

# Jesus Magnified

## Luke 1

### Lesson 1

#### FIRST DAY: Read Luke 1

The Gospel of Luke is a book of eyewitness testimonies. At the beginning of this Gospel, Luke declared, *Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write a careful account for you ... so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.* Luke talked with those who saw, heard, and were present during the time in which Jesus walked the earth.

As you study the Gospel of Luke, you will get an eyewitness view resplendent with details about Jesus' birth, life, interactions with people, teachings, death, and resurrection. Luke even furnished his readers with details about the government officials who were in power and the exact locations where Jesus' miracles and teachings took place. Archaeologists in Israel have come to depend on Luke's account in order to identify the towns and time periods of their discoveries. As a physician, Luke was detail oriented and wanted verification for everything he believed. As you study Luke's Gospel, you will see Jesus up close and personal and will come to know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.

*Ask God to help you grasp the certainty of the things you will study in the Gospel of Luke.*

#### SECOND DAY: Read Luke 1:1-25

1. Luke began his account of the life of Jesus with a short introduction. Use Luke 1:1-4 to identify:
  - a. Luke's sources (verses 1-2)
  - b. Luke's credibility (verse 3a)
  - c. Luke's audience (verse 3b)
    - (1) The name Theophilus means *lover of God*. How does his name make this Gospel applicable to you?
  - d. Luke's purpose (verse 4)
2. Use Luke 1:5-7 to describe Zacharias and Elizabeth.

3. According to Luke 1:8-10, as Zacharias served as priest, *his lot fell to burn incense* in the temple. What happened when Zacharias was at the *altar of incense*? Luke 1:11-12
  
4. The *angel* had great news for Zacharias and Elizabeth. Use Luke 1:13-17 to comment on what the *angel* said concerning:
  - a. God's answer to Zacharias' *prayer* (verses 13-14)
  
  - b. The anointing on their son (verse 15)
  
  - c. God's purpose for their son (verses 16-17)
  
5. Ironically, Zacharias doubted the angel's words (Luke 1:18). What was the result? Luke 1:19-22
  
6. When *his service was completed*, Zacharias went home and Elizabeth conceived (Luke 1:23-24). From Luke 1:25 note and comment on Elizabeth's response.
  
7. How does the story of Zacharias and Elizabeth speak to you concerning:
  - a. Prayer
  
  - b. The people God uses
  
  - c. The plans and purposes of God

**THIRD DAY:** Read Luke 1:26-38

1. In the *sixth month* of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God *sent* Gabriel once more to deliver a message. To whom did Gabriel go? Luke 1:26-27
  - a. Remark on Gabriel's greeting. Luke 1:28
  
2. Although Mary was *troubled* by Gabriel's *greeting* (Luke 1:29), why was she **not** to *be afraid*? Luke 1:30

3. According to Luke 1:31, what was revealed to Mary?
  
4. Use Luke 1:32–33 to record what Gabriel said about JESUS:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
    - (1) What ministers to you from this description?
  
5. In Luke 1:34 Mary asked how this was possible since she was a virgin. From Luke 1:35 note and comment on Gabriel's response.
  - a. What do you find most remarkable about this?
    - (1) Link this with Galatians 4:19 and share your thoughts.
  
6. Observe the information Gabriel gave concerning Elizabeth (Luke 1:36). What effect do you think this would have had on Mary?
  - a. Record Gabriel's declaration in Luke 1:37.
    - (1) Cite a situation in which you need to claim this promise.
  
7. Compare Mary's response in Luke 1:38 with Zacharias' response in Luke 1:18. What do you see?
  
8. Share a special insight you received from your lesson today.

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Luke 1:39–45

1. Following her encounter with Gabriel, Mary went *with haste* to the home of Zacharias and Elizabeth (Luke 1:39–40). What happened *when Elizabeth heard* Mary’s greeting? Luke 1:41
2. Note and comment on the uniqueness of the blessing Elizabeth gave Mary. Luke 1:42
  - a. What did Elizabeth say was *granted* to her? Luke 1:43
    - (1) Why is this remarkable?
3. From Luke 1:44 comment on what happened *as soon as* Mary greeted Elizabeth.
4. Write Elizabeth’s declaration. Luke 1:45
  - a. Share a place in your life where you will apply this truth.

**FIFTH DAY:** Read Luke 1:46–56

1. Luke 1:46–55 is known as Mary’s *Magnificat*, a song of praise to God. What did Mary declare about:
  - a. Her response to God’s Word (verses 46–47)
  - b. What God had done and would do for her (verses 48–49)
  - c. How God dealt with others (verses 50–53)
  - d. What God did for Israel (verses 54–55)
    - (1) What ministers to you most about Mary’s song?
2. Mary recited portions from several Old Testament Scriptures in her song of praise. What does this convey about her?
  - a. What Bible promises would you include in your song of praise?

3. Considering all that transpired in these women's lives, what do you think the *three months* (Luke 1:56) they spent together was like?
  
4. In what way is Mary an inspiration to you?

**SIXTH DAY:** Read Luke 1:57–80

1. According to Luke 1:57, when Elizabeth reached full term, *she brought forth a son*. Use Luke 1:58–64 to describe the scene.
  
2. From Luke 1:65–66 note and comment on the varied reactions to these events.
  
3. After this, *Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied* (Luke 1:67). In Luke 1:68–75 Zacharias spoke of God's relationship with His people Israel. Choose phrases from these verses that showcase:
  - a. God's salvation
  
  - b. God's mercy
  
  - c. God's faithfulness
  
  - d. God's interaction with His people
  
4. In Luke 1:76–79 Zacharias prophesied concerning his son, John. Remark on what Zacharias said about:
  - a. John's identity (verse 76a)
  
  - b. John's activity (verses 76b–77)
  
  - c. John's participation in God's plan (verses 78–79)
  
5. From Luke 1:80 describe John's early life before his ministry began.

6. From your study this week in Luke 1, remark on the work of the Holy Spirit in each of these lives:
  - a. Zacharias
  
  - b. Mary
  
  - c. Elizabeth
  
  - d. John the Baptist
  
7. How was Jesus magnified through your study this week?