



THE BOOK OF
LUKE

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
UNIT ONE

February - March 2024

LUKE

Luke 3:23-38 | February 4, 2024

The genealogies found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke are not meant for us to disregard. If God thought them necessary for the authors to document, then they are important.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16.

Why do you think it was important enough to include the genealogies in the Bible?

Read 2 Samuel 7:12-16.

This passage speaks to both the immediate kingship of Solomon coming from the House of David, but ultimately it is a prophecy that is fully realized and fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the promised King. Why is it important that the genealogy would trace Jesus' lineage all the way back to David?

Pastor Kris drew the conclusion that Matthew is the genealogy of Jesus back through Joseph and Luke is the genealogy of Jesus back through Mary. Either way, He is King legally through Joseph, and He is King naturally through Mary. What do all of these connections show us about God's redemptive story?

Luke ends the genealogy with Jesus being from the lineage of Adam, emphasizing the reality that Jesus is FULLY human. That Jesus is not only Immanuel, "God with us," but He is a God that is with us and is perfectly like us. He is human.

Read Hebrews 4:15.

Why is it important that Jesus would be born through all of these generations of humanity, being a human Himself?

How does this change the way you relate to Jesus knowing that he has experienced the temptations of life just like you have?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- God included the genealogies of Jesus in the Bible so that we would see his faithfulness toward a sinful people. God used generation after generation of broken people to weave his story of redemption through history, ultimately leading to the arrival of God's promised King Jesus.
- Luke traces Jesus all the way to Adam, meaning that, not only is Jesus the Son of God, but He is the Son of Adam. He was fully human.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Thank the Lord for His faithfulness throughout all generations - through the generations from Adam, the House of David, and also the generations that have led to your life. Bring to the Lord specific needs within your group along with praises.

LUKE

Luke 4:1-15 | February 11, 2024

Last week, we focused on God's redemptive plan - providing a promised King through the line of David and all the way back to even Adam in the garden. Today, we'll look at how Adam was tested in the garden compared to how Jesus was tested in the wilderness. While Adam failed the test, Jesus passes.

Read Luke 4:1-15.

List each temptation that the devil brings to Jesus in this passage.

The first temptation that the devil presents is the physical need of food that Jesus experienced because He was fasting for this time in the wilderness. Pastor Kris explained in his message that the first test ultimately boils down to this: distrusting God's Love. Discuss how the devil's temptation is an attempt to get Jesus to distrust God's love.

The devil then goes on to offer to Jesus all the authority and glory of the kingdoms of the world in exchange for Jesus to worship the devil. This test is directed to get Jesus to distrust God's plan. Discuss how the devil's temptation is an attempt to get Jesus to distrust God's plan.

The devil's third temptation was for Jesus to throw Himself down from the temple. Being a man, Jesus would have died from it. This was not the place that God intended for Jesus to die. Surely, only a cross would be the place where He would bear the weight of sin. If Jesus threw Himself down, it would not be God testing Him, Jesus would be testing God and His goodness. This temptation is an attempt for Jesus to presume upon God's goodness. Discuss how this so.

What do these specific temptations from the devil show us about the devil's understanding of Jesus?

How does Jesus respond to these temptations?

Why is it important that we respond with temptations with the Word of God?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Victory over temptation requires us to know and apply the Word of God in our lives.
- The devil knows exactly who Jesus is; namely, the Son of God. He has perfect theology, otherwise he wouldn't be presenting these temptations.
- While Adam failed his test in the garden by sinning, Jesus passed His test in the wilderness by obedience to the Father.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Recognize Jesus in His rightful place; the Son of God, Lord of lords, King of kings, the Savior of the world. Ask Jesus to be your strength and the power of His Word to be your foundation when you face temptation in this world. Bring to the Lord specific needs within your group along with praises.

LUKE

Luke 4:16-30 | February 18, 2024

Our study this week highlights an encounter with Jesus and people in the synagogue in Nazareth. Luke chooses to include this as Jesus' first public ministry encounter. This is not an accident, as this account speaks directly to Jesus being the Messiah, a particular detail that Luke has been emphatically hammering into our minds from the moment we opened his book.

Read Luke 4:16-30.

Jesus quotes a teaching from the prophet Isaiah about the promised Messiah. What are the things that the Messiah will do based on the quote?

How does Jesus fulfill these things?

