The Gospel of Luke
Lesson 01

Welcome to the study of the gospel according to Luke!

Gospel means good news, in this case the good news of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as recorded by Luke.

E. Renan has spoken of this gospel as “…the most beautiful book there is,” while C.K. Barrett has observed that Luke “…was more concerned with truth than beauty.” W. Manson summarized the sentiments of both of these individuals by noting that “…Luke has cast his net wide and produced a gospel the most voluminous and varied, the most vibrant and sympathetic, the beautiful and sweetly reasonable of all that we possess.” Widely read contemporary author and theologian R.C. Sproul has said that of the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Luke is his favorite.

Tradition virtually unanimously holds that Luke is the author of the gospel, written around 60 – 63 AD, bears his name. He was a physician and historian who also wrote the book of Acts. Well known and highly respected Biblical commentator Leon Morris has pointed out that Luke’s grand theme throughout his gospel is the love of God for His people as shown in the life of Jesus.

According to Morris, Luke’s gospel “…is the longest of the four, and when Acts is added he has written more of the New Testament than any other single writer. Clearly a study of his writings is important for the student of the New Testament.” Even more, it is important to study this gospel in order to obtain a proper understanding of who God is, who we are, and who Jesus Christ is in god’s perfect plan of redemption for the elect people of God.
Preface

As you begin your study, take a moment to pray and ask God to give you an understanding of His most precious Word so that you might grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

   A. To whom is Luke writing? What does this name mean? (See a footnote in your Bible or consult a Bible dictionary.)

   B. From verse 1, what observation does Luke make regarding the “…things which have been accomplished among us” (Revised Standard Version, RSV) or the “…things that have been fulfilled among us” (New International Version, NIV)?

   C. From verse 2:
      (1) What does Luke say about those who “from the beginning” (RSV) or “from the first” (NIV) have handed down this material?

      (2) Is this important? Why or why not?
(3) What else characterized these individuals (e.g. what did they do? In practical terms, what do you think this means?


(1) What was in the beginning?

(2) With what or whom was it equated?

(3) What did it become?

(4) Who else was “in the beginning”?

(a) What were some of his attributes?

(b) What did he do?

F. Read Deuteronomy 8:3; Psalm 119:105 and John 17:17. What are some other characteristics of the Word?

A. In your own words, what does this mean: “having followed all things closely” (RSV) or “since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning” (NIV)?

B. Why was Luke “writing an orderly account”?

(1) Using a dictionary, define “orderly.”

(2) In verse 4, the RSV uses the word “truth” while the NIV uses “certainty.” Use a dictionary to define these words.

(3) Why is it important for Theophilus and us to know the “certainty of the things you [we] have been taught” (NIV) or the “truth concerning the things of which you [we] have been informed” (RSV)?
(4) Can you think of a time when “knowing the truth” has profoundly affected your life or altered your “world view”? Please explain.

3. Using the introduction of this lesson as well as the preface of Luke (1:1-4), what methodology did Luke employ that would distinguish him as a thoroughly reliable and accurate historian? Why is this important?

4. Read 2 Timothy 3:16, Isaiah 55:8-11 and Hebrews 4:12-13. From God’s point of view, why is the study and application of God’s Word so important?

The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold


A. Who are Zechariah and Elizabeth?
B. What do their names mean? (See a Bible footnote or dictionary.)

6. What idea is Luke conveying when he writes that “both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commandments and regulations blamelessly” (1:6)? Does Luke mean they were without sin? Please cite Scripture to support your answer.

7. Verse 7 notes that Zechariah and Elizabeth had no children because Elizabeth was barren and they were both well along in years. What does Psalm 127:3-5 say about children?

8. From verses 8-10:

   A. What was Zechariah’s division called to do?

   B. What was Zechariah specifically called to do?

   C. How was he chosen for this task?
D. According to Proverbs 16:33, who was really responsible for calling Zechariah to perform this duty?

