



# Good News **for all people.**

## The Gospel of Luke

### Week 1 Discussion Questions **LEADER'S GUIDE**

Week of 8/28/22

Text: Luke 1:1-4, 2:10, and 2:42

#### Special note about this series:

This first week is a limited and selective look at the first two chapters of Luke's Gospel. Following this week, our intent is to move at a pace of one chapter per week with a pause after Thanksgiving through January. We likely won't cover the entire chapter each week but will zoom in on those verses in each chapter that are especially helpful for the life of our church. These questions will attempt to follow each sermon, but the sermons themselves may vary a bit from campus to campus.

To get the most out of this series, we recommend reading the following week's chapter ahead of each sermon. So, reading chapter 3 this week will help prepare you for next Sunday's sermon.

**In general, we do not recommend trying to answer all of the questions each week. It's usually better to find 2-3 that seem good for your group.**

**Icebreaker:** Luke is writing this book so a man named Theophilus "may have certainty concerning the things [he has] been taught" (v. 4). Have you ever been less than certain about something you've been taught (in school, church, etc.)? What happened?

**The topic of "certainty" is front and center in the passage this week. Feel free to use this question or substitute something different if you need to help people get warmed up for the discussion.**

**1.** This is a two-part question: First, what causes people to *lack* certainty about the gospel ("good news") message? Second, what causes people to *grow* in certainty about the gospel?

**Examples for the first part could include a lack of familiarity about what we even mean by "the gospel," an extended time period of being absent from a gospel-believing community, an experience of great trial or suffering, a lack of repeated spiritual practices such as prayer and meditating on Scripture, or an over-consumption of the goods and services of our secular culture. These can all erode our certainty.**

**For the second part, think of the opposites of those things just listed. (As an aside, trials and suffering can test our faith, but can lead to an even greater certainty if we endure them in faith. Think of a passage like James 1:2-4.)**

**Application:** Can you relate to the experience of either lacking or growing in certainty about the life and ministry of Jesus? How?

**You may want to go first on answering this if you see that your group is still hesitant to engage in conversation. Application questions can be intimidating for people who don't yet feel safe enough to be vulnerable with the group.**

2. Why do you think Luke points out that his writing is from the testimony of those who “from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word”?

Eyewitness testimony is a big deal for the NT authors and Luke is no exception. Eyewitness testimony implies credibility and trustworthiness. Luke’s description tells us that he relied on people who (1) were firsthand witnesses of what Jesus did and said, (2) that they witnessed the entirety of Jesus’ ministry, and (3) that they believed in Jesus as “ministers of the word.” Luke isn’t relying on secondhand or thirdhand accounts but is going straight to the sources who were with and around Jesus.

*Application:* Would it matter to you if Luke’s account was not based on first-hand accounts of Jesus’ entire ministry? Why?

This would seem to diminish our confidence in what was reported about Jesus’ life and ministry. There’s a reason why crime scene investigators want firsthand testimony from people who witnessed what happened.

3. *Application:* What difference does certainty about Jesus make in our daily lives? How does it impact our outlook, our attitudes, our conversations, and our actions?

Certainty should translate into a different experience of life as we set our hope on the unchanging claims of the gospel rather than the fluctuating circumstances of life. You could drill down into greater detail here with specific examples: “Here’s how it influences my attitude in a difficult work/family situation...”

4. Luke 2:10 is a well-known declaration that the news of Jesus’ birth. What do the angels say about the kind of news they’re announcing?

This verse may not be given much attention in your campus’ sermon, but it is the basis for our title for the series. The angels say it’s (1) “good,” (2) that it’s of “great joy,” and (3) that it’s “for all the people.”

*Application:* Of these descriptions, does one of them stand out as especially significant to you? If so, which one and why?

5. *Application:* Luke 2:52 describes Jesus’ growth in multiple aspects of life. What is one area of life where you would like to experience growth as we go through this series?

What do you think needs to happen for you to experience this?

It can be good to acknowledge that our growth is something that we pursue but that God provides. This suggests that we should adopt a mindset of humility and prayerful dependance on God to do what only He can do in our lives as we take whatever steps are helpful toward the realization of that growth.

### **Week 1 Final Thought:**

We’re just getting started in this series but consider spending time in prayer as a group that in the following weeks each of you would grow in “certainty concerning the things you have been taught.” That’s a prayer the Lord delights to answer.