



**BIBLE READING FOR  
REASONING LESSON PLANS**

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path.

~ PSALM 119:105 ~

# Introduction to the Gospel of Luke

## The Gospel of Luke:

Luke is one of four New Testament Gospels.

## What Are the Gospels?

The word “gospel” means “good news.” It is used throughout the New Testament to convey God’s good news that the way of salvation for all mankind came through the death and resurrection of His only Son, Jesus Christ (Mark 1:1; 1 Corinthians 15:20:31). The accounts of the life of Jesus Christ are called the Gospels. They are named after their authors, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and were written so that people might know who Jesus Christ is and believe in Him for eternal salvation (John 20:30).

Christianity spread rapidly across Europe in the first century, which created a great need for written accounts of the life of Christ by those who knew Jesus best. Once written and distributed, these accounts were used to evangelize and teach new converts. Of all the written accounts, only four were selected for the New Testament. These were deemed authentic records and were written to the four general groups of people in the first century: the Jews (Matthew); the Romans (Mark); the Gentiles (Luke); and the Christians (John). The similarities of the four Gospels complement each other while their differences supplement each other. Together, they are a comprehensive record of the life and redemptive ministry of Jesus Christ.

## Background of the Gospel of Luke:

### Date Written:

Approximately A.D. 60 in Rome or Caesarea

### Author:

Luke, “the beloved physician” (Colossians 4:14) and evangelist

Luke wrote about the life of Jesus, the Son of Man and Savior to the Gentile world. He also wrote the history of the Church and the acts of Jesus’ apostles in the Book of Acts, which is a companion book to his gospel account. In fact, Luke wrote more pages in the New Testament than any other writer. Based on the high literary standard of his writings, Bible scholars agree that Luke was a well-educated man.

He was a native of Antioch, Syria, but little is known about his life. Some scholars think he studied medicine at the University of Tarsus, where he could easily have met and become friends of Saul (later Paul) and Apollos. Luke was highly influenced by the Apostle Paul, who was his close friend and fellow traveler. He went with Paul on his second missionary journey to Philippi and was with Paul in Rome when Paul was imprisoned and martyred. (2 Timothy 4:11) Luke’s writing reflects many Pauline words and concepts such as *faith*, *grace*, *repentance*, *mercy*, and *forgiveness*.

Like the Apostle Paul, Luke was not an eyewitness of the life of Jesus Christ (Luke 1:2). He wrote that he “investigated everything about the life of Jesus from the beginning” and recorded it so future generations would know “the exact truth.” He portrayed Jesus Christ as the perfect man, God manifested in the flesh. Like the Apostle John in John 1:1, Luke called Jesus “the Word” (Luke 1:2). His book is based on first-hand stories from eyewitnesses and ministers, those who knew Jesus Christ and had been with Him or experienced a miracle. “Luke died in Boeotia, (Greece) at the age of eighty-four, full of the Holy Spirit” (from the writings of historian Papias, bishop of Hierapolis in Phrygia a century after Jesus).

### Theme of Luke:

The life of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man who became flesh—the God-Man—and the events, which demonstrated His humanity and suffering. Luke’s Gospel is about the compassionate Son of Man who offers salvation to the whole world. (Luke 19:10)

The Gospel of Luke speaks more of the prayers and compassion of Jesus than any other Gospel and includes many medical terms. Luke showed an uncommon interest in individuals and gave a prominent place to women. His account of Jesus' miraculous birth gives us the fullest description of any of the Gospels, and his descriptions of the passion, the suffering, and the death of Christ are especially graphic.

### **Style of the Author:**

This wonderful account of Jesus Christ is written by Doctor Luke with scientific accuracy, and yet it radiates with artistic form and color. Besides being a scientist, Luke was also an artist and a poet. Luke's writing style in this book is poetic in nature, and he preserved some of the most beautiful hymns and songs:

- *The Beatitude of Elizabeth* (1:42) *Beatus* means "blessed" in Latin. *Beatitude* is an utterance of bliss.
- *The Magnificat of Mary* (1:46-55) *Magnificat* means "to magnify" in Latin. It is an utterance of praise.
- *The Benedictus of Zachariah* (1:68-79) *Benedictus* means "benediction" in Latin.
- *The Gloria in Excelsis* of the angels (2:14) *Excelsis* means "of the highest worth; excellence" in Latin.
- *Simeon's Song of Salvation* (*Nunc Dimittis*) (2:29-32) *Nunc dimittis* means "Now I can depart." in Latin.