9. According to Psalm 141:2 and Revelation 5:8 and 8:3-4, what does incense represent?


A. In verse 11, the concept of “angel” is introduced. Using the following verses as your guide, describe the various types of angels; their characteristics, roles and functions; and how we are to relate to them: Luke 1:19, Hebrews 1:14 and 13:2, 1 Corinthians 6:3, 2 Corinthians 11:14, 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6 and 9, and Matthew 25:41.

B. Have you ever had the sense that perhaps you were entertaining angels unawares or that you were being aided by angels (ministering spirits) through some difficulty (Luke 1:14, Hebrews 13:2)? Please explain.
C. From the verses noted in 10 A above, name three angels and write something about each of them.

D. The angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah and announced that his prayer had been heard. What do you think his prayer might have been? Why?

(1) What did the angel say would happen?

(2) What name was Zechariah to give the boy? What does his name mean? (See a footnote or Bible dictionary.)

(3) Identify and list six aspects of his character that will distinguish the boy among men?

A. How does Zechariah respond to the angelic proclamation?

B. In answering Zechariah,

   (1) What does the angelic being say his name is? (Use a footnote or Bible dictionary to define the meaning of his name.)

   (2) Where does he reside?

   (3) What is his role and purpose in appearing to Zechariah?

   (4) What judgment does he pronounce upon Zechariah? Why?

   (5) When would this restriction take effect? Use Scripture to support your answer.

   (6) What might be another reason for imposing this kind of sentence upon Zechariah?
C. After his time of service, Zechariah returns home.

(1) What happens after he returns home?

(2) What does Elizabeth do? What does she say?

(3) Considering what Elizabeth’s name means, how does her name and pregnancy give credence to the fact that God always fulfills the promises He makes to His people, that He says what He means, and that He means what He says?
The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 02

Luke, in the preface of his letter to the most excellent Theophilus, is careful to emphasize the thoroughness with which he has written his gospel or goods news of Jesus Christ. As a good historian, he notes that “having followed all things closely and having “carefully investigated everything from the beginning” with eyewitnesses of the “things that have been accomplished among us,” he was in a position to write an “orderly account” not only for Theophilus but for others as well. Thus, we also can know the “certainty of the things” that have been taught.

Luke begins with the foretelling of the birth of John the Baptist by recounting that the priest Zechariah is visited by the angel Gabriel during the time Herod was king of Judea. Even though Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth are childless and advanced in years, he is told by the angel that they are going to have a son, who they are to name John. The child will be a joy and delight to them, he will be great in the sight of the Lord, he is never to take wine or fermented drink, he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth, he will bring many of the people of Israel back to God, and he will go on before the Lord in the power and spirit of Elijah to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children. After expressing doubt to Gabriel, Zechariah is chastised. Because he did not believe the angel, Zechariah would not be able to speak until Gabriel’s promise of a son came to pass.

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

As you begin your study, take a moment to pray, asking God to help you grow in the understanding of His Word, for indeed “man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.”

   A. Luke is very careful to give certain details about Mary (verses 26-30).

      (1) What are they?

      (2) Why are they important?

      (3) From verse 28, what does the angel Gabriel say to Mary and how are we to understand this greeting?

   B. From verse 31, what does Gabriel predict regarding Mary? What else is she to do?

   C. Scripture is internally consistent with itself. One of these consistencies is found in comparing verse 31 with Matthew 1:21. What is the consistency? Is there anything unusual about it?
D. From verses 32-38.

1. What five things does Gabriel predict concerning Mary’s son?

2. Considering the internal consistency of Scripture and the fact that God means what He says, how do the following passages confirm Gabriel’s statement: “He will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of his father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end”? 2 Samuel 7:16; Psalm 89:1-4; Romans 1:1-4; Revelation 1:8, 17 and 18 and 3:7.

3. From verse 38, what is Mary’s response to the angel?
E. Using a dictionary and considering verses 26 and 27 and Matthew 1:18-25:

(1) What does it mean to be *pledged* or *betrothed*?

