

Introduction

Each Gospel writer wrote from a unique perspective, for a different audience. As a result, each Gospel contains distinctive elements. *Matthew* wrote primarily to a Jewish audience, presenting Jesus of Nazareth as Israel's long-awaited Messiah and rightful King. *Mark* targeted a Gentile audience, especially a Roman one. *Luke* addressed a broader Gentile audience, portraying Jesus as the Son of Man, who came to seek and save lost sinners. *John* emphasizes the deity of Jesus Christ to strengthen the faith of believers and appeal to unbelievers to come to faith in Christ.

Taken together, the four gospels weave a complete portrait of the God-Man, Jesus of Nazareth. In Him were blended perfect humanity and deity, making Him the only sacrifice for the sins of the world, and the worthy Lord of those who believe.

John MacArthur
The MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1341

This year we are memorizing Ephesians 2. This week's verse is Ephesians 2:6:
"...and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus..."

Day One

Read *Luke 1*; **Significant Songs of Praise**

NOTE: Luke 1 is a foundational prelude to Christ's ministry as it focuses on the expectation and then the births of John the Baptist and Jesus, reflected in the praises of Elizabeth, Mary, and Zacharias.

1. According to Luke 1:1-4 and 2:32, what was the purpose of this Gospel account of Jesus' earthly ministry?

2. In 1:13-17, what role did John the Baptist fulfill as he foretold the birth and ministry of Jesus Christ?

3. From verses 12 and 18, what was Zacharias' response to the angel's news?
 - a. When faced with the trials and challenges of life, how can you grow in your trust in God's Word and dependence on His promises?

4. In verses 26-38 the angel Gabriel returned and appeared to Mary with the promise of another birth. What did Gabriel say that shows this baby would be the fulfillment of the Lord's covenant promises?

5. In 1:41-42, what was the immediate fulfillment of the angel's promise to Zacharias, and what was Elizabeth's response?

6. In verses 54-55, how did Mary's song of praise point back to God's covenant promises with His people in Genesis 12:1-2 and 17:1-8?

Day Two

Read Luke 2:1–24; **Good News of Great Joy**

1. According to Luke 2:1, what was initiated in order to bring about the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy?
 - a. How do verses 3–6 connect with Micah 5:2?
2. From verses 8–14, to whom did God first reveal the good news of Christ's birth, how did they respond, and what did that reveal about their hearts?
 - a. What was *your* first response to the good news of the gospel? Has that changed over time? Explain your answer.
3. From Luke 2:21–22, what do you think were the attitudes of Mary and Joseph towards the Law.

Day Three

Read Luke 2:21–52; **The Boy in the Temple**

1. In verses 25–38, what two people testified that Jesus was the Christ?
 - a. What is the significance of 2 Corinthians 13:1 to Luke's text?
 - b. In 2:25, what do you think the "consolation of Israel" means? (See Isaiah 25:9, 40:1–2, and 66:1–11.)
2. According to Luke 2:41–49, why was Jesus in the temple? What does this show about His understanding of His ministry, even at an early age?
3. From verses 46–47, what was the experience of the teachers in the temple? How does this deepen your understanding of Christ's deity and His humanity?

Day Four

Read Luke 3:1–22; **The Voice in the Wilderness**

Note: *The purpose of this text is to show how John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord by calling the people to repentance, the necessary requirement for the Lord to restore His people and bring about salvation.*

1. In Luke 3:3, how is the ministry of John the Baptist described?
 - a. From verse 6, in which Luke quotes Isaiah 40:1–5, what is the scope of God's redemptive plan?

2. In verses 10–14, how was John the Baptist “preparing the way of the Lord”?
3. Despite the success of his ministry, John the Baptist focused on acknowledging and esteeming Christ and not himself (see John 3:30). Is this your desire? If so, how might you make this more of a reality in your own life? Be specific.

Day Five

Read Luke 3:23–38; *The Genealogy of Christ*

1. Read Matthew’s genealogy of Christ in Matthew 1:1–17. To whom does Luke trace back Christ’s roots in Luke 3:38, compared to Matthew in 1:1–2?
 - a. How does that difference underscore Matthew’s focus on Jesus as Israel’s long-awaited Messiah, written to a Jewish audience, compared to Luke’s focus on Christ as the Redeemer of nations, written to a primarily Gentile audience?
2. Four names in Luke’s genealogy deepen our understanding of the person of Jesus Christ. From the texts below, how does each name confirm His credibility as the promised Savior?
 - a. Son of David (Luke 3:31 and Revelation 11:15)
 - b. Son of Abraham (Luke 3:34 and Galatians 3:16)
 - c. Son of Adam (Luke 3:38 and Hebrews 4:15)
 - d. Son of God (Luke 3:38, Philippians 2:6, and Colossians 2:9)
3. From Luke 1:31–32 and 35, 2:11, and 3:22, what titles are used to describe Christ? Which of these is especially meaningful to you, and why?
4. From Luke 2:40 and 52, what characteristic is used to describe Christ? How can you grow in that area? Be practical and specific.

Questions for Additional Study:

Mary’s song of praise in Luke 1:46–55 and Zechariah’s prophecy in 1:68–79 are filled with allusions to Old Testament references. From Mary’s *Magnificat* or Zechariah’s *Benedictus*, choose one or two Old Testament references and using your Bible study notes or other resources for help, explain their significance. Then write a two- or three-sentence praise to God, thanking Him for His plan of redemption.



Women of Grace

• Lesson 6 • Luke 1-3: The Fulfillment of Jesus as Messiah •

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