

Luke Study 1: Jesus Begins His Ministry

I. Background Information

II. Look at the Text (Luke 4:1-13)

Luke 4:1 Jesus returned from the Jordan full of the Holy Spirit¹ and was led by the Spirit into the desert, ² where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. In all that time he ate nothing, so that he was hungry when it was over. ³ The Devil said to him, "If you are God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread." ⁴ But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Human beings cannot live on bread alone.'"⁵ Then the Devil took him up and showed him in a second all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ "I will give you all this power and all this wealth," the Devil told him. "It has all been handed over to me, and I can give it to anyone I choose. ⁷ All this will be yours, then, if you worship me." ⁸ Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!'" ⁹ Then the Devil took him to Jerusalem and set him on the highest point of the Temple, and said to him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For the scripture says, 'God will order his angels to take good care of you.' ¹¹ It also says, 'They will hold you up with their hands so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.'" ¹² But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³ When the Devil finished tempting Jesus in every way, he left him for a while.

III. Label the Text

- Underline the first three words the Devil says in each temptation
- Circle the words that tell what the Devil wants Jesus to do in each temptation.
- Highlight Jesus' responses to the Devil.
- Mark anything else that is interesting to you in the text.

IV. Reflect on the Text

1. Was this a friendly conversation? (No) How would you describe it?
2. This event happens at the beginning of Jesus' ministry - before any preaching or healing...The beginning of a story is always important. What does this event make you think about as the story of Jesus' life begins?
3. Write at least two questions about this text.

- 1.
- 2.

V. Personal Application

1. We also fight a spiritual battle as we try to follow the Lord. In what areas does the Devil tempt you to disobey God? (in doing what you should not do -- or perhaps not doing what you should do) What is appealing about these temptations?
2. What do you learn here from Jesus about responding to temptation?

Luke Study 2: Jesus Announces His Ministry

I. Background Information

II. Look at the Text (Luke 4:14-21)

Luke 4:14 Then Jesus returned to Galilee, and the power of the Holy Spirit was with him. The news about him spread throughout all that territory. 15 He taught in the synagogues and was praised by everyone. 16 Then Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath he went as usual to the synagogue. He stood up to read the Scriptures 17 and was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written, 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed 19 and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people." 20 Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. All the people in the synagogue had their eyes fixed on him, 21 as he said to them, "This passage of scripture has come true today, as you heard it being read."

III. Label the Text

- Mark anything you see which is interesting.
- Jesus reads from the Old Testament in Isaiah 61.
- Circle the four things the text says Jesus has come to do (v 18-19).

IV. Reflect on the Text

1. Based on what the Spirit has sent Jesus to do, what would you expect to see happening in the rest of the story of His life?

2. Write at least two questions about this text.

- 1.
- 2.

V. Link to the History and Culture of the Jews

Usually, Jewish teachers stood up to read and sat down to teach. When they sat down to teach, they usually read what the teachers in the past had written about the scripture. The Jewish people knew that these verses from Isaiah were talking about the Savior whom God

promised to send one day to rescue his people and establish God's kingdom of peace and love and healing. Note, however, that Jesus does not quote the older teachers.

1. What does He say when he sits down?
2. What is Jesus implying about Himself?

VI. Personal Application

1. When we become a follower of Jesus, we join Him in His work! This is an amazing privilege. If you announced your mission in life as His follower, what would you say? (in your own words - not just repeating the words in this text)
2. As one of Jesus followers, what is your mission for this semester?
3. How would you like to see God use you this semester?
4. As Jesus continues His work, what changes would you like to see Him make in your life this semester?