(2) How binding was this commitment during the time of Mary and Joseph?

(3) What was Joseph intending to do? How was this cultural issue ultimately resolved for Joseph and Mary?

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**Mary Visits Elizabeth**


   A. What stands out to you about Mary’s visit to Elizabeth?
B. For reflection. In verse 45, Elizabeth exclaims, “Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord says to her will be accomplished!” What has the Lord “said” to you that you believe will be accomplished (either already or yet to be fulfilled)? Please share.

Mary’s Song, the Magnificat

3. Read Luke 1:46-55. In her song of praise,

A. What does Mary declare and acknowledge that God has done for her and her people?

B. What attributes of God shine through Mary’s song of praise?
4. What does Mary do after staying with Elizabeth for three months? (verse 56) What is significant about her action?

The Birth of John the Baptist

5. What is in a name?

A. Read Genesis 2:19-23 and 3:20. There are three illustrations of names being given. Describe what is going on. In terms of line of authority, what is significance about this?


(1) Considering the line of authority, what is significant about the naming of the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth?
(2) What is the three-fold result of Zechariah’s obedience?

Zechariah’s Song


A. From verses 67-75, list several reasons why God is worthy of praise.

B. Since the name John means “God is gracious,” what do you think Zechariah might have been feeling and thinking as he issues a prophetic word about his son?
C. From verses 76 and 77, what does Zechariah prophesy about John?

D. From verses 78 and 79, why will this be so? What will be the result?

E. From verse 80, how did John develop? Where did he live until he appeared publicly to Israel?
In the previous lesson, we investigated Luke’s account of the birth of Jesus. Luke writes that the angel Gabriel is sent by God to a virgin named Mary, who lives in the town of Nazareth in Galilee. Gabriel tells Mary that she is highly favored by God, for the Lord her God is with her. It is not that Mary herself has produced this grace and goodwill, but rather that she is the recipient of God’s grace.

Mary is told that she is to have a son through the miraculous working of the Holy Spirit, for the power of the Most High will overshadow her. Gabriel prophesizes that this child to be born to Mary

Will be great.
Will be called the Son of the Most High.
Will be given the throne of his father David.
Will reign over the house of Jacob forever and that
His kingdom will never end.

Mary is to give him the name Jesus because He will save His people from their sins, as we saw from Matthew 1:21. Told that her elderly relative Elizabeth is expecting a child, Mary goes to visit her. Upon Mary’s arrival, the baby in Elizabeth’s womb leaps for joy, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, loudly proclaims, “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you will bear.” Brimming over with joy, Elizabeth further exclaims that all are blessed who believe that the Lord will accomplish all that He has said to them.
Then it is Mary’s turn to burst forth in praise, exclaiming that her soul glorifies the Lord and her spirit rejoices in God her Savior. She continues to extol the virtues of God, noting His regard for her humble estate, His mercy to her and all who honor Him, His mighty deeds on behalf her people. She concludes her song of praise by proclaiming that God’s faithfulness and mercy to Abraham and his descendants would continue forward forever with the birth of her son, who would be the Savior of all God’s people.

In this part of his gospel, Luke also records the birth of John the Baptist and Zechariah’s song of praise extolling the virtues of God and his prophecy about his son John. Called a prophet of the Most High, John will go before the Lord to prepare the way for Him and to declare to His people the promise of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins.

As you begin this lesson on the birth of Jesus, will you take a moment to ponder who God is and what He has done? Then ask Him to help you study His Word and to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, also called “Immanuel,” which means “God with us.”

**The Birth of Jesus**

1. Read Matthew 1:18-25.

   A. Who is Joseph? From the narrative, describe his character and importance to Mary and Jesus.
B. By what two names will the child born to Mary be known? What do these names mean?


