

Our goal in studying the Bible is two-fold. One part of the goal as we read is to engage with our **mind**, to grow in our knowledge of who God is as he has revealed himself in his word. The other part of our goal is to engage with our **heart**, by responding to God as we read with our love, praise, gratitude, confession, needs, questions, and desires.

Engaging with our mind *and* heart as we seek the help of the Holy Spirit helps us grow in an intimate relationship with God through Jesus our Savior as we see him more clearly, know him better and love him more.

Day 1- Read Luke 1

- How is God revealed in this chapter? What is he like? Who is Jesus shown to be? What is he like?

Pray: Spend time in adoration and thanksgiving.

- What is human nature shown to be like in this chapter? Is this true of you in your life right now?

Pray: Spend time in confession and repentance.

- What does this passage of Scripture show that you need from God? How does your heart need to move to align with what you see in Scripture? Is there something you need to believe? Is there action you need to take?

Pray: Spend time asking God for what you need to live for him.

Meditation: *Luke 1:45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.*

Day 2- Luke 1:1-24

1. What was Luke's purpose in writing this historical account according to verses 3-4?



The book of Luke was written so that you too may have certainty about what you have been taught. The word *certainty* in the Greek means firmness, stability, undoubted truth.

One of the main themes of Luke is love, specifically God's love for sinners, outcasts and the insignificant and overlooked of the world. As you begin to study Luke, pray that the Holy Spirit would work in your heart so that you would know with firmness and stability- and as undoubted truth the love God has for you in Jesus, and that you would live a life of rejoicing and loving people (two other themes in Luke) out of that certainty.

2. Verse 25 tells us that people looked down on Elizabeth because she was barren. In those days you were thought to have displeased God if you couldn't have children. How does Luke dispel that notion in verse 6?

3. If you are in a painful situation, how does Elizabeth's life show you that it doesn't mean God is mad at you or doesn't love you?

4. Describe what the baby God is giving Elizabeth and Zechariah will be like and what he will do according to verses 13-17. What is unusual about this baby?

Picture and Ponder: [John is] the Greek form of the Hebrew name "Johanan" ("God is gracious"). The choice of that name for the Messiah's forerunner symbolized the turning point in redemptive history. God was about to pour out His grace through the gift of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.¹

Digging Deeper: Read the following verse:

Malachi 3:1 "Behold I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts."

-What had the prophet Malachi prophesied 400 years before John was born?

5. Describe Gabriel's response and indignation regarding Zechariah's unbelief according to verses 19-20.



Our unbelief does not hinder God's plans. What God has purposed and planned he always accomplishes. But we sin by insulting God and we sacrifice joy and blessing when we don't believe God!

- ❖ Why does unbelief insult God?

- ❖ What joy and blessings do you imagine Zechariah forfeited by his unbelief?

- ❖ What do you think about God using Zechariah in spite of his moment of unbelief?

- ❖ Most of the sin we commit stems from unbelief. Think of some of the sins you struggle with. How do they relate to unbelief?

Day 3- Luke 1:26-38

6. Some translations translate "Greetings" in verse 28, as "Rejoice". What two things does the angel say to Mary that are cause for rejoicing?

7. How does Mary immediately respond to Gabriel's greeting in verse 29?

8. How did the angel explain to Mary in verses 31-35 what the gracious work of God (His favor) would be?

9. What do you think was the difference between Mary's question to Gabriel in verse 34, and Zechariah's question to Gabriel in verse 18?

Picture and Ponder: "[Mary] is a spiritual model for all who experience the birth of the Savior in their lives because this is a believing question. It is the question that all those who know Jesus have asked: "God, how is it possible?" Do you have this blessed inquisitiveness? Have you asked, "God, how can I experience the life of Jesus within me?"²

10. With all the challenges now facing Mary, how does she respond in verse 38? How does her response challenge you?



Gabriel assured Mary that "nothing is impossible with God". Nothing. Nothing is pretty all encompassing! This is a marvelous truth about God that we need to believe for our lives. It is easier to believe that nothing is impossible with God out there, in another time and another place and another person. It is much harder to believe it in our own situation, but it is no less true. Are you facing a seemingly impossible situation? A sin you can't gain victory over, a loved one who is an atheist, a lost child, a relationship broken beyond repair, a fear that you can't release...Nothing is impossible with God in your life too.

Trust like Mary and pray with Moses...

*"O Lord God, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as yours?"
Deuteronomy 3:24*

Day 4- Luke 1:39-56

11. How did the baby John, in the womb, filled with the Holy Spirit make his first prophecy in verse 41 and 44 as the forerunner of Jesus?

12. What are all the ways God showed his care for Mary and strengthened her faith through her encounter with Elizabeth in verses 41-45?

13. How does verse 45 apply to us today?

Scholar's Note: Elizabeth's use of the third person pronoun *she* broadens the blessing beyond Mary to encompass all who believe that God fulfills His promises.³

14. What attitudes and elements of worship are displayed in Mary's song? (vs.46-55)

Picture and Ponder: The two great hindrances of worship are ignorance, which makes it feeble and ineffectual, and pride, which renders it hypocritical. Those with a shallow, superficial knowledge of God cannot worship Him in the fullest sense because they do not grasp His greatness. But the proud cannot truly worship Him at all, since pride is in reality the worship of self.⁴

15. What truths does Mary proclaim about God in her song? (vs.46-55)

Day 5- Luke 1:57-80

16. How are the following displayed in John's birth story: (verses 57-66)

-God's faithfulness to his promises-

-God's grace (undeserved favor to sinners)-

-God's power-

For Discussion: How was God's discipline fruitful in Zechariah's life?

17. In Zechariah's Spirit-filled song, what does he praise God for in verses 67-75?

18. According to verses 76-77, what part will John play in God's deliverance of his people?



In verses 78-79, Zechariah's song of praise culminates in singing of God's tender mercy in sending a Savior who is the light of the world.

Meditate on the following verses about Jesus and praise God for sending us a Savior who has brought us out of the darkness of our sin.

"But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wing. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall." Malachi 4:2

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness on them has light shone...For to a us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the

government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:2,6

“He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and burst their bonds apart. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!” Psalm 107:14-15

“...I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” Revelation 22:16b

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

“I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.” John 12:46

One Thing: Look back over this week’s study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series) (Kindle Locations 988-989). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

² R. Kent Hughes, *Luke, That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word series*, (Crossway, Wheaton Ill. 2015), p. 36

³ MacArthur, John

⁴ Ibid

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