Luke Study 3: A Day in the Life of Jesus

I. Background Information

- Map - Galilee, Capernaum
- Sabbath
- Demons - Worldview
- Context

II. Look at the Text (Luke 4:31-44)

Luke 4:31 Then Jesus went to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, where he taught the people on the Sabbath. 32 They were all amazed at the way he taught, because he spoke with authority. 33 In the synagogue was a man who had the spirit of an evil demon in him; he screamed out in a loud voice, 34 "Ah! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Are you here to destroy us? I know who you are: you are God's holy messenger!" 35 Jesus ordered the spirit, "Be quiet and come out of the man!" The demon threw the man down in front of them and went out of him without doing him any harm. 36 The people were all amazed and said to one another, "What kind of words are these? With authority and power this man gives orders to the evil spirits, and they come out!" 37 And the report about Jesus spread everywhere in that region. 38 Jesus left the synagogue and went to Simon's home. Simon's mother-in-law was sick with a high fever, and they spoke to Jesus about her. 39 He went and stood at her bedside and ordered the fever to leave her. The fever left her, and she got up at once and began to wait on them. 40 After sunset all who had friends who were sick with various diseases brought them to Jesus; he placed his hands on every one of them and healed them all. 41 Demons also went out from many people, screaming, "You are the Son of God!" Jesus gave the demons an order and would not let them speak, because they knew he was the Messiah. 42 At daybreak the next morning, Jesus left the town and went off to a lonely place to pray. The people started looking for him, and when they found him, they tried to keep him from leaving. 43 But he said to them, "I must preach the Good News about the Kingdom of God in other towns also, because that is what God sent me to do." 44 So he preached in the synagogues throughout that part of the country.

III. Label the Text

- Underline the things that Jesus did
- Highlight **v 43** where Jesus tells His goal or purpose - what He "must" do.
- Mark anything else in the text that seems important or interesting to you.

- Write any comments or ideas you have in the margins of the text.
- Write at least two questions about this text.

- 1.
- 2.

IV. Reflect on the Text

1. Pretend you are in the town watching Jesus that day. What are your emotional reactions?
2. What are you learning about this Jesus?
3. Jesus came to preach the Good News. What are you learning about the Good News from listening and watching Jesus in this text?

V. Personal Application

1. The people saw signs that the Kingdom of God was near that day when Jesus was there. Are you going to Jesus - watching - listening - asking? Why or why not?
2. What signs of the Kingdom of God have you seen/experienced in your life as you have followed Jesus? (what has been changed or healed...?)
3. What signs of the Kingdom have you seen in this Christian community?
4. What signs of the Kingdom do you long to see - what do you pray for?

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Luke Study 4: Beginning to Call His Disciples

I. Background Information

II. Look at the Text (Luke 5:1-11)

Luke 5:1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, 2 he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." 5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." 6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

III. Label the Text

- What do you learn about Simon and his partners? Circle the words that tell you.
- Highlight everything Simon says in this passage.
- Mark anything else you see in the text that seems interesting or important. Write any comments or ideas you have in the margins of the text
- Write at least two questions about this text.

- 1.
- 2.

IV. Reflect on the Text

1. In v 8-11, what is Simon thinking, feeling? Why?
2. In v 11, why do you think they left everything to follow Jesus?

V. Personal Application

1. What experience have you had that changed your view of Jesus or of your relationship to God?
2. What have you left to follow Jesus? (or what do you need to leave behind?)

Luke Study 5: Jesus Begins to Teach

I. Background Information

II. Look at the Text (Luke 6:27-36)

Luke 6:27 "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not stop him from also taking your shirt. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you. 32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners' love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father in Heaven is merciful.

III. Label the Text

- Highlight **v 31** since this summarizes Luke's concern.
- Put a box around the verbs of the other commands Jesus gives his followers.
- Underline what our enemies do.
- Jesus says we will be sons and daughters of the Most High -- i.e. we are to be like our Father, God. How does God treat people?
 - **v 35**
 - **v 36**
- Mark anything else that seems important or interesting to you. Write any comments or ideas or questions in the margins of the text

IV. Reflect on the Text

1. The command Jesus gives in **v 31** is known as 'the Golden Rule'. What are some examples of how to live this way?
2. Jesus' list of commands here are sort of upside down! Most people think you should love your friends and hate your enemies. Think about these commands. What might happen if you obey these commands?

3. What risks would we be taking?
4. What good things might happen?
5. What do you think we can learn about God if we do these things?

V. Personal Application

1. How have you seen God's kindness and mercy to you recently?
2. What situations have you faced recently that were difficult for you to handle in this way?

Luke Study 6: Power, Doubt and Proof

I. Background Information

Read the story of John the Baptist (Luke 3:18-20)

II. Look at the Text (Luke 7:11-23)

Luke 7:11 Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. 12 As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out — the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.” 14 Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” 15 The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. 16 They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” 17 This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country. 18 John’s disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, 19 he sent them to the Lord to ask, “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?” 20 When the men came to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?’” 21 At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. 22 So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. 23 Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.”

