

# The Gospels

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## Lesson Guide

LESSON  
FOUR

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE



THIRD MILLENNIUM  

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## HOW TO USE THIS LESSON GUIDE

This lesson guide is designed for use in conjunction with the associated video. If you do not have access to the video, the lesson guide will also work with the audio and/or text versions of the lesson. Additionally, the video and lesson guide are intended to be used in a learning community, but they also can be used for individual study if necessary.

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- **Before you watch the lesson**
  - **Prepare** — Complete any recommended readings.
  - **Schedule viewing** — The Notes section of the lesson guide has been divided into segments that correspond to the video. Using the time codes found in parentheses beside each major division, determine where to begin and end your viewing session. IIM lessons are densely packed with information, so you may also want to schedule breaks. Breaks should be scheduled at major divisions.
- **While you are watching the lesson**
  - **Take notes** — The Notes section of the lesson guide contains a basic outline of the lesson, including the time codes for the beginning of each segment and key notes to guide you through the information. Many of the main ideas are already summarized, but make sure to supplement these with your own notes. You should also add supporting details that will help you to remember, describe, and defend the main ideas.
  - **Record comments and questions** — As you watch the video, you may have comments and/or questions on what you are learning. Use the margins to record your comments and questions so that you can share these with the group following the viewing session.
  - **Pause/replay portions of the lesson** — You may find it helpful to pause or replay the video at certain points in order to write additional notes, review difficult concepts, or discuss points of interest.
- **After you watch the lesson**
  - **Complete Review Questions** — Review Questions are based on the basic content of the lesson. You should answer Review Questions in the space provided. These questions should be completed individually rather than in a group.
  - **Answer/discuss Application Questions** — Application Questions are questions relating the content of the lesson to Christian living, theology, and ministry. Application questions are appropriate for written assignments or as topics for group discussions. For written assignments, it is recommended that answers not exceed one page in length.

## Notes

### I. Introduction (0:20)

The Gospel of Luke reminds us that at the cost of his own life, Jesus came to save us.

### II. Background (1:44)

#### A. Author (1:58)

Two-volume work:

- Volume 1: The Gospel of Luke
- 
- Volume 2: The Book of Acts

The author of both books wrote to someone named Theophilus.

Evidence that the same person wrote both books:

- The style of Greek is similar

- Emphasize similar themes:
  - Universal offer of the gospel
  - Work of the Holy Spirit
  - Irresistible power of the will and word of God
  - Frequent description of Christ's work as "salvation"

### 1. **Traditional view (4:18)**

Unknown author: Theophilus knew who wrote it.

Three types of evidence that confirm that Luke is the author:

- New Testament

Luke was with Paul in the later years of his ministry: 2 Timothy 4:11

- Early manuscripts
  - Papyrus number 75
  - Many other ancient manuscripts
  - No early manuscripts ascribe it to anyone else

- Early Church
  - The Muratorian Fragment
  - Anti-Marcionite Prologue
  - Church leaders from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries:
    - Irenaeus (A.D. 130 to 202)
    - Clement of Alexandria (A.D. 150 to 215)
    - Tertullian (A.D. 155 to 230)

## 2. **Personal History (11:23)**

- Not an apostle
- Gentile convert
- Well-educated
- Paul's partner in ministry

**B. Original Audience (18:03)****1. Theophilus (18:22)**

Luke's preface implies that Theophilus was his patron, the one who commissioned and financially supported his writing.

Theophilus was also Luke's student.

**2. Broader Audience (22:02)**

Christians tended to share writings

Highly literary character

**C. Occasion (24:41)****1. Date (24:56)**

At least two factors point to a date between A.D. 65 and 67:

- Comparisons between Luke and Mark
- The Book of Acts

## **2. Purpose (26:33)**

Luke wrote for Theophilus, and for Gentile Christians like him, to strengthen their young faith in the Jewish Messiah Jesus.

