

October 28-February 5, 2015

# A Journey With Jesus



## The Gospel of Luke Part 1

*Luke 1:1-7*

**Prayer**– Spend some time asking God to use this journey through the book of Luke to know Jesus in some new ways.

**Meditation**– Why did Luke write this book? What is the benefit of having this kind of an account of the life of Jesus?

**Test**– What are some of the stories in your life that you can tell that show God's work in your life?

Thursday, October 29

*Luke 1:8-25*

**Prayer**– Pray this prayer: O God, by your Spirit tell us what we need to hear, and show us what we ought to do, to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**Meditation**– How did Zechariah and Elizabeth react to the news of the angel? How does what the angel says connect with Malachi 4:5-6?

**Test**– How do you react to surprising news in your life?

Friday, October 30

*Luke 1:26-38*

**Prayer-** Pray asking God to bless your time in His Word.

**Meditation-** Why do you think that Mary acted with so much fear at the sight of the angel? How would you have reacted? How did this news change Mary's life?

**Test-** Mary had a special calling on her life from God. What special calling do you believe God has on your life?

Saturday, October 31

*Luke 1:46-56*

**Prayer-** So often we come to God in prayer for what we need or for healing. Spend some time in prayer praising our Lord for what He is and what he as done for us.

**Meditation-** Re-read the text a second time. What parts of Mary's praise refer to the past? The present? The future?

**Test-** During this week, there will be times when you feel truly blessed by God. Make sure to give Him the praise.

Monday, November 2

Sunday, November 1

Review and reflect upon all you have read and heard this week.

*Luke 1:57-66*

**Prayer-** Come to God in prayer tonight asking for His strength to obey His Word & teachings, even when it contradicts what is commonplace in this world.

**Meditation-** Do you think Zechariah ever thought he would be able to talk again? Why do you think the people were afraid when he could talk again?

**Test-** Everyone assumed that the baby would be named after his father. Zechariah then did as the Lord commanded and named him John. When have you done something against the norm because it is what God commanded?

Tuesday, November 3

### *Luke 1:67-80*

**Prayer-** Ask God to help you to relate to this Bible passage. Ask Him for understanding and clarity.

**Meditation-** Re-read this passage assuming that Zechariah is talking about you. How does this make you re-examine your own actions?

**Test-** How can you prepare the way for the Lord in your everyday life?

Wednesday, November 4

### *Luke 2:9-21*

**Prayer-** Pray tonight to have the will to share God's message like the shepherds did.

**Meditation-** Read this passage pretending you are experiencing it first hand like the shepherds. What would you have done that the shepherds did? What would you have done differently?

**Test-** Why do you think God decided to share the message with local shepherds? Why not share it with royalty or the upper class? Does this change the way you share God's word with others? Or with whom?

Friday, November 6

### *Luke 2:1-8*

**Prayer-** Say this prayer, "Lord, as we enter into the telling of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ, help me to concentrate and focus on the story, even if it's the first time I've heard it or the 50th time I've heard it."

**Meditation-** Why do you think verses 1 & 2 are important in telling the story of Jesus' birth?

**Test-** Reflect on where and how Jesus was born. Imagine if that happened today? How hard would it be to accept that God's son was born in such a lowly place?

Thursday, November 5

### *Luke 2:22-38*

**Prayer-** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with his Holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

**Meditation-** How did Simeon realize Jesus was Christ the Lord?

**Test** – Think about times in your life when the Holy Spirit revealed things to you. What were they?

Saturday, November 7

Review and reflect upon all you have read and heard this week.

Sunday, November 8

Monday, November 9

### *Luke 2:39-52*

**Prayer-** Ask God to help you see this text with fresh eyes, as if you had not heard it before.

**Meditation-** A common teaching technique of the time was to ask students a question in response to their question. This revealed the student's knowledge and helped the student work through an answer. What does verse 47 tell us about the depths of Jesus' knowledge at the age of 12?

**Test-** If Jesus was wise enough to amaze the teachers with his knowledge and he continued to grow in wisdom and stature after that, how well do you think he might be able to do at handling the struggles you face this week?

### *Luke 3:1-22*

**Prayer-** Pray this prayer: "God in Heaven, help me to understand more about this person that John is point to. In Jesus name, amen."

**Meditation-** After advising the crowd on how to live their life, John describes the nature of someone greater than him who will follow after him. How is that person described?

**Test-** The person John is describing is obviously Jesus. How does his description match up with the mellow, meek, and mild image we sometimes have of Jesus?