   A. How is God’s sovereignty revealed in these passages? What is the importance of Bethlehem to Joseph? To God?

   B. From these passages, contrast the majesty of God with the humility of God.
C. Skeptics and unbelievers have long contested the virgin birth of Jesus. Consider your own experience and the following passages: Isaiah 1:18, 7:14, 9:6-7, 53:1-6, 55:8-9; John 1:29; 2 Corinthians 5:21; and Revelation 1:17-18. What, if anything, has convinced you that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary? Why does the virgin birth of Jesus matter?


A. Thought to be unscrupulous and untrustworthy, shepherds were the lowest class, whose testimony was of little value. What is significant about their involvement in God’s plan of redemption?

B. What “good news” does the angel bring? What signs does God provide the shepherds to confirm this “good news”?
C. How do the shepherds respond to these signs? Where do they go? What do they do? How do others react to their testimony? How does Mary respond to the shepherds’ report?


A. How do Mary and Joseph comply with Jewish law? How are we made aware of their humble estate?

B. Who are Simeon and Anna? What did they prophesy?

C. From verse 40, what does Luke reveal about the childhood of Jesus?

A. How do Mary and Joseph discharge their responsibility for Jesus and reveal their continued obedience to God?

B. How does Jesus manifest His spiritual maturity? How does He demonstrate respect for His Heavenly Father and His earthly parents? What is the result?
Chapter 2 of Luke’s gospel describes many of the circumstances and events surrounding the birth of Jesus. Luke writes: “And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.’ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.’”

With these words, Luke paradoxically describes the majesty and humility of God. The majesty of God is conveyed in the angelic appearance, the Lord’s glory, and the company of the heavenly host praising God. On the other hand, Luke describes the humility of God in that the Savior was born a baby in swaddling cloths in a manger in Bethlehem. Later, Jesus affirms His humility, saying, “Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

The apostle Paul, writing to the Philippians, reinforces this idea, “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled
himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

As you begin this lesson, take a moment to ask God for His help as well as to worship Him for His majesty and humility. May you be willing to bend your knees, heart and will in joyful adoration and praise to Him.

**John the Baptist Prepares the Way**

1. Read Luke 3:1-20. What are some of the major themes and principles from this passage?


   A. Why do you think Luke chose to include the historical, geographic and prophetic details of the appearance of John the Baptist?
B. Israel was to have only one high priest at a time (Hebrews 5:1-6). Why then does Luke refer to the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas (3:2)? (Hint: Knowledge of Jewish/Roman history or a Bible footnote will help.)

C. What is the common denominator in the second half of verse 2 and the following passages? Jeremiah 2:1, 7:1; Ezekiel 3:16; Hosea 1:1; Joel 1:1; Amos 3:1; Micah 1:1; Zephaniah 1:1; Haggai 1:1 and Zechariah 1:1

D. From verses 3-6 and Matthew 3:1-6:

   (1) Describe John’s appearance, eating habits and the location where he began his ministry.

   (2) What was John’s message?
(3) How was John the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy?

   
   A. What did John call the crowds coming out to be baptized by him? Can you think of a similar reference elsewhere in the Bible? Please describe.
   
   B. From verses 7 and 8, what warnings did John give the people? What exhortations?
   
   C. How is the warning in verse 9 both individual and corporate?
   
   D. From Luke 3:10-14, how does John answer the crowd, the tax collectors and the soldiers when they ask, “What should we do?”
E. From Luke 3:15-18, when asked if he might possibly be the Christ

(1) How does John respond?

(2) How does his answer reveal his humility?

(3) From these verses and John 1:29-34, how does John point to the Christ?

5. From Luke 3:17, what does John indicate the coming Christ will do?


7. From Luke 7:24-28, what does Jesus proclaim regarding John? What does He say about those who are the least in the kingdom of God?
The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 05

Luke sets the historical context of the beginning of John’s ministry, noting specifically that it was in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea and Annas and Caiaphas were high priests. As a messenger of God, John came as a prophet to his people in the spirit of Elijah to announce the coming of the Lord. His was a voice of warning calling in the desert, “Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him” (Luke 3:4).