### **III. Structure and Content (28:20)**

#### **A. Preface: Luke 1:1-4 (29:00)**

#### **B. Jesus' Beginnings (30:19)**

Luke's main concern was to show that:

- Jesus was both the Son of God and the son of David
- Both fully divine and fully human
- Jesus was the Messiah or Christ

#### **1. Birth Announcements (31:37)**

- Announcement of John's Birth: 1:5-25
- Announcement of Jesus' Birth: 1:26-38
- Elizabeth's Announcement to Mary: 1:39-56



**2. Births and Childhoods (34:16)**

- John's Birth and Childhood: 1:57-80
  
- Jesus' Birth and Childhood: 2:1-52

Despite Jesus' humble birth, Mary's son really was God's chosen Messiah and King.

**3. John's Identifications of Jesus (39:32)****4. Confirmations as the Son of God (43:03)**

- Divine Confirmation: 3:21-22
  
- Genealogical Confirmation: 3:23-38
  
- Personal Confirmation: 4:1-13

**C. Jesus' Ministry in Galilee (48:56)****1. Sermon at Nazareth (49:50)****2. Teaching and Miracles (59:32)**

- Evil Spirit: 4:31-36
- Many Healings: 4:38-42
- Calling of Three Disciples: 5:1-11
- Healing of Leper: 5:12-15
- Healing of Paralytic: 5:17-26
- Calling of Matthew: 5:27-32
- Teaching on Fasting: 5:33-39
- Teaching on Sabbath: 6:1-11
- Calling of Apostles: 6:12-16
- Sermon on the Plain: 6:17-49
- Healing of Centurion's Servant: 7:1-10
- Raising of Widow's Son: 7:11-16

**3. John the Baptist (57:57)**

Jesus' miracles and preaching clearly fulfilled the prophecies of Isaiah.

**4. Teaching and Miracles (59:32)**

- Parable of Sower: 8:1-15
- Parable of the Lampstand: 8:16-18
- Jesus' True Family: 8:19-21
- Several Miracles: 8:22-56

**5. Preparation of the Twelve Apostles (1:00:41)**

- Sending of Apostles: 9:1-9
- Feeding of Five Thousand: 9:10-17
- Apostles' Confession: 9:18-27
- Jesus' Transfiguration: 9:28-36
- Jesus' Exorcism: 9:37-45
- Greatness in the Kingdom: 9:46-50

Jesus prepared his disciples to:

- Recognize His Authority
- Rely on His Power
- Minister as Humble Servants

**D. Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem (1:02:28)**

Jesus was committed to God's plan to save his people, even though it required him to die in Jerusalem.

**1. Nature of Discipleship (1:04:00)**

- Evangelism, Difficulties and Empowerment: 9:51-10:24
- Three Topics of Discipleship: 10:25-11:13
  - Love for neighbor: Good Samaritan, 10:29-37
  - Love for God: Encounter with Mary, 10:38-42
  - Prayer: Teaching on Prayer, 11:1-13

**2. Increasing Conflict (1:10:57)**

Jesus purposefully antagonized the Jewish leadership to:

- Rebuke their poor leadership of God's people
- Call people into his own kingdom
- Crucify him in Jerusalem

For instance:

- Accusation and Response: 11:14-28
- Warnings Against Hypocrisy: 12:1-3
- Warnings Against Synagogues: 12:4-21
- Assurance to Poor: 12:22-32
- Future Conflict: 12:33-59
- Call for All to Repent: 13:1-9
- Controversial Healing on Sabbath: 13:10-17
- Unexpected Admission to Kingdom: 13:18-30
- Increasing Conflict with Herod: 13:31-35
- Controversial Healing on Sabbath: 14:1-24
- Future Conflict: 14:25-34
- Parables Against Hypocrisy: 15:1-32
  - Introduction: 15:1-2
  - Lost Sheep: 15:3-7
  - Lost Coin: 15:8-11
  - Lost Son: 15:12-32

### **3. Cost of Discipleship (1:14:23)**

- Teaching on Stewardship: 16:1-17:10

- Teaching on Future Judgment: 17:11-18:8
- Teaching on Humility: 18:9-30

#### **4. Jesus' Commitment (1:16:24)**

- Prediction of Death: 18:31-34
- Blessing of Blind Man: 18:35-43
- Blessing of Zacchaeus: 19:1-10
- Parable of King's Servants: 19:11-27