Tuesday, November 10

### *Luke 3:23-38*

**Prayer-** Ask God to help you see some beautiful details in this otherwise odd reading.

**Meditation-** What big names in Jewish history jump out at you from verses 31 and 33? How about 35 and the end of 37?

**Test-** What does it mean that Jesus was a descendent of such notable figures in the grand history of the Jewish people? Why might God have wanted to give this generation by generation detail?

Wednesday, November 11

### Luke 4:1-13

**Prayer-** Ask God to guide you to see how the response of Jesus to Satan's temptation can give us ideas how to stand when tempted.

**Meditation-** Consider Jesus' responses of we do not live on bread alone, worship God only, and don't test God. What similarities are there in those replies. What attitude or perspective do they suggest?

**Test-** How can you adapt Jesus' response to temptations the next time they pop up in your life?

Thursday, November 12

### Luke 4:31-44

**Prayer-** Ask God to help you see the power that stands behind the events in this reading.

**Meditation-** What kind of power would it take to heal a man possessed by a demon, a mom whose high fever put her in bed, heal a bunch of people, and then order more demons to be silent?

**Test-** By his death on the cross we know for a certainty that Jesus loves each of us. What does the power he demonstrates here suggest about his ability to get involved in your life?

Saturday, November 14

### Luke 4:14-30

**Prayer-** Say this prayer: "God, help me slow down for the moment and set aside what is on my mind so I may concentrate on your scripture, Amen."

**Meditation-** What was the initial reaction of the people in Nazareth to Jesus? What was their reaction after he preached a bit more? What does that say about where they were at spiritually and emotionally?

**Test-** What are some possibilities of the range of reactions you might get when you share the good news of Jesus with family and friends? If you get a less than positive reaction, what is it that is likely driving that reaction?

Friday, November 13

Review and reflect upon all you have read and heard this week

Sunday, November 15

### Luke 5:1-11

**Prayer-** As you begin your week spend some time giving God some of the things you are both excited and nervous about this week. Ask God to help you see him at work this coming week.

**Meditation-** What do we know about these new disciples? What did Jesus mean when he said that they would be "catching men?"

**Test-** As you look at your own life, what are you living to catch? What is your goal? What are you pursuing?

Monday, November 16

### Luke 5:27-39

**Prayer-** Spend some time asking God to guide you as you read, to help you to see what you need to see, and to give you something that you can chew on all day.

**Meditation-** Why did people react the way that they did to the people Jesus chose to spend time with? What was Jesus trying to teach the people in these words?

**Test-** Who are people that you have concluded aren't fit for the kingdom of God? How can you reach out these people and tell them that God hasn't given up on them?

Wednesday, November 18

### Luke 5:12-26

**Prayer-** Take a few moments to breathe and ask God to help you as you dive into His Word today.

**Meditation-** Why do you think that Jesus withdrew from the crowds who were seeking to have him heal them? What was it that really got the Pharisees going?

**Test-** What is a time in your life when you have seen God at work and walked away with awe like the people in this text?

Tuesday, November 17

### Luke 6:1-11

**Prayer-** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, without Your help our labor is useless, and without Your light our search is in vain. Invigorate our study of Your holy Word that, by due diligence and right discernment, we may establish ourselves and others in Your holy faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Meditation-** What is Jesus teaching about the Sabbath in these two different stories?

**Test-** How do you keep the Sabbath day holy in your life?

Thursday, November 19

### *Luke 6:12-26*

**Prayer-** Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Meditation-** What distinction does Jesus make between the twelve and the disciples in this text? What does this tell you about being a disciple of Jesus?

**Test-** What does it mean in your own life that Jesus has chosen you to be his follower?

Friday, November 20

Review and reflect upon all you have read and heard this week

Sunday, November 22

### *Luke 6:27-36*

**Prayer-** Spend some time in quiet rest giving to God all the things that pop in your head before, during, and after reading.

**Meditation-** What is so difficult about what Jesus is saying in these words?

**Test-** Who is someone that is difficult for you to love? How can you show them love this week?

Saturday, November 21

### *Luke 6:37-49*

**Prayer-** Read Ps 119:88

**Meditation-** Judging yourself before judging others, good and bad fruit, a structure built on a foundation and one that is not. Contrast the differences you observe between each pair. What is the admonition in each case?

**Test-** What is worse; to be a hypocrite or to be one who never makes a judgement?

Monday, November 23

### Luke 7:1-10

**Prayer-** Read Ps 119:89-91

**Meditation-** According to the people who spoke on the Centurions behalf, what made the centurion worthy?

**Test-** Was Jesus impressed with the Centurions credentials? According to Jesus what was the characteristic attitude of the Centurion that is the hallmark of true faith? Is your life characterized by this trait?

