

Jesus Magnified

Luke 3 and 4

Lesson 3

FIRST DAY: Read Luke 3 and 4

When we think of initiating a ministry or career, we often think in terms of a great launch with lots of fanfare. Not so with Jesus! When the Son of God introduced His ministry, He began with a baptism in the obscure Judean wilderness. It was there, in the presence of only a few, that the sovereign Father identified fully with His Son. Anointed and filled with the Spirit, Jesus was led out to a more formidable wilderness to confront the ultimate power of evil. From there, Jesus encountered rejection in His hometown of Nazareth before He ministered in Capernaum.

Even in Capernaum, Jesus dealt with the marginalized when He delivered a demon-possessed man and met with the maimed, diseased, and sick outside Peter's house. Jesus initiated His ministry by fully identifying with humanity's need for anointing, resistance to evil, and perseverance through rejection. His example speaks to us not only by His victory and humility, but also by the way He confronted and dealt with the issues facing all men. God anoints, tries, and tests those He uses for His glory. Jesus, the Captain of our Salvation, was tried and tested that He might have the glorious ministry of bringing many sons to glory.

Ask God to enliven the example of Jesus to your heart.

SECOND DAY: Read Luke 3:1-20

1. Before describing the ministry of John the Baptist, Luke set the stage for the next series of events by describing the political scene at that time. Observe this description in Luke 3:1-2a. Why do you think he did this?
2. It was at this time that *the word of God came to John* while he was in the *wilderness* (Luke 3:2b). From Luke 3:3 record and remark on what he did in response to God's Word.

3. Use the *words of Isaiah the prophet* recorded in Luke 3:4-6 to comment on:
 - a. How John fulfilled this prophecy

 - b. The message John proclaimed

4. John had a stern warning to the Jewish crowds who *came out to be baptized by him*. Use Luke 3:7-9 to comment on:
 - a. The warning (verses 7, 8b-9)

 - b. The solution (verse 8a)

5. John also gave practical instruction to those gathered. Use Luke 3:10-14 to note his instruction to:
 - a. *The people* (verse 11)

 - b. *Tax collectors* (verse 13)

 - c. *Soldiers* (verse 14)
 - (1) How are these directives examples of true *repentance*?

 - (2) Why do you think John used the word *fruit*? Luke 3:8-9

6. As John preached, the people *reasoned* about whether or not *he was the Christ* (Luke 3:15). In order to clarify this, how did John describe *the Christ*? Luke 3:16-17

a. What do you find most compelling about this description?

7. According to Luke 3:18, John continued to preach *with many other exhortations*. However, what would eventually happen to him? Luke 3:19-20

8. What stands out to you from the ministry of John?

THIRD DAY: Read Luke 3:21-38

1. According to Luke 3:21a, what happened after *all the people were baptized*?

a. Use Matthew 3:13-17 and Luke 3:21b-22 to describe this scene.

2. What did God the Father announce concerning His Son? Luke 3:22b

a. Why was this significant?

3. Luke 3:23-38 records the genealogy of Jesus through Mary. Share why you think this was important to record.

- a. Highlight any names that stand out to you.
 - b. What do you observe concerning Jesus in Luke 3:23?
4. By faith you are now part of this lineage, and Jesus Christ, the One who pleased the Father, lives in you! How does this speak to you concerning your *true* identity?

FOURTH DAY: Read Luke 4:1-13

1. Where was Jesus *led*, after He was *filled with the Holy Spirit*? Luke 4:1
2. Describe the scene in Luke 4:2.
 - a. What do you find noteworthy about the Holy Spirit's activity? Luke 4:1-2
3. Use Luke 4:2b-12 to fill in the chart below concerning the temptation of Jesus *by the devil*:

SITUATION	TEMPTATION	JESUS' RESPONSE
Verse 2b	Verse 3	Verse 4
Verse 5	Verses 6-7	Verse 8
Verse 9a	Verses 9b-11	Verse 12

a. Share an insight you gleaned from Jesus' example concerning:

(1) Temptation

(2) God's Word

4. From Luke 4:13 notice what took place after *the devil had ended every temptation*. Link this with James 4:7. What do you see?

5. How is Jesus an example to you when you are faced with temptation?

FIFTH DAY: Read Luke 4:14-30

1. Using Luke 4:14-15 note the details when Jesus *returned*.

2. According to Luke 4:16, *He came to Nazareth where He was brought up*. What did He do *on the Sabbath day*? Luke 4:16-17

a. When Jesus *opened the book of Isaiah*, He *found* a specific passage (Isaiah 61:1-2). According to this passage what would the Messiah do? Luke 4:18-19

3. Describe the atmosphere *in the synagogue*. Luke 4:20-22

- a. What did Jesus declare about Himself? Luke 4:21

4. The people in Nazareth demanded a sign from Jesus. Read His interaction with them from Luke 4:23–27 and summarize His response.

5. Jesus reminded them of two Gentiles in the Old Testament (a widow and a leper) who were benefited by the ministry of God’s prophets. From Luke 4:28–29 note the reaction of the people of Nazareth. Why do you think they were so upset?
 - a. In what remarkable way did Jesus handle this situation? Luke 4:30

6. How is Jesus an example to you when dealing with rejection?

SIXTH DAY: Read Luke 4:31–44

1. Jesus departed from Nazareth and *went down to Capernaum*, where He taught in the synagogue (Luke 4:31). From Luke 4:32 note and comment on the response to His teaching.

2. In addition to teaching, Jesus performed many miracles while in Capernaum. Use Luke 4:33–41 to record your observations and insights concerning:
 - a. The deliverance of the demon-possessed man (verses 33–37)

 - b. The healing of Peter’s mother-in-law (verses 38–39)

- c. The healing of *various diseases* (verse 40)
 - d. The deliverance of other demon-possessed people (verse 41)
 - e. Use a few adjectives to capture what these events reveal about Jesus.
3. Comment on Jesus' activity from Luke 4:42, 44.
- a. What did Jesus state as His *purpose* for being *sent*? Luke 4:43
4. How was Jesus magnified through your study this week?