Not only is this passage highlighting the message and reality of Jesus being the promised Messiah, but it also reveals the reality that there are many who will reject this truth. The crowd wanted Jesus to prove what He was claiming. Jesus reveals their hardness of heart through reminding them of other times that Israel was hard-hearted.

These people were the religious members of society. Why is it often harder to teach the truth to the more "religious" people than it is to those that are far from religion?

In what ways is the world's heart hard toward Jesus being King today?

Jesus was committed to teaching the truth. What does this encounter with the people in the synagogue teach us about Jesus' method of evangelism?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus is the Messiah who brings good news to the poor, liberty to the captives, sight to the blind, and liberty to the oppressed.
- People today will reject Jesus as King, just like those in Nazareth.
- Jesus was committed to teaching the truth regardless of if the audience would receive it well or not.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Ask the Lord to empower you to remain true to His Word, regardless of if it is well-received by the world around us. Pray for God to use you to also proclaim good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to those in the captivity of their sin, to recover the sight of those who are blind to the things of God, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Bring to the Lord specific needs within your group along with praises.

LUKE

Luke 4:31-44 | February 25, 2024

Jesus had just left Nazareth creating quite the commotion in the synagogue due to His teachings, and now we find Jesus in Capernaum doing the very same thing.

Read Luke 4:31-44.

Jesus begins with teaching in the synagogue, and it says that "his word possessed authority." Why do Jesus' words possess authority?

Read Matthew 28:18-20.

Since "all authority in heaven and on earth" has been given to Jesus, how does this change the way we live our Christian lives today?

According to verses 34 and 41 of our passage in Luke, what does it imply about demons' knowledge of who Jesus is?

Is it possible for humans to have perfect theology yet hate God? Why is this so?

Read Hebrews 1:1-3.

According to this passage, what does Jesus' power allow Him to do?

The end of our passage summarizes the purpose of why Jesus was doing all this healing and rebuking of demons. Read verses 43-44. What is this purpose and how do these miracles point to it?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus holds all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, He uses all things at all times for His purposes, even including demons and disease.
- The demons have perfect theology. They recognize Jesus as the "holy one of God" and the "Son of God." Yet, they hate God. Likewise, people can have a perfect theology of God, yet still not follow Him.
- Jesus' supreme purpose was to preach the Good News of the kingdom of God. The Good News is that there is forgiveness of sins in Christ alone. There is no demon, disease or tragedy that can ever take this blessed truth away from you.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Pray specifically for the physical needs of those within the group and that God would be glorified through those needs. Thank the Lord for His supreme authority over your lives, for creating your life and all the things within, and for choosing to purchase you with the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross so that you could enjoy Him forever. Bring to the Lord specific needs within your group along with praises.

LUKE

Luke 5:1-11 | March 3, 2024

Read Luke 5:1-11.

When Jesus taught, the crowds showed up. The things He taught were captivating to the audience. Some were insulted by His claims. Others were astonished at His miracles. Needless to say, when Jesus taught, people's lives were changed because the words He spoke were coming from the very mouth of God.

Summarize this passage in your own words.

Who are the people portrayed in this encounter? What do you already know about them?

Read John 5:24, John 8:31, and John 12:49.

What do these passages tell us about the message that Jesus brings?

Jesus often uses the actions of people around Him to demonstrate a deeper truth. In this case, He used Simon Peter, James and John, who had no faith they could catch fish after toiling all night. Jesus uses their acts of faith to demonstrate His power and purpose in their lives. What is the significance of Jesus using these average fishermen to accomplish His purpose in the world?

What is the proper response to the call of Jesus that we read in the passage?

It is amazing that, in a moment, Jesus took these men's greatest desires, namely, to catch fish for business purposes, and changed them to catching men for kingdom purposes. They simply left all the fish that they had longed for and followed Jesus. What does it look like in our lives to count the cost of following Jesus?

What areas of your lives would you consider your "mission fields?" Who are the people around you that you need to be fishing for?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus' teaching changed lives. For the fishermen, their lives would never be the same after following Jesus.
- When Jesus calls us to follow Him, He will take our old desires of earthly and temporal things and replace them with eternal and godly desires.
- Jesus used ordinary people to accomplish His purposes, and that continues even today.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Pray that the Lord would create an urgency in the members of your group to be mission-minded, to see the world around them as the mission field in which God has placed them. Ask Jesus to use ordinary people like us to accomplish great things for His kingdom. Bring to the Lord specific needs within your group along with praises.

Read Luke 5:12-26.

Have everyone share a portion of the text that stood out to them.