Tuesday, November 24

### Luke 7:18-35

**Prayer-** Read Ps 119:103-104

**Meditation-** How would you characterize the response of Jesus regarding the unbelief of the pharisees and lawyers? How does he describe their attitude towards John and Himself? Was there ever any avenue of belief for them?

**Test-** Is there any significant prayer need in your life at the moment tempting you with unbelief? One that seems hopeless or filled with personal struggle? Ask God to help you with your struggle of faith by beginning your prayer with these words "thy kingdom come, thy will be done."

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

Thursday, November 26

### Luke 7:11-17

**Prayer-** Read Ps 119:97-99

**Meditation-** Is there anything worse for a parent than the loss of a child? What is the crowd's ultimate reaction to the events that unfold and the result?

**Test-** God has rescued you from the ultimate death—is your thankful attitude a vehicle for the Glory of God? Would others characterize you as a thankful person?

Wednesday, November 25

### Luke 7:36-50

**Prayer-** Read Ps 119:108

**Meditation-** How are the debtors related to Simon and the woman?

**Test-** Is there any area of your life in which your Christian charity or service to Christ is challenged? Have you behaved more like Simon than the sinful woman?

Friday, November 27



### Luke 8:1-15

**Prayer-** Read Ps 119:124-125

**Meditation-** How does Jesus describe the reality of each seed ?  
Once spread does it appear their will be more or less  
receptivity to the gospel?

**Test-** Does it ever seem to you that the gospel yields little to no  
result in our present day and age? Does the parable encourage  
you in light of what you perceive?

Saturday, November 28

### Luke 8:16-25

**Prayer-** Eternal God, your wisdom is greater than our minds  
can attain, and your truth shows up our learning. To those who  
study, give curiosity, imagination, and patience enough to wait  
and work for insight. Help us to doubt with courage, but to  
hold all our doubts in the larger faith of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**Meditation-** What point is Jesus making with the way that he  
treated his family?

**Test-** What are times in you life when you have struggled to  
believe like the disciples in the boat? How has God walked with  
you through those difficult times?

Monday, November 30

Sunday, November 29

Review and reflect upon all you have read and heard this week.

### Luke 8:26-39

**Prayer-** Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Si-  
lence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also  
obey your will; though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Meditation-** Read this story from the perspective of Jesus.  
What do you think he saw that no one else saw? Read this sto-  
ry again from the perspective of a normal person standing  
there. What would stand out to you from this story? What  
would be your impression of Jesus from this story?

**Test-** The demon possessed man's reaction to Jesus was to  
praise God and tell about Jesus. How do you respond to God  
and his work in your life?

Tuesday, December 1

*Luke 8:40-56*

**Prayer-** O God, by your Spirit tell us what we need to hear, and show us what we ought to do, to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**Meditation-** What role does faith play in this story? How does Jesus respond to this faith?

**Test-** What do you believe God is capable of doing? What limitations have you placed upon God in your life?

Wednesday, December 2

*Luke 9:10-20*

**Prayer-** O Lord our God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, that we may be obedient to your will and live always for your glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**Meditation-** What is Jesus asking the disciples in this text? Why was this such an important question?

**Test-** Who do you say that Jesus is?

Friday, December 4

*Luke 9:1-9*

**Prayer-** Guide us O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Meditation-** What stands out to you from the instructions that Jesus gave the 12 as they were sent out? What can we learn about ministry and life from those instructions?

**Test-** In these words we hear about Herod's reaction to Jesus. How do you see people reacting to Jesus today?

Thursday, December 3

*Luke 9:21-27*

**Prayer-** God our helper, by your Holy Spirit, open our minds, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Meditation-** How do we save our lives by losing it?

**Test -** What are things that are temporary that compete for our allegiance?

Saturday, December 5

Review and reflect upon all you have read and heard this week.

Sunday, December 6

Monday, December 7

*Luke 9:28-45*

**Prayer-** Pray to God to send his Holy Spirit and fill and fill your heart that you will continue to grow in your faith knowing that in the end we will be with God and all the loved ones that have gone before us.

**Meditation-** Jesus was transfigured and stood with Moses and Elijah and the disciples knew who they were even though they had never seen them. How does that make you feel as we look forward to Heaven?

**Test-** The disciples kept quiet about what they had seen, why? Are you keeping quiet about your relationship with Jesus or are you spreading the word?

*Luke 9:46-56*

**Prayer-** Pray to God to help you become a faithful servant and to do it in a manner that glorifies God and not yourself.