John came preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins by proclaiming to those that came to see him, “I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worth to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire” (Luke 3:16-17). And when John saw Jesus, he was the one who said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!” (John 1:29).

As you prepare to study the passages in this lesson, take a moment to thank the Lord for sending His prophet John and His Son, Jesus the Lamb of God, who takes away not only your sin and mine, but the sin of all who invite Him to be Savior and Lord. Ask Him for insight and understanding into His Word and remember that those who continue in His Word are truly His disciples.

The Baptism of Jesus

1. Use a dictionary to define

A. Baptize
B. Baptism

C. Baptism of fire


4. Read Acts 2:1-18, 21-24, 36-40 and Acts 19:1-7. What does it mean to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins?


A. What do you think John means when he says to Jesus, “I need to be baptized by you and do you come to me?”
B. The prophet Isaiah exclaims, “Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down!” (64:1). Luke records (3:21a) that when all the people were baptized, Jesus was baptized too. What do you think Jesus means when He responds to John, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness”? Why?

C. Read Exodus 29:1-9; Leviticus 8:1-12; 1 Samuel 16:1, 10-13; Hebrews 2:10-18, 4:14-16 and 1 Peter 3:18-22. What additional insight do these Scriptures provide into the ordination of Jesus as High Priest, thus fulfilling all righteousness?

D. What does God the Father say to show His approval?

E. What do the anointing with oil and descent of a “dove” symbolize?

A. How old was Jesus when He began His ministry?

B. What observations can you make regarding the genealogy of Jesus?

C. Read Matthew 1:17. What similarities and differences do you notice in the two accounts of Jesus’ genealogy? What might explain the difference?
The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 06

Luke records that Jesus was baptized along with all the people. Matthew notes the exchange between John and Jesus: “Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ Jesus replied, ‘Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then John consented.”

Explaining what it means to “fulfill all righteousness,” the author of Hebrews writes: “Since the children have flesh and blood, he [Jesus] too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.”

In this lesson, we will examine what it means to be tempted by the devil, not only looking at the temptations of Jesus but also those of Adam and Eve and the nation of Israel after their deliverance from Egypt.

Before you begin your study, will you pause to thank the Lord for His willingness to take on our humanity that He might atone for our sin, destroy the works of the devil and help us when we are tempted? Ask Him to give you insight and understanding as you study His Word.
The Temptation of Jesus


2. Use your dictionary to define:
   A. Tempt
   B. Test

3. From Genesis 3:1-20, Matthew 4:3, John 8:42-44, 2 Corinthians 11:14, 1 Thessalonians 3:5, 1 Peter 5:8, 1 John 3:8, Revelation 12:7-9 and 20:1-3:
   A. Who is the tempter?
   B. By what other names is he known?
   C. Describe his character and actions.
4. From 1 Chronicles 29:10, 17; Proverbs 17:3; Jeremiah 11:20, 17:9-10; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-4:

A. Who is it that tests the hearts of men?

B. Why?

C. What personal instruction, guidance and counsel does Psalm 139 (particularly verses 1-7, 13-16 and 23-24) provide us in the area of testing?

5. From 1 Corinthians 10:13 and James 1:13-15, what else can you observe about temptation?

7. Refer to Genesis 3:1-20; Numbers 13:1-2, 21, 26-33; Numbers 14:1-10, 26-45; Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13; Ephesians 6:12 and 1 John 2:16. Compare the temptations and tests of Adam and Eve, the Israelites and Jesus with regard to:

A. Location:
   
   (1) Adam and Eve
   
   (2) the Israelites
   
   (3) Jesus

B. Length of time:
   
   (1) Adam and Eve
   
   (2) the Israelites
   
   (3) Jesus

C. Setting (surrounding conditions)
   
   (1) Adam and Eve
   
   (2) the Israelites
   
   (3) Jesus

D. Type of temptation(s) (1 John 2:16)
   
   (1) Adam and Eve
   
   (2) the Israelites
(3) Jesus

(4) What strategies and means did Satan use to entice Adam and Eve, the Israelites (implied) and Jesus?

