



WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK 1

When was the last time you did an in-depth study of one book of the Bible? We are excited to begin a slow, intentional exploration of the Gospel of Luke between now and Easter of 2025. Although there will still be various series throughout the year, they will be based on Luke. It's going to be amazing, and I hope you'll stick with us in this study all the way into early 2025! I'm praying that each of you will find the story of Jesus to be more compelling than ever.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 1.1-4

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us,² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

- Luke starts off by giving us his “why”. Why has he written this account? His goal was to give a definitive history of the life of Jesus. It doesn't mean that the chronology is always 100% accurate, but that he is true to his goal of demonstrating that these events truly happened in real time and space. It is our salvation history that takes place in actual history. It seems likely that Luke drew from the writings of Mark and another theorized common account, as well as his own research with eye witnesses. He did all of this excellent work “So that you may *know the certainty...*” **What other works have you read that share the goal of knowing something with certainty? What is different about the way Luke goes about achieving his goal?**
- *Jesus, your story has changed the world. As I read this week and in the weeks to come, may it continue to change me too. Amen.*

TUESDAY: COLOSSIANS 4.12-16

Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.¹³ I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.¹⁴ Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings.¹⁵ Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

¹⁶ *After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.*

- In this passage, Paul is listing those who have been a part of telling the story of Jesus Christ in a particular region. You will notice that Luke is listed among these saints. Colossians 4 is one of the references that supports the idea that Luke was a physician. Is this why he seems to emphasize the healing ministry of Jesus? You can imagine the moments in his work when he desperately wanted to see healing for his patients. Maybe his profession is part of this focus. **As one who has opportunities to share the good news of Jesus in your life right now, can you imagine your name being added to this list? What are some of those opportunities (taken advantage of or missed) in your day to day life?**
- *God, I don't want to pass up opportunities to see the healing power of Jesus. Show me where my role in my family, community, and work might allow me to share what Jesus has done. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 1.1-4

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us,² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

- Yes, this is the same passage as Monday's reading! But today, take a moment to focus on the name to whom these verses are directed. Theophilus was a common name that means *lover of God*. This may have been a sort of benefactor who funded the research that Luke undertook. It may also have been used as a term of endearment for anyone who might one day pick up this account. There is not full agreement on this, but either way, we can approach the gospel of Luke as good news. For those who love God will find that Jesus' arrival on the scene, his life, death, and resurrection are the best news we could ever receive. **Who in your life would the title *lover of God* most accurately describe? Would anyone use that term in reference to you? Why or why not?**
- *God, I love you and want to live my life for you. May others see that love I have for you and may it point them to the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

THURSDAY: 2 TIMOTHY 3.14-17

...as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- The apostle Paul and Luke both share the mission of knowledge and certainty when it comes to the good news of Jesus Christ. Once a person becomes convinced that God has made a way for salvation through His Son Jesus, there needs to be a continuation in that way. Scripture is God-breathed and is sufficient for our continued training in righteousness. **Have you ever found that an otherwise very familiar passage of scripture has revealed something new to you? What role does Bible reading play in your continued training?**
- *God, your Word has always been giving me life and leading me to a deeper life in Jesus. Increase my desire for and knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. Amen.*

FRIDAY: LUKE 19.9-10

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 the lost."

- It has been noted that one theme in Luke can be summed up with these three words: the least, the last, and the lost. That's who Luke seems to focus on in telling the story of Jesus. It informs how we understand and live out our calling as followers of Jesus. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. **How do you see yourself as one who Jesus came for? How are you able to share in that ministry to others who are counted among the least, last, and lost?**
- *Jesus, I long to hear you proclaim the message of salvation over my house. Thank you for seeking me out. Amen.*

SATURDAY: LUKE 9.49-56

"Master," said John, "we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us."

⁵⁰ *"Do not stop him," Jesus said, "for whoever is not against you is for you."*

⁵¹ *As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.⁵² And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him;⁵³ but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them^[b]?"⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and rebuked them.⁵⁶ Then he and his disciples went to another village.*

- Pastor Jacob noted that Jerusalem is central to Luke's account. It moves in the direction of Jerusalem and towards the cross. Jesus was resolute as he faced Jerusalem. The movement that was building through his teaching, healings, and other miracles seemed like an increasingly loud drum beat. If there was a soundtrack to the gospel it would seem to be propelling the reader (us) to the pinnacle moment of death and resurrection. The way of the world was reflected in the response of the Samaritans who would not welcome him because of his destination. **When you read or hear the accounts of Jesus' death do you find yourself wishing for a different ending?**
- *Jesus, I can picture you facing Jerusalem preparing for the completion of your mission. As you carried the sins of the world, you made a path for hope and life. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

It has been said that the Gospel of Luke focuses on the least, the last, and the lost. As you thumb through the gospel of Luke, where do you see those themes? What does it say about God's heart towards us?