We are in a place of Luke's Gospel account that showcases Jesus' complete power over the created world. He has power over everything that we face in this life. How has God proven to be powerful in our lives today?

In verses 17-26, we read about the healing of a paralytic man. We read in Mark 2 that Jesus was teaching at a public house in Capernaum with Pharisees and teachers present. Jesus gives us a perfect example of bringing the Good News into a community where opposition is present. How does Jesus respond when accused of blasphemy?

On Sunday, Pastor Kris explained the importance of bringing your friends to Jesus. In what ways have people in your life brought you to Jesus when you needed Him most?

Why is it significant that Jesus first forgave the paralytic man of his sins before healing him? Is it more important for the man's sins to be forgiven or for him to be healed?

According to verse 25, what is the ultimate goal of God healing and forgiving us of our sins?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus has total authority and power over everything in the world, including humanity.
- Friends help friends find Jesus.
- Only God can forgive sins, and Jesus is God.
- The greatest need that we have in life is not to get by with as little pain and sickness as possible, but to be forgiven of our sins.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Pray that the Lord would provide healing for the specific physical needs in the lives of those in your group. Pray for the souls of those we know who are going through physical difficulties, that they would either receive the forgiveness of their sins or be reminded of the wonderful reality of their salvation. Pray also for specific needs within your group.

Luke 5:27-39 | March 17, 2024

Read Luke 5:27-39.

What part of the passage stood out to you? Is there anything particularly challenging in which you hope to gain insight?

Jesus chose to minister to the least likely of individuals. He heals the sick and outcast. He deals with demon-possessed people. In the beginning of our passage, He deals with a tax collector, one often despised and known for being an extortioner. What does this say about Jesus' priority when it comes to those He seeks to save?

The Pharisees and scribes scoffed at Jesus spending time with and teaching tax collectors and sinners. Is there a similar attitude in the church today about associating with the outcasts of the world?

According to verse 32, what was Jesus' goal in spending time with tax collectors and sinners?

Often, we can become accepting of sins in our culture and forget about the urgency for repentance in this world. Why do many churchgoers avoid the topic of repentance all together when it comes to having worldly relationships?

Levi, also known as Matthew, did not hesitate when Jesus said, "follow me." What do you think happened in that moment to cause Levi to take such a dramatic turn in his life?

Why do many today not respond as easily to Jesus command to "follow me?"

Jesus' answer to the question about fasting fills in listeners on the reality that He will be taken away from them, and the Church will then fast in a new way. Not by the Old Testament standards but in the "newness" of the New Covenant. The old standards won't work with the new way. When you think of the New Covenant, think specifically about Jesus on the cross, being the perfect sacrifice for both Jews and Gentiles. Why would fasting be different now that the law is fulfilled in Christ, and we are not bound by the Law as Old Testament Israel was?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus associates with the outcasts of society but with the purpose that they would repent of their sins.
- We should not hesitate to follow Jesus when He tells us to follow Him.
- Fasting in the New Covenant is not out of duty to the Law but as a response to grace. It is an entirely new way of fasting because the Covenant of Grace is entirely new.

LUKE

Luke 6:1-19 | March 24, 2024

Read Luke 6:1-11.

What does this passage tell us about the Pharisees' priorities versus Jesus' priorities when it comes to the Sabbath?

The encounters Jesus had with the scribes and Pharisees on the Sabbath showed us that the Sabbath is by Jesus' design, not man's. Do we treat the Sabbath today as a list of rules to be followed as opposed to what Jesus wants from us?

Jesus prayed all night on the mountain before He chose His disciples. This group of men was the leadership Jesus chose for His Church. Jesus prayed before He did significant things. What can we learn from Jesus in how He chose His disciples?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:20-29.

What does this passage have to say about using ordinary people to accomplish God's extraordinary tasks?

Jesus' disciples were certainly an odd bunch of guys: a tax collector, a lawyer, fishermen, a zealot. Knowing what we do about some of the men in this group, what does this reality show us about the make-up of the Church?

What can we apply from this passage about how to form Christian community today?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. He made the Sabbath for men.
- Prayer is necessary when appointing the leaders of the Church.
- God uses ordinary people to accomplish His extraordinary purposes in this world.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Pray for God to bring specific people into your life to disciple you or for you to disciple. Seek the Lord for your purpose within His Church, where He would have you serve, and to whom He would have you bless with your gifts. Ask the Lord for a renewed sense of the Sabbath, as a delight to rest and glorify His name together with other believers.