(5) How does Satan misuse and twist God’s Word in tempting Adam and Eve and Jesus?

(6) In your opinion, what were Satan’s purpose and goal in trying to tempt Adam and Eve, the Israelites and Jesus? Why?
(7) Refer to Psalm 25:4-5, 27:1, 31:14-15 and 143:8-10; Matthew 26:39; John 6:38-39, 17:4; Galatians 5:1; and 1 John 3:8. What factors were or should have been considered in formulating a response to Satan by:

(a) Adam and Eve  

(b) the Israelites  

(c) Jesus  

E. How did each respond?  

(1) Adam and Eve  

(2) the Israelites  

(3) Jesus
F. How did their responses reflect what and in whom they believed?

(1) Adam and Eve

(2) the Israelites

(3) Jesus

G. What were the consequences of their responses?

(1) Adam and Eve

(2) the Israelites

(3) Jesus
8. Read John 4:31-34, Ephesians 6:10-20 and 1 Peter 5:8-9. What do these passages as well as those studied earlier teach us about dealing with temptation?
The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 07

Matthew, Mark and Luke record the temptation of Jesus by the devil while also noting that the Spirit of God led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted prior to beginning His public ministry. In the previous lesson, we learned that while God does not tempt anyone and cannot be tempted, He does test the hearts of men. Jesus passed His tests, responding to Satan’s temptations by speaking aloud specific Scriptures with absolute trust in them.

In similar fashion, we too are to believe God, not the lies of the serpent as did Adam and Eve. Like Jesus, we are to fully trust the promises of God by quoting them appropriately to defend ourselves against dangerous attacks. The apostle Paul exhorts us to put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20) while James instructs us to submit to God and resist the devil (James 4:7) so that he will flee from us.

As you begin this lesson, ask God for insight, wisdom and courage to withstand the wiles of the devil. Before answering the questions, ask the Lord for help to understand His Word so that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus of Nazareth, who is the Christ, the Son of Man and Son of God.

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth


   A. Where did Jesus go after His temptation by Satan and testing by His Father?
B. With what kind of power did He return? Considering what you know about Jesus' birth and time of temptation and testing in the desert, why is this important? What should we draw from His example?

C. What did Jesus do?

D. What resulted from His going to their synagogues?

E. How was Jesus generally regarded by the people at this point in His ministry?


A. Where did Jesus go after traveling in and around Galilee?

B. From verse 16, Matthew 2:19-23 and John 1:43-51, what is significant about this place?

3. What did Jesus customarily do on the Sabbath?
4. According to Hebrews 10:25:
   
   A. What are we to do customarily?

   B. Why?

   C. According to Isaiah 61:2, what is to be one of the characteristics of this day?

   
   A. What did Jesus stand up to do?

   B. What was handed to Him?

   C. Comparing what He read, as recorded in Luke 4:18-19, with Isaiah 61:1-2, what do you notice?

   D. What is significant about where He stopped reading? What implications do you draw for the age in which we live?
E. Refer back to Luke 1:67-75, 2:8-11 and 25-32. What do you think Jesus means when He says, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing”?

F. From verse 22, what was the reaction to Jesus’ proclamation?


A. What does Jesus say to the people in the synagogue?

B. What is His point?

C. Why do you think Jesus says what He does?

D. How do the people react?

E. What do they do?

F. Why do you think the people are so quick to change their attitude toward Jesus from approval to anger and rage?
G. How does Jesus escape? Does this seem unusual to you? If so, how?
The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 08

After the time of temptation and testing in the desert, Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit to begin His public ministry. As He taught in synagogues, news of Him spread throughout the countryside and everyone praised Him. Back in Nazareth, Jesus went to the synagogue as was His custom on the Sabbath, stood up to read and was handed the scroll of Isaiah. He found the place where it is written: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Sitting down, Jesus said, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Initially everyone spoke well of Jesus. However, as He began to challenge their skeptical hearts and minds with such statements as “no prophet is accepted in his hometown,” the people became furious and attempted to throw Him off the brow of the hill on which the town was built. Jesus escaped by walking through the crowd and continued on His way to fulfilling all of God’s purposes for His life.

