

Lesson 1

Luke 1

The Infancy Narrative

Note: *Luke begins his gospel with a dedication to a person named Theophilus, a name that means “Friend of God.” He may have been a distinguished figure or high-ranking official. Since you are a “friend of God,” you may begin this Bible study season believing that Luke wrote this gospel personally for you.*

1. Why did Luke write this gospel, and from whom did he get his information? (Luke 1:2-3)
2. What are some interesting facts about Zechariah and Elizabeth? (Luke 1:5-7)
3. As Zechariah was offering incense in the temple, an angel of the Lord appeared to him and told him he would have a son.
 - a. Why did Zechariah doubt the angel’s message? (Luke 1:18)
 - b. What happened to Zechariah because of his doubt? (Luke 1:19-21)
4. What facts does Zechariah learn about his future son from the angel’s words to him? (Luke 1:13-20)
5. Women are showcased throughout Luke’s gospel, despite their low social standing in antiquity.
 - a. What do we learn about Elizabeth, the first woman mentioned in Luke’s gospel? (Luke 1:5-7, 24-25, 36, 39-45, 60)
 - b. Why do you think Luke included Elizabeth’s story?
6. In the Annunciation story:
 - a. What are a few things Luke tells us about Joseph? (Luke 1:26-27)
 - b. What more does Matthew’s gospel tell us about Joseph? (Matt 1:18-25)

Note: *In Chapter 1, Luke focuses on Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, and the child John. It contains two beautiful songs of praise to God: Mary’s Magnificat and Zechariah’s Prophecy.*

7. What is your favorite verse or line in Mary’s Magnificat and why? (Luke 1:46-55)
8. Jewish parents customarily name their male children on the eighth day, their circumcision day, which signifies the beginning of the child’s covenant membership in Israel. Why was Zechariah and Elizabeth’s child named “John,” and why was it an unusual name in his family? (Luke 1:13; 59-61)
9. What do you think is Luke’s point or purpose of this dramatic scene with Zechariah at his son’s circumcision? (Luke 1:59-66)
10. *Reflection:* What does Zechariah’s action in naming his son reveal about his faith and obedience to God?

If you would like a challenge?

11. What does Luke teach us about God’s plans for the world through family relationships, marriage, childbirth, and in telling us about the birth of John the Baptist and the announcement to Mary?