



WEEK 1 LEADER'S GUIDE

Week 1 LUKE 1-3

AS YOU LEAD YOUR GROUP THIS WEEK...

- Contact your group - each individually if possible. The contact you have between meetings is just as important as your time together in your meeting. You can't over communicate
- Read through the Series Overview Guide to see what you will need to incorporate into Week 1.
- Determine if group members will have Study Guide/Daily Reading and be encouraged to do that before your meeting or if you will do it together this first week.
- Plan extra time for connecting if you are just regathering or adding new members.
- Make or Renew Your Group Covenant
- Get out your calendars and go over the schedule for the series
- Talk about others you might want to invite or encourage to join with you for the rest of the study.

USING THIS LEADER'S GUIDE AND THE STUDY GUIDE

This is designed to help you facilitate your group discussion using the Study Guide questions. Questions that appear in the *Study Guide are in bold*. Added questions are not bolded.

OPEN UP

This time will be very important throughout your first weeks together. Make sure you create an environment where everyone feels comfortable talking at this safe level. If you have new people this week you will want to spend extra time before the OPEN UP question.

CHOOSE ONE OF THESE OR ANOTHER THAT BEST FITS YOUR GROUP:

- **If you could choose someone to be the biographer of your life story, who would you choose, and why?**
- If you were to research or write the biography of anyone from history or present day, who would you choose, and why?

UNDERSTANDING LUKE

You may want to choose a brief video from rightnow media to give a good overview/introduction to Luke (see the Bible Project and other options).

There is also a brief UNDERSTANDING LUKE section on the Study Guide from Sunday morning you can read out loud together.

The third of the four Gospels doesn't identify its author, but history has identified him as Luke, an early Gentile convert and beloved physician (Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24). The opening lines reveal that Luke wrote as a diligent historian, not as a first hand observer of the events recorded. As the only non-Jewish author in the New Testament, Luke emphasizes the Gospel is for all people. As a physician, Luke writes with care and sensitivity. He emphasizes Jesus' compassion toward women, the outcasts of society, the sick and the poor. Luke presents his historical account in chronological order, starting with the details of Jesus' ancestry, birth, and early life. He also records the most parables of all the Gospels.

You can also have group members refer to their sermon notes and share what they learned from the sermon and/or read from your own Study Bible or commentary.

- -What did you learn from this that will help you understand the Gospel of Luke better?

BIBLE DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

Questions that appear in the **Study Guide are in bold**. Added questions are not bolded. Do not try to use all these questions. It is better to use the few that best fit your group and move people to application and authentic sharing.

Day 1: Read Luke 1:1-38

- **How does Gabriel's word to Mary (1:26-37) compare to his word to Zechariah (1:11-20)? How do their responses compare?**
- **Describe a time recently when you sensed God was speaking to you (directly, through the Bible, or another person). How did it make you feel? How did you initially respond? How did God meet you?**
- **In what area of your life do you need to believe that nothing is impossible with God? What keeps you from believing this?**

Day 2: Read Luke 1:39-80

- **What attributes of God are extolled in Mary's song(1:50-55)? Which of these means the most to you?**
- **Which of the promises listed in Zechariah's song mean the most to you (1:68-79)?**
- **Write out a list, thank you note or a song praising God for his attributes and faithfulness expressed to you.**

Day 3: Read Luke 2:1-20

- **God sends his angels to visit the shepherds sitting in a nearby field the night Jesus is born. Of all the people God could have sent them to, why do you think he chose the shepherds?**
- **God appeared to the shepherds while they were just going about their everyday lives. What does that tell you about what it means to be "spiritual"?**
- **How has God been speaking to you in the midst of your everyday life this week? Have you been listening?**

Day 4: Read Luke 2:21-51

- **In Simeon's two prophecies (2:29-32, 34-35), what was he predicting about the nature of Jesus' work?**
- **When has God brought a "Simeon" or "Anna" to confirm something in your life? How did this affect you?**
- **What do we learn about the boy Jesus' character traits in verses 43-52?**

Day 5: Read Luke 3:1-38

- **What's radical about John's message (3:3)? What does the "root" and "fruit" signify (3:9)?**
- **How does John differentiate himself and his ministry from Jesus (3:16-17)?**
- **Why might it be significant that Jesus is baptized at the same time as "all the people" (3:21)?**

- **Matthew's genealogy of Jesus goes back to Abraham, but Luke goes all the way back to Adam (3:38). Why might this be important?**

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

One of the themes of Luke 1-3 is the importance of trusting God's word, and understanding your role in God's story.

Read 1 Peter 2:4-10, and make a list of all the things God has called you, and the role he has given you. With these things in mind, journal 1-2 ways you can live more in your calling this week.

Written by Holli Tubbs & Gregg Svalstad for Purpose Church 2022

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE CONTACT OUR GROUPS TEAM AT groups@purposechurch.com or 909-839-6744