#### **E. Jesus' Ministry in and Near Jerusalem (1:18:15)**

- Jesus' Entry Into Jerusalem: 19:28-44
- Jesus' Cleansing of the Temple: 19:45, 46
- Jesus' Teaching in Temple: 19:47-21:38

**F. Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection (1:23:42)****1. Arrest, Trial and Death (1:24:30)**

- Plot to Betray: 22:1-6
- Last Supper: 22:7-38
- Jesus' Prayer: 22:39-46
- Jesus' Arrest: 22:47-53
- Peter's Denial: 22:54-62
- Jesus' Trials: 22:63-23:25
- Jesus' Crucifixion: 23:26-49
  - Filled with compassion for the helpless
  
  - Trusted his Father
- Jesus' Burial: 23:50-56

**2. Resurrection and Ascension (1:32:06)**

- Jesus' Empty Tomb: 24:1-12
- Jesus on the Road: 24:13-35
- Jesus with the Apostles: 24:36-49
- Jesus' Ascension: 24:50-53

**IV. Major Themes (1:34:45)**

Salvation: Deliverance from the tyranny of evil and from God's judgment against sin.

**A. Description of Salvation (1:36:30)**

Personal salvation is primarily a matter of reversing people's conditions.



Form of salvation: a reversal from bad conditions to good conditions.

Great reversals of salvation also change us on the inside.

Proper response to salvation is joy:

- Zechariah's Song: Luke 1:68-79
- Mary's Song: Luke 1:46-55
- Simeon's Song: Luke 2:29-32
- Angelic Announcements: Luke 1:14, 2:10-11
- Parables of the lost sheep, lost coin, and lost son: Luke 15

**B. God as Savior (1:44:25)**

**1. God's Power (1:44:41)**

Luke wanted his readers to understand that God is in control of everything.

**2. God's Plan (1:47:07)**

Luke taught that salvation is part of God's plan.

**3. God's Son (1:49:16)**

Luke's gospel repeatedly affirms that Jesus is the Son of God.

**C. People that are Saved (1:51:23)**

**1. Gentiles (1:54:00)**

The Old Testament speaks of Gentiles being brought into God's kingdom.

One of Luke's reasons for writing was to assure the Gentiles of their salvation in Christ.

**2. Sinners (1:56:59)**

People who were ostracized by Jewish society because of their sins.

**3. Women (1:58:30)**

Women didn't have many rights in society and weren't highly valued.

**4. Poor (2:00:32)**

Jesus proclaimed the good news of salvation to the poor.

Like the Gentiles, sinners, and women, the poor had very few rights and weren't expected to inherit God's kingdom.

**V. Conclusion (2:04:41)**

The Gospel of Luke presents Jesus as the glorious Son of God who came to earth as the loving Savior of the world. He extends the good news of God's salvation to everyone, regardless of ethnicity, wealth or status.



3. What was the purpose behind Luke writing to Gentile Christians like Theophilus?

4. How was Jesus both fully divine and fully human?



7. What authoritative acts does Luke describe Jesus doing in his ministry in and near Jerusalem?

8. How did Jesus accomplish salvation for his people?

9. How did Luke describe salvation and the people in need of salvation?

10. As the Savior of his people, how did God bring salvation to them?



11. Describe the variety of people Jesus came to save.

## Application Questions

1. How should the purpose behind Luke's gospel strengthen our faith?
2. Why is it important to keep Luke's original audience in mind as we read his gospel?
3. Why is it important for us to pray?
4. How can quoting the Bible help us face temptation?
5. What are some specific ways you can apply the Sermon on the Plain to your own life?
6. What should we learn from the temple cleansing in Luke's gospel?
7. How should we respond to the reality of the kingdom of God?
8. Why is joy important in the Christian life?
9. As disciples of Jesus, why is it important for us to love both our neighbors and God?
10. Why is it important to know that Jesus came to rescue his people from condemnation?
11. How many of our conditions should we expect to be reversed in this life and world?
12. What encouragement do we gain from knowing that Jesus brought God's kingdom to earth?
13. How should we respond to Luke's emphasis on socially disenfranchised groups, such as sinners and the poor?
14. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?