III. Label the Text

- Underline the verb phrases in v 13-15 that tell what Jesus did.
- Highlight John’s question in v 19.
- Highlight the things Jesus wants John to hear about in v 22.
- Mark anything else that seems interesting or important in the passage. Write your questions or thoughts in the margins or the text.

IV. Reflect on the Text

The passage begins with a dramatic story. Two large crowds meet at the town gate and Jesus raises the boy to life.

1. Imagine you are the mother - what are you thinking/feeling as Jesus touches the coffin - or as your son sits up?

2. Imagine you are in the crowd - what do you learn about Jesus?
3. Why do you think John asked Jesus the question in **v 19**?
4. What does Jesus expect John to think/realize after hearing what Jesus has done?

V. Personal Application

1. We all have times of doubt, even after becoming followers of Jesus. When do you find yourself doubting or unsure that Jesus is the Savior – or unsure that He loves you...or that God exists...?
2. What has convinced you to believe or restored your faith when you had doubts?

Luke Study 7: The Perils of Hearing

I. Background Information

II. Look at the Text (Luke 8:1-18)

Luke 8:1 Some time later Jesus traveled through towns and villages, preaching the Good News about the Kingdom of God. The twelve disciples went with him, 2 and so did some women who had been healed of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (who was called Magdalene), from whom seven demons had been driven out; 3 Joanna, whose husband Chuza was an officer in Herod's court; and Susanna, and many other women who used their own resources to help Jesus and his disciples. 4 People kept coming to Jesus from one town after another; and when a great crowd gathered, Jesus told this parable: 5 "Once there was a man who went out to sow grain. As he scattered the seed in the field, some of it fell along the path, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it up. 6 Some of it fell on rocky ground, and when the plants sprouted, they dried up because the soil had no moisture. 7 Some of the seed fell among thorn bushes, which grew up with the plants and choked them. 8 And some seeds fell in good soil; the plants grew and bore grain, one hundred grains each." And Jesus concluded, "Listen, then, if you have ears!" 9 His disciples asked Jesus what this parable meant, 10 and he answered, "The knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom of God has been given to you, but to the rest it comes by means of parables, so that they may look but not see, and listen but not understand. 11 "This is what the parable means: the seed is the word of God. 12 The seeds that fell along the path stand for those who hear; but the Devil comes and takes the message away from their hearts in order to keep them from believing and being saved. 13 The seeds that fell on rocky ground stand for those who hear the message and receive it gladly. But it does not sink deep into them; they believe only for a while but when the time of testing comes, they fall away. 14 The seeds that fell among thorn bushes stand for those who hear; but the worries and riches and pleasures of this life crowd in and choke them, and their fruit never ripens. 15 The seeds that fell in good soil stand for those who hear the message and retain it in a good and obedient heart, and they persist until they bear fruit. 16 "No one lights a lamp and covers it with a bowl or puts it under a bed. Instead, it is put on the lampstand, so that people will see the light as they come in. 17 "Whatever is hidden away will be brought out into the open, and whatever is covered up will be found and brought to light. 18 "Be careful, then, how you listen; because those who have something will be given more, but whoever has nothing will have taken away from them even the little they think they have."

III. Label the Text

- Circle all of the people who are hearing this simple story.
- In v 4-8, underline the places where the seeds fell.
- In v 11-15, highlight what things prevent the message from growing in peoples lives
- Underline and Highlight Jesus' conclusion in v 18.
- Mark anything else that seems interesting or important to you. Write your questions and comments in the margins.
- Share your observations with each other in the group.

IV. Reflect on the Text

1. If you had heard Jesus tell this parable, what idea or image do you think you would most remember?
2. In v 1 says that Jesus was "preaching the Good News about the Kingdom". Where is the good news in this story?
3. In v 18, Jesus states his conclusion. What does Jesus want to teach us from this story?

V. Personal Application

1. What have you been hearing/or what have you heard recently?
2. What have you done about it?
3. If you have heard nothing - how can you begin to listen?

Luke Study 8: Fear and Faith

I. Background Information

II. Look at the Text (Luke 8:22-25)

Luke 8: 22 One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they set out, 23 and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water and they were in danger. 24 And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are going to die!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. 25 He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"

III. Label the Text

- Circle the verbs in the passage that describe what Jesus did.
- In v 23-24, underline the key words that paint the picture of the trouble on the lake.
- Mark anything else you think is important or interesting.
- Write several questions in the margins of the text.