In this lesson, we will see that Jesus begins to establish the kingdom of God here on earth, first by teaching with authority, second by healing, and third by confronting demons and taking command of them. Before you begin to study, please take a moment to pray and ask God to teach you and settle your own heart and attitude toward Him so that you might grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, who is the fullest expression of the Lord’s favor.
Teaching, Healing and
Destroying the Works of the Devil

1. Read Luke 4:31-44. Refer to one of the maps in your Bible to locate Capernaum. Where is it?

2. Using a dictionary, define *teach*.

3. From verse 31, what did Jesus begin to do?

4. From verse 32, why were the people amazed?

5. Using a dictionary, define *authority*.

6. Referring to John 8:25-32:
   
   A. Why do you think Jesus’ message had authority?

   B. What are the three results of holding to Jesus’ teaching?
C. From your own life:

(1) How have you been amazed at Jesus’ teaching?

(2) In what ways have you come to know the truth?

(3) How has knowing the truth set you free?


A. Describe what is taking place.

B. What does the demon say? What does the demon know that the people do not?
C. From 1 John 3:8 and the demon’s remark, what is one of the purposes of Jesus’ coming to earth?

D. How does Jesus demonstrate His authority over the evil spirit, thus authenticating 1 John 3:8? How is the satanic kingdom submitting and bowing to the kingdom of God?

E. What happens to the man possessed by the demon?

F. What is the people’s reaction to this amazing deliverance and demonstration of authority?

G. What is your reaction?


A. Where does Jesus go?
B. What does He do?

C. What results?

D. Refer back to Luke 4:16-30. How do these results compare with those in Nazareth?

9. As Jesus begins to exercise His authority as the Son of God and Son of Man, why do you think He commands the demons to be quiet and does not allow them to speak?


A. What does Jesus say about how authority and lordship are to be exercised in the kingdom of God? What does He do?
B. How can these principles be applied in today’s world?

The Gospel of Luke
Lesson 09

In the previous lesson, we saw that Jesus began to establish the kingdom of God here on earth by teaching, healing with authority and exercising His authority over the demonic kingdom of Satan. One of the purposes of Jesus’ coming to earth was to destroy the works of the devil. Another purpose for His coming was for him to lead us to the truth. Jesus said that those who continue to hold to his teaching are truly His disciples; they will come to know the truth which will set them free.

As we by His grace continue to hold to His teaching, may we not only prove to be His disciples but may we come to know the truth better and truly be set free by it.

As you begin your study, please take a moment to thank Jesus that He is the way, the truth and the life. Ask Him to give you not only insight and understanding of His Word but also grace to grow in the knowledge and favor of the Lord God.

Exercising Kingdom Authority
Through the Calling of the First Disciples


   A. Consult a footnote or map to identify other names for the Lake of Gennesaret.
B. From Luke 5:1-3, why does Jesus ask to be put out a little from the shore in Peter’s boat?

C. After Jesus finished teaching the Word of God to the people, what instructions does he give to Simon?

D. Referring back to Luke 4:38-39, why do you think Simon follows Jesus’ instructions, even though it is not a good time for fishing and he has fished all night without catching anything? What does Simon’s response to Jesus suggest about the nature of their relationship at this point?

E. From Luke 5: 6 and 7, what are the results of Simon’s doing what Jesus asked of him? How are we to respond to Jesus’ instructions? Why?
F. Luke 5: 8-10 record that Simon Peter and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish. Why does Simon Peter fall at Jesus’ knees (an act of worship and submission) and say, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man?”


