



Getting started with Luke

Luke doesn't waste any time in telling us his purpose in writing. The first four verses are key to understanding the rest of the book. Luke writes to a believer called Theophilus, so that he might be sure about the things he has been taught.

Throughout Luke's gospel we see that we can be sure about . . .

1. Facts

Luke carefully investigates, with access to the best eye-witnesses. He puts together a true and accurate account of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The good news of Jesus stands up to scrutiny . . .

2. Forgiveness

A big theme of Luke is that Jesus is the Saviour of the World. Luke emphasises that his saving work is for Jews & Gentiles alike, people from all backgrounds and nations.

This leads neatly on to Luke's sequel, the book of Acts, where the good news of Jesus is taken to the ends of the earth so that people might know forgiveness of sins and receive the gift of the Spirit.

3. Following

Luke has a lot to teach us about discipleship. Chapter 9v51 is a key turning point, where Jesus sets out for Jerusalem and the cross. It's a long section leading up to the cross, during which Jesus lays out what it looks like to follow Him.

A repeated pattern is that certainty about the truths of Jesus leads to open mouths to speak about Jesus. In fact Luke ends with open mouths praising God; Acts continues with that same open-mouth priority.

Structure

Chapter 1v1-4 – **A Certain Saviour** (Luke's purpose in writing: that we might be sure)

Chapters 1v5-4v13 – **A Prepared Saviour** (Jesus' birth and preparation for ministry)

Chapters 4v14-9v51 – **An Arrived Saviour** (Jesus' good news ministry in Galilee)

Chapters 9v51-19v44 – **A Followed Saviour** (Jesus on the way to Jerusalem, teaching what discipleship looks like)

Chapters 19v54- 24 – **A Saving Saviour** (Jesus in Jerusalem, teaching, death & resurrection)

Things to note

Watch out for references and quotes from the OT. Luke wants us to be sure that Jesus' ministry & suffering is all part of God's promised plan.

Luke has a particular focus on how Jesus is good news for the marginalised and for "sinners".

Whereas Matthew focuses on Jesus as the "new Israel", Luke's focus is on Jesus as the "new Adam", the man who succeeds where we fail.



RBT Grow Group is on Tuesday 6th February

Bring along some things from your reading of Luke to share with others.

Some RBT reading ideas:

- Meet up once a week to read it with a friend.
- Listen online at Biblegateway.com
- Write down a verse that struck you that day.
- Encourage someone by texting them a thought from what you've read.



Here are some questions the Bible wants you to ask of itself. Use these to help you as you read your way through this month's book: (please don't feel like you have to fill in every question in loads of detail. These are a guide to help you learn from what you are reading.)

- What did you learn about Jesus and what it means to trust him? (Luke 24:45-47)
- What did you learn about yourself? (James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)
- How were you corrected or rebuked or equipped for every good work? (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- What did you learn from the book that will help you keep going as a follower of Jesus? (Romans 15:4)
- What did you learn that will help you serve and build up the church? (Eph 4:11-16)
- What have you learnt that helps you love the Lord your God with all your heart & with all your soul & with all your mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
- What has helped you love your neighbour as yourself? (Matt 22:37-40)