**Meditation-** What do you think Jesus meant when he said "for he who is least among you all is the one who is great"?

**Test-** Do we sometimes ignore people in need, look the other way? This week pay attention to how you look and react to others.

Tuesday, December 8

*Luke 9:57-62*

**Prayer-** Pray to God to help you keep your eyes on him and not on yourself.

**Meditation-** People said they would follow Jesus but wanted to take care of things in their lives. Could you drop everything and follow Jesus? Do you live a life for Jesus or for yourself?

**Test-** What can you do in your life to take the focus off of yourself and put it on Jesus?

Wednesday, December 9

*Luke 10:1-16*

**Prayer-** Pray to God to give you direction in your life to proclaim his word.

**Meditation-** Jesus sent seventy others out ahead of him to the towns he was to go to. What did he mean when he said the harvest is plentiful but the labors are few? Is this still true today?

**Test-** In our day to day lives do we see the harvest? Do we act and become laborers for Jesus?

Thursday, December 10

*Luke 10:25-42*

**Prayer-** Pray to God our father to open our eyes to our day to day actions that we would be the good Samaritan to all we come in contact with.

**Meditation-** The lawyer asked Jesus what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus had him answer and he said "you shall love the lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind". Do you fit that statement?

**Test-** What does it look like in your life to love God with all you've got?

Saturday, December 12

*Luke 10:17-24*

**Prayer-** Thank God for sending his son to die for us so that our names can be written in heaven.

**Meditation-** Why did Jesus thank the father for hiding things from the wise but revealed them to the babes?

**Test-** Spend time with your family talking about our eternal life with God in heaven because we have been saved by the blood of Jesus.

Friday, December 11

Review and reflect upon all you have read and heard this week

Sunday, December 13

### Luke 11:1-13

**Prayer-** Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Meditation-** What is Jesus trying to teach the disciples/us in these words?

**Test-** How is your prayer life? In what ways do you need Jesus to teach you how to pray?

Monday, December 14

### Luke 11:29-36

**Prayer-** Lord, inspire us to read your Scriptures and meditate upon them day and night. We beg you to give us real understanding of what we need, that we in turn may put its precepts into practice. Yet we know that understanding and good intentions are worthless, unless rooted in your graceful love. So we ask that the words of Scriptures may also be not just signs on a page, but channels of grace into our hearts. Amen.

**Meditation-** What comparison does Jesus make with Jonah? How does this foreshadow what is to come?

**Test-** What does it look like for you to be a light for Christ?

Wednesday, December 16

### Luke 11:14-28

**Prayer-** May your Spirit, O Christ, lead me in the right way, keeping me safe from all forces of evil and destruction. And, free from all malice, may I search diligently in your Holy Word to discover with the eyes of my mind your commandments. Finally, give me the strength of will to put those commandments into practice through all the days of my life. Amen.

**Meditation-** Jesus makes some very strong statements in these verses. What big points is he making?

**Test-** How have you seen division negatively affect people, organizations, or businesses? What can you do in your life to create unity rather than division? Is there a time with division is necessary?

Tuesday, December 15

### Luke 11:37-54

**Prayer-** Heavenly Father, shine the pure light of Your Word of truth into our hearts today and open the eyes of our minds to comprehend the nuggets of truth that are contained within this precious passage of Scripture.

**Meditation-** What was the root of Jesus' complaint about the Pharisees?

**Test-** How in your life have you been more concerned about appearances than what is going on in your heart?

Thursday, December 17

*Luke 12:1-12*

**Prayer**– Lord we ask that You would prepare our hearts as we engage in the study of Your Word. Open to our hearts and minds to the mysteries and truths that are hidden within its pages and may we discover a clarity of understanding within Your word that was hitherto hidden from us. Give us unity of the spirit and a desire to learn new truths, as we open up Your Word may we have a willingness to learn from the Great Teacher. May Your Holy Spirit guide us into all truth and expand our understanding of Your word in a real and living way.

**Meditation**– What is Jesus saying about the Holy Spirit in these words?

**Test**– What role does fear play in your life?

*Luke 12:13-34*

**Prayer**– May the Lord grant that we may engage in the heavenly contemplation of the mysteries of God's heavenly wisdom with ever increasing devotion to God's glory and our edification. Amen.

**Meditation**– What is the basis for Jesus' argument against anxiety? Why is this a faith issue?

**Test**– What anxieties can you give to God today?



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6080 Haven Avenue, Rancho Cucamonga CA 91737

(909) 989-6500 † [www.soth.org](http://www.soth.org)