IV. Reflect on the Text

1. What kind of faith do you think the disciples had before this event?
2. What did they know about Jesus and what might they have expected Him to do?
3. Why were they still afraid after the wind stopped?
4. What do you think they learned this day?

V. Personal Application

1. How are you like the disciples?
2. What trouble do you have -- or might you expect in life given your situation?
3. Pray for one another's faith.

Luke Study 9: 5000!

I. Background Information

II. Look at the Text (Luke 9:10-17)

Luke 9: 10 When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida, 11 but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing. 12 Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here." 13 He replied, "You give them something to eat." They answered, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish — unless we go and buy food for all this crowd." 14 (About five thousand men were there.) But he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." 15 The disciples did so, and everybody sat down. 16 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people. 17 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

III. Label the Text

- Circle all of the numbers in the story.
- Underline Jesus' actions and words.
- Write a word in left column for each verse that describes the emotion or feel of what is happening.
- Mark other details in the story -- or write any questions you have.

IV. Reflect on the Text

Pretend you are one of the 12 disciples. Write a short entry in your journal about your experience today.

V. Personal Application

1. Do you believe that Jesus/God can do a miracle through you?
2. Would you like to be involved God's work? Why or Why not?

3. What opportunities to be involved in God's work has Jesus led you to these days?
4. Do you have any fears or reasons to hesitate?

Luke Study 10: If Anyone Would Come After Me

I. Background Information

II. Look at the Text (Luke 9:18-27)

Luke 9:18 Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" 19 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life." 20 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God." 21 Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. 22 And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." 23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. 25 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? 26 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. 27 I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

III. Label the Text

- Highlight Jesus' questions -- and in another color highlight the answers.
- In v 22, underline the verbs which tell what will happen to Jesus.
- List what Jesus says his followers must do in v 23-27.
 - deny self
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
- Mark anything else you think is interesting -- write thoughts in margins.
- Write several questions about the passage.

IV. Reflect on the Text

1. Imagine you are Peter. You tell Jesus you think He is the Christ. What do you expect that He might say to you in response?
2. Rewrite **v 23** in your own words.

V. Personal Application

From reading this passage, what do you think Jesus would say to YOU about following Him at this time in your life. Would He challenge you - comfort you - mention a specific situation...? Write a short note to yourself from Jesus saying these things.

Dear _____,

Luke Study 11: Do Not Worry

I. Background Information/Vocabulary

- Ravens
- Lilies
- Sow
- Spin
- Reap
- Solomon

II. Look at the Text (Luke 12:22-34)

Luke 12:22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? 27 "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith! 29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the world runs after all such things, but your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek His kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. 32 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

III. Label the Text

- Underline and list what Jesus tells us to NOT do.
 - v 22
 - v 29
 - v 29
 - v 32

- Circle and list what we Jesus wants us to do.
 - **v 24**
 - **v 27**
 - **v 31**
 - **v 33**
 - **v 33**
- Mark anything else which seems interesting or significant to you.
- Write questions and comments in the margins of the text.

IV. Reflect on the Text

1. What basic need do you worry about?
2. What does it look like to “seek the kingdom”?
3. How do you know if you are doing it?

V. Personal Application

1. Where is your heart?
2. What are you really seeking in life?

Luke Study 12: To Seek and to Save

I. Background Information

- v 1- Jericho
- v 2- tax collector
- v 7- mutter
- v 10- Son of Man

II. Look at the Text (Luke 19:1-10)

Luke 19:1 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. 5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. 7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'" 8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." 9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

III. Label the Text

- Highlight everything you are told about Zacchaeus.
- What does this info tell you about him?
- Mark anything else which seems significant.

IV. Reflect on the Text

In v 8, we seem to be in Zacchaeus' home. What do you think he saw and heard there that caused him to change?

V. Summary

1. Pretend you are Zacchaeus. Write a short entry in your journal reflecting on what has happened to you today (feelings, thoughts, decisions...)

2. Pretend you are Jesus. Write a short entry in your journal about what happened with Zacchaeus today (feelings, thoughts...)

VI. Personal Application

You really are one of Jesus' followers -- and you have just had another experience with him. Write a short journal entry about what you are thinking and feeling. (You could also write this as a note to him.)