   A. What are some of the attributes of God evident in these passages?

   B. What are the people’s responses to God’s attributes?

D. How can you apply the concepts in these passages to your relationship with God?

**Exercising Kingdom Authority**
**Through Healing**

3. Read Leviticus 13:1-8 and 29-46. In general, how were infectious diseases to be dealt with?

   
   A. What does the man with leprosy do when he encounters Jesus?  
   What does his action reveal about his view of Jesus?
B. How does Jesus respond to the man’s request? What does Jesus do and say?

C. What is the result? How does it demonstrate Jesus’ authority over disease and uncleanness?

D. According to Mark 1:43-54, what warning and command does Jesus give the man healed from leprosy? What does the man do instead? Why do you think he does this? What is the result?

5. From Mark 1:45 and Luke 5:16, what is the impact of the man’s action upon Jesus? How does Jesus react to this pressure? What wise principles does Jesus apply that we can follow when the pressures of life increase?
The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 10

In the previous lesson, we saw Jesus, who is both the Son of God and the Son of Man, continue to establish the kingdom authority of God here on earth, by (1) calling His disciples, (2) demonstrating His authority over creation and (3) healing the sick.

In the calling of disciples, Jesus begins the process of calling out a people of God, who would eventually come to believe in Him as Savior, Lord and God. Jesus’ supreme desire was to glorify His Father by completing the work God gave Him to do.

Jesus’ authority over creation is evident in His instruction to Simon to let down his fishing nets for a catch. Despite having fished all night and caught nothing, Simon (Peter) obeys Jesus. Simon and his partners immediately catch so many fish that their nets begin to break. The fishermen are astonished at the size of their haul and Jesus’ authority over creation.

Jesus demonstrates His rule over disease by healing a man with leprosy. As a result, news about Jesus spreads more, so that crowds of people come to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses.

Before beginning your study, thank Jesus for His authority, obedience to His Father and His willingness to help all who come to Him. And ask Him to give you insight and understanding of His Word.
Exercising Kingdom Authority
Through the Forgiving of Sins


A. Where is Jesus when the healing takes place?

B. Who is there besides Jesus? What is Jesus initially doing?

C. What do you think Luke means when he writes, “And the power of the Lord was present for him [Jesus] to heal the sick”? (verse 17b) Why do you think Luke includes this information?

D. What do the friends of the man on the mat find when they carry him to Jesus? What do they decide to do?
E. What does Jesus perceive about the men who cut a hole in the roof to lower their friend in front of Jesus?

2. From Hebrews 11:1, define *faith*. In practical terms, what does this mean?

3. From Hebrews 11:6, what else do we learn about faith?

4. From Hebrews 11:32-40:
   
   A. What do these verses teach us about those with faith?
   
   B. Did they all receive what was promised? Why?
5. Read 2 Timothy 1:8-12. What is the great hope and promise of the Lord to those who suffer for testifying about Him and who trust Him for future blessing? On what basis is the apostle Paul able to do this?

6. Consider 2 Timothy 1:8-12, James 1:2-8 and 1 Peter 4:19. What is our response to be when we suffer according to God’s will? Why?

7. From 2 Corinthians 5:7 and Ephesians 2:8-10, what else do we learn about faith? For what reason? For what purpose?
8. Read Luke 5:20. What does Jesus say to the man instead of immediately healing him? Why do you think He says this? What point is He making? What does Jesus call the paralytic? How is this title an encouragement to the paralytic. To us?


10. From Isaiah 1:18 and Jeremiah 31:31-34:

   A. In what one sense are the religious leaders right?

   B. In a larger sense, how have they missed the point Jesus is making?
11. In answering their objection, how does Jesus link the authority to forgive sin with the authority to heal (Luke 5:22-25)?

A. What is the result of Jesus’ pronouncement? What is the response of the people?

B. How are the result and the response of the people (Luke 5:25-26) partial fulfillment of the vision recorded in Daniel 7:13-14?