger and a Dinner Party .....	67
8. <b>Luke 15—16</b>	
Lost Sinners, Poor and Rich .....	77
9. <b>Luke 17—18</b>	
Preparing for Things to Come .....	87

10. <b>Luke 19—20:18</b>	
Jericho, Jerusalem, and the Temple .....	97
11. <b>Luke 20:19—21</b>	
Temple Teachings and Predictions .....	105
12. <b>Luke 22—23</b>	
Last Supper, Trials, Crucifixion .....	115
13. <b>Luke 24</b>	
Resurrection! .....	125
14. <b>Review of Luke</b> .....	135
<b>MAP</b> .....	139

# 1

## Luke 1—2

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### The Birth of Jesus

**L**uke's opening paragraph follows the style and language of the great Greek historians. His first two chapters are devoted to establishing the uniqueness of Jesus. Luke accomplishes this by his description of divine intervention in the births of both John and Jesus.

#### **Read Luke 1:1-4**

1. What is the source of Luke's information for his Gospel?

What is his method and motive for writing this account?

#### **Read Luke 1:5-25**

2. Using verses 5-13, describe Zechariah and Elizabeth. Try to list at least seven things about them.

3. What specifically does the angel explain about the son Elizabeth will bear?

Why does Zechariah respond as he does to the angel's message?

4. How is Zechariah's question answered (verses 19-25)?
5. Why do we often find the promises of God difficult to believe?

**Read Luke 1:26-38**

6. Briefly describe the encounter between Mary and the angel Gabriel.

7. Comparing Mary's reaction to Gabriel with that of Zechariah, what similarities and what differences do you observe?

<b>Zechariah</b>	<b>Mary</b>

8. List what is predicted regarding John (verses 14-17) and Jesus (verses 32-35).

<b>John</b>	<b>Jesus</b>

**Read Luke 1:39-56**

9. Locate Nazareth (verse 26) and the region of Judea on the map on page 139. What happens when Mary visits her relative Elizabeth?

Why do you think Luke includes a description of the visit?

What is the significance of Elizabeth's statement (verse 43)?

**Read Luke 1:57-80**

10. Describe the events surrounding the birth of John.

What does his father predict about John's ministry?





**Read Luke 2:22-52**

13. Briefly describe the three trips to Jerusalem mentioned in this section. What is the purpose and outcome of each?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. What had Jesus' parents learned about him from the shepherds, and what do they now learn from Simeon?

How do Mary and Joseph respond to Jesus' words and actions during the third visit to Jerusalem?

15. What do you learn from verses 39 and 40 regarding Jesus' childhood?

What do verses 51 and 52 say about his adolescent years?

What is emphasized in both sections?

## SUMMARY

1. To what people and events in secular history does Luke refer in the story of Jesus' birth?

Why is it important that Luke sets his account in historical context, both for the people to whom he originally wrote and for those who would read his account many centuries later?

2. From these chapters, summarize what was predicted about the ministry of John and the ministry of Jesus. What was each to do?

John	Jesus

3. How did God prove himself trustworthy to those involved in the birth of John and the birth of Jesus?

## **CHOICES**

Our choices in life include how we will respond to the activity and will of God. Elizabeth and Zechariah chose to act in faith when God said he was going to answer their prayers for a son. Mary chose to accept the amazing plan God had for her life. The shepherds chose to obey the angelic message to go and see for themselves. Simeon and Anna decided they would believe and proclaim the revelation that the infant Jesus was the Lord's Christ.

How do you choose to respond to the fact of Jesus' coming?