Luke concluded his account with the disciples of Christ "praising and blessing God." (24:53)

### **Overview of the Book of Luke:**

1. Introduction to the writer and his writing
2. Events relating to the coming of the Savior and childhood
3. Events relating to the ministry of the Savior
4. Events relating to the crucifixion and resurrection of the Savior

# Luke 1

**Time:** 45 minutes

**Student Reading:** Luke 1:1-4 (NIV)

**Teacher Reading:** Book of

Luke Overview

**Review:** Overview of the Bible (Resource)

**Principle:** The Gospels testify

of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## TEACHER

### **Vocabulary:**

**account** (n.) A statement of facts or occurrences; reasons, causes or grounds of an event; a narrative; a report.

**anoint** (v.) To pour oil over one in order to set him apart or consecrate him for God's holy purposes.

**certainty** (n.) A fixed or real state; truth or fact based on evidence; free from doubt.

**eyewitness** (n.) One who sees an occurrence and gives a report.

**Gentile** (n.) Non-Jew.

**Gospel** (n.) [L. *evangelium*, a good or joyful message.] 1) "Good News." 2) The history of the birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension and doctrines of Jesus Christ; or the revelation of the grace of God to fallen man through Christ. This gospel was preached to Abraham by God's promise, "In thee shall all nations be blessed." (Gal. 3:8)

**investigate** (v.) To search, inquire and examine with care and accuracy.

**servant** (n.) 1) One who voluntarily serves another or acts as his minister. 2) One who makes painful sacrifices for the weakness or wants of another.

**testament** (n.) 1) One of the two revelations of God's purposes toward man; a covenant; one of the two divisions of the Bible in which God's covenants with man are revealed. 2) In Law, an authentic instrument in writing by which a person declares his will.

**word** (n.) One of the names of Jesus Christ, the Word (logos) made flesh. (John 1:14)

### **Preparation and Lesson Background:**

1. Be certain that you have read the entire Book of Luke before teaching. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the overview for Luke and the student reading.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, principle and teacher background information.

## STUDENT

### **Key Word:**

**Gospel** (n.) 1) God's joyful message of salvation in Christ. 2) One of four New Testament books that tells the account of Jesus Christ and God's plan of salvation.

### **Read the Bible Passage:**

Read the Bible passage silently and orally as assigned by the teacher.

### **Reason Questions:**

1. Why are there two testaments in the Bible?
2. What is the Gospel?
3. Why is the Book of Luke called one of the Gospels? How is it unique from the others?

### **Notebook Record:**

1. Write your name on the Luke Title Page and color the illustration.
2. Record the following on Luke Overview Graphic Organizer:
  - One of the Bible's four Gospel accounts
  - Written by Doctor Luke in A.D. 60
  - Based on eyewitness reports
  - Relates the humanness of Jesus Christ, who is both God and man

### **Memory Verse:**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor. (Luke 4:18)

3. Gather resources: Luke Title Pages, Overview of Luke Graphic Organizers, Student Vocabulary Card, Memory Verse Card and Parent Cards.

### **Teaching Plan:**

1. Pray: *Oh Lord, show me your ways. Teach me how to follow you. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Amen. (Psalm 25:4-5)*
2. Distribute student binders and the Luke Title Pages. Have children write their name on the page and color the illustration with their colored pencils.
3. Introduce the children to the Book of Luke and where it is located in the Bible.
4. Review the background of the Bible, how we got the Bible and why there are two testaments (or covenants). See the Overview of the Bible found on the Resource CD.
5. Pin the Student Vocabulary Card on the Treasure Chest bulletin board and define 'Gospel' for the children.  
Connect the vocabulary word to the principle. Teach the principle.

**Principle:** The Gospels testify of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

6. Assign the Bible reading to the children. Have them read silently and then orally together.
7. Read the Overview of Luke. Discuss how unique this Book is and compare it with the other Gospels.  
Unlike the other Gospel writers, Luke's writing focused on the humanity of Jesus Christ, who is the only perfect man and the Son of God!  
Make certain that the children understand that Luke never met Jesus Christ. His account of the life of Christ was written after he interviewed many eyewitnesses and servants of the Lord, who met Jesus when He was alive. He also thoroughly investigated the key events of Jesus' life, death and resurrection to preserve an accurate portrait of the man who forever changed history.
8. Ask Reason Questions and have children respond orally.
9. Distribute the Overview of Luke Graphic Organizers. Write the notes on the chalkboard and have children copy onto their Overview of Luke Graphic Organizers.



