



LUKE

FEBRUARY 2017

Read on your own or with others,
which ever you prefer.

This leaflet is just a brief overview of the 'big picture' of this book. If you have been reading the Bible for sometime you will be aware there is much more to them than you'll find here.

If you are new to reading the Bible don't worry too much if there are details you do not quite get at the moment - focus on the 'big picture'.

INTRODUCTION

Luke's Gospel and the book of Acts give a single account of God's work in salvation from the coming of Jesus to the spread of the Gospel around the Roman Empire. His Gospel is the first of these two books and spans the time from the birth to the ascension of Jesus.

Luke was a doctor (Colossians 4:14) and a companion of Paul of his later missionary journeys (Philemon 24). From Luke's introduction to the book we see that it was written for somebody called Theophilus. Nobody knows who Theophilus was, except that he is most probably a Gentile who has come to hear about Jesus.

The purpose of Luke's Gospel is clearly stated in the introduction (Luke 1:4). Luke is gathering together the history of Jesus' birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension so that we may know that the good news of Jesus, the Gospel, is true.

OUTLINE

LUKE 1-2: JESUS IS BORN

Luke's Gospel tells us more about the events of Jesus' birth than any of the three Gospels. It begins with two parallel stories. The announcement and birth of John the Baptist and the announcement and birth of Jesus. John is the one who would prepare the way for the Lord (Luke 1:17). Jesus is God's Son (Luke 1:35), the promised king (Messiah, Luke 2:11).

This section also contains the only account we have in the Bible of an event from Jesus' childhood (Luke 2:41-52). It is a remarkable account which shows us the uniqueness of Jesus as God's Son, but at the same time the normality of his childhood (Luke 2:51-52).

LUKE 3-8: A SNAPSHOT OF JESUS' MINISTRY

In these chapters we see a snapshot of Jesus' ministry. It begins with his baptism and temptation in the wilderness. There are several themes that we see here:

- Jesus' ministry goes against the grain (eg. Luke 4:14-30, 5:53-6:11)
- Jesus is interested in people that were rejected by the rest of society (eg. Luke 5:27-31, Luke 7:36-50).
- Jesus came to forgive sin (Luke 5:20).
- Jesus does things no one else can (Luke 8:22-56).

LUKE 9-19:27: JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES

This section continues to focus on Jesus' ministry. Yet, there is a change of focus. While chapters 3-8 looked at Jesus' ministry in general, these chapters pay more attention to his ministry to his disciples and particularly his teaching about what it means to be a disciple.

Here are some things to notice:

- The cost of being a disciple (Luke 9:23, Luke 14:25-35)
- The mission of a disciple (Luke 9:1-9, 10:1-24)
- The life of a disciple (Luke 10:25-11:54)
- The qualification of a disciple (Luke 15)

LUKE 19:28-24:12: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

The angels had announced to the shepherds that Jesus had come to save (Luke 2:11). Here we see Jesus completing this mission. Luke records Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and his teaching during the last week before his death. And finally, Luke writes of how Jesus was arrested, falsely tried and crucified and then rose from the dead.

From Luke's account of Jesus' death on the cross there are two things that only Luke records that show us the meaning of Jesus' death and the scope of the Gospel.

- Jesus prays that the Father would forgive the Roman soldiers who had nailed him to the cross (Luke 23:34). This shows both a compassion and also a care that goes beyond the Jewish nation.
- Jesus' speaks to one of the other criminals crucified with him. When the criminal turns to him for help, Jesus promises him that he will be in paradise (Luke 23:43). The death of Jesus is sufficient to save all who look to Jesus.

LUKE 24:13-53: MISSION GIVEN

The book ends with three resurrection appearances of Jesus. As well as serving as proof of the resurrection these teach us two important lessons:

- The death of Jesus was not an accident. It was always God's plan and had been explained and shown in the Old Testament (Luke 24:26).
- The mission of the church is to spread the good news of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:46-49).. This is the story that is picked up in Acts.

ASKING THE QUESTIONS THE BIBLE WANTS YOU TO ASK

What does this book teach you about Jesus? (Luke 24:45-47)

What does this book teach you about yourself? (James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you encouraged? (2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you corrected? (Romans 15:4)

What difference do the truths of this book make in your life (Matthew 7:24-27)