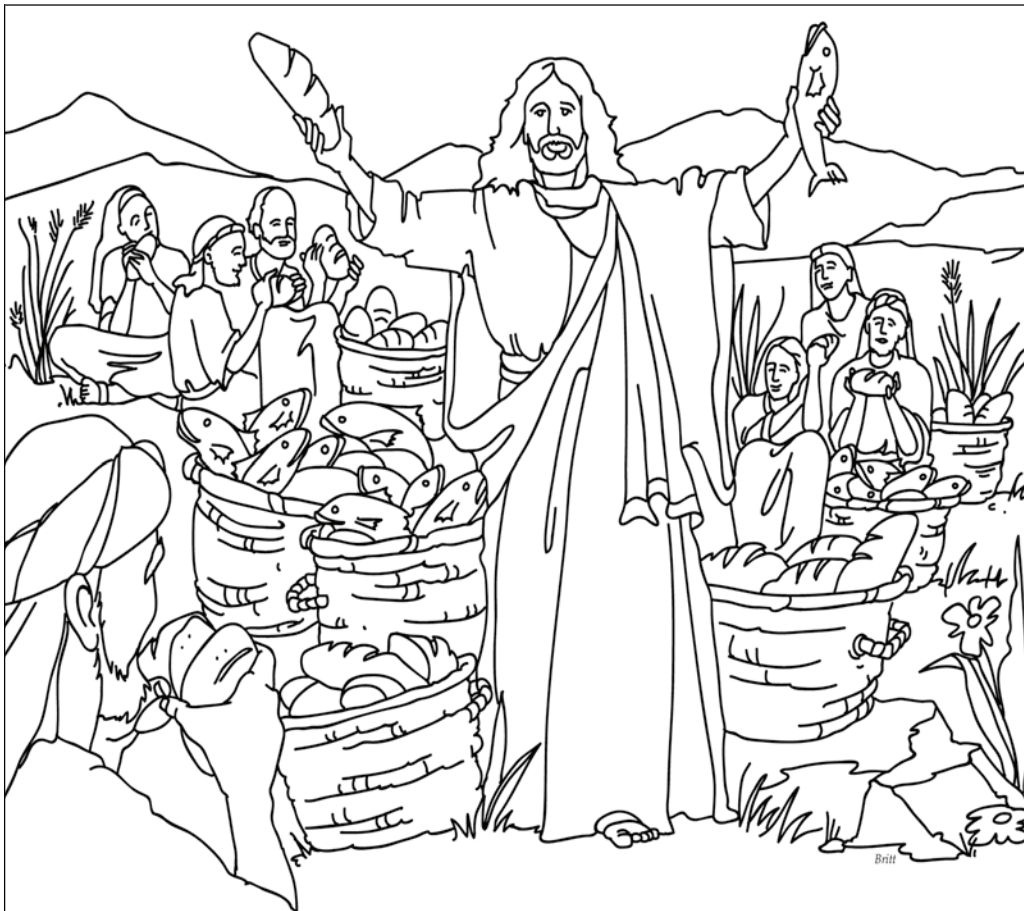
**Take Blessing and Prayer Cards home to parents.**

Have the children file this and their Luke Title Page in their binders behind the Bible divider.

10. Before completing the lesson, have children repeat their weekly Memory Verse. Pin it on the bulletin board.
11. Conclude with a short prayer and blessing for the children.
12. Send Parent Blessing and Prayer Cards home with the children for the week.

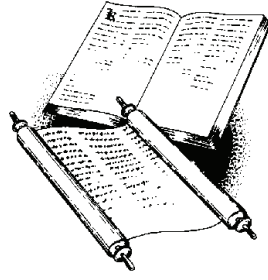
# Gospel of Luke

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*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,  
because He anointed Me  
to preach the Gospel to the poor.”  
– Luke 4:18*

# The Gospel of Luke Overview



A large rectangular area containing 20 horizontal lines, intended for writing notes or an overview of the Gospel of Luke.