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*This is a twelve-lesson self-study course
designed to help you discover
for yourself, from the Bible,
some important basic truths about
the Gospel of Luke.*

how to study the lesson

1. Try to find a quiet spot free from distractions and noise.
2. Read the entire Scripture lesson; read it several times to help you absorb its content.
3. Read each question carefully. Then look up the Scripture reference given after each question. Make sure you have found the correct Scripture passage. For example, sometimes you may find yourself looking up JOHN 1:1 instead of I JOHN 1:1.
4. Answer the question from the appropriate Bible passage. Write, in your own words, a phrase or sentence to answer the question. In questions that can be answered with a “yes” or “no” always give the reason for your answer . . . “Yes, because. . . .”
5. If possible, keep a dictionary handy in order to look up words you don’t understand.

6. Pray for God's help. You *need* God's help in order to understand what you study in the Bible. Psalm 119:18 would be an appropriate verse for you to take to God in prayer.

7. Class teachers using this course for group study will find some helpful suggestions on page 47.

how to take the self-check tests

Each lesson is concluded with a test designed to help you evaluate what you have learned.

1. Review the lesson carefully in the light of the self-check test questions.

2. If there are any questions in the self-check test you cannot answer, perhaps you have written into your lesson the wrong answer from your Bible. Go over your work carefully to make sure you have filled in the blanks correctly.

3. When you think you are ready to take the self-check test, do so without looking up the answers.

4. Check your answers to the self-check test carefully with the answer key given on page 48.

5. If you have any questions wrong, your answer key will tell you where to find the correct answer in your lesson. Go back and locate the right answers. Learn by your mistakes!

apply what you have learned to your own life

In this connection, read carefully JAMES 1:22-25. It is only as you apply your lessons to your own life that you will really grow in grace and increase in the knowledge of God.

INTRODUCTION

The author

That the author of this Gospel was Luke is indicated by the fact that he wrote Acts (as seen by the “we” sections), and both the Gospel of Luke and Acts were addressed to the same person (LUKE 1:3; ACTS 1:1). Scholars from Irenaeus (second century) to the present day agree as well.

The date and place of writing

Some who would attempt to discredit the prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem (LUKE 21:20-40) place the date of the writing after A.D. 70, the date Jerusalem was destroyed. However, Acts must have been written before A.D. 70 since it was produced during the lifetime of Paul (probably A.D. 63). The Gospel was written before Acts (ACTS 1:1), probably in A.D. 60. The place where it was written may have been Caesarea or Rome. Perhaps Luke began it in one place and finished it in another.

The distinctions of Luke

Some who have asked, “Why four Gospels?” have discovered that Luke’s Gospel gives us a more complete picture of our Saviour and His purposes. There is unity of subject, yet diversity of treatment. This helps us see more clearly all that God has intended for us (see chart).

The theme of Luke is Jesus Christ the Son of Man. This is not to obscure His deity nor obtrude His humanity, but rather to lift up the manhood of Christ. Thus, the forerunner John the Baptist is described, the birth of Christ with shepherds is detailed, and the obedience and prayer life of Christ is discussed.

This Gospel is not only distinct in theme, but also in material. Most of nine chapters (9:51–18:35) are not found in any other Gospel. Also distinctive are the following: six out of the twenty miracles; nineteen out of the twenty-three parables, including the prodigal son and the good Samaritan; the infancy details of John the Baptist and Christ; the emphasis on prayer; medical matters and terminology; and the walk of Christ to Emmaus. Certainly much revelation would be lost without this Gospel, and much spiritual truth is lost without an adequate study of it.

The outline of Luke

1. The Advent of Christ 1:1–4:30
(Lessons 1 and 2)
2. The Ministry of Christ 4:31–9:50
(Lessons 3 and 4)
3. The Rejection of Christ 9:51–11:54
(Lesson 5)
4. The Instruction of Christ 12:1–19:48
(Lessons 6 to 9)
5. The Suffering of Christ 20:1–23:56
(Lessons 10 and 11)
6. The Resurrection of Christ 24:1–53
(Lesson 12)

THE DISTINCTIONS OF THE GOSPELS

	<i>Themes</i>	<i>Key Verses</i>	<i>Symbols</i> (Ezekiel 1:10)	<i>Prophecies</i>	<i>Genealogies</i>	<i>Addressees</i>	<i>Endings</i>
MATTHEW	Christ as King	Matthew 21:5	The Lion (Supreme Strength)	The Righteous Branch (Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15)	Son of David Son of Abraham (Matthew 1:1)	Jews	Resurrection (Proof of Messiahship)
MARK	Christ as Servant	Mark 10:45	The Ox (Lowly Servant)	The Servant The Branch (Zechariah 3:8)	None	Romans	Ascension (Exaltation of Servant)
LUKE	Christ as the Son of Man	Luke 19:10	The Man	The man whose name is the Branch (Zechariah 6:12)	Adam (Luke 3:38)	Greeks	Spirit Promised (Man's Enablement)
JOHN	Christ as the Son of God	John 20:31	The Eagle (Heavenliness, Deity)		Eternal (John 1:1)	Church	Second Coming Promised (Church's Hope)



The Birth of Christ

1:1—2:52

The preface of Luke 1:1-4

1. Describe the purpose Luke had in writing this Gospel.

1:4 _____

The announcement of John's birth 1:5-25

John the Baptist was the forerunner of Christ, and the man and his message were predicted in the Old Testament (ISAIAH 40:3-5; MALACHI 3:1).

2. Why were Zacharias and his wife called "righteous before God" (1:6)?

ROMANS 10:5 _____

3. Although a person may be blameless before the law, what is he before God?

ECCLESIASTES 7:20 _____

4. What did the Old Testament believer do, having sinned, that would make him blameless or righteous before God?

LEVITICUS 4:27-35 _____

5. To whom did these offerings look forward?

JOHN 1:29 _____

6. What three men were named before they were born?

GENESIS 17:19 _____

LUKE 1:13 _____

LUKE 2:21 _____

7. In whose sight was John the Baptist to be great?

1:15 _____

8. Who else spoke of his greatness?

7:28 _____

9. Who else is commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit and not with strong drink?

EPHESIANS 5:18 _____

10. Describe the work of John.

1:16; compare 1:76 _____

11. What was the name of the angel who appeared to Zacharias?

1:19 _____

12. Who in Old Testament times had a conversation with this angel?

DANIEL 9:21-23 _____

13. Give the reason Zacharias was not able to speak.

1:20 _____

The announcement of Jesus' birth 1:26-38

14. What was to be the sign of the Saviour's coming into the world?

ISAIAH 7:14 _____

15. When was Mary found with child of the Holy Ghost?

MATTHEW 1:18 _____

16. Why was His name Jesus (1:31)?

MATTHEW 1:21 _____

17. Whose throne is Christ to receive?

1:32; compare PSALM 132:11 _____

18. When will the throne of David again be established on the earth?

REVELATION 1:7, 8 _____

19. How long will the kingdom of Christ last?

1:33; compare REVELATION 11:15 _____

20. In what state or condition are we all born?

PSALM 51:5 _____

21. Why could not the Saviour be conceived through a man?

JOB 14:4 _____

22. What title, therefore, could be given to Jesus?

1:35 _____

The visit of Mary 1:39-56

23. Because Mary was to be the mother of our Lord, what was she called?

1:42; compare 1:48 _____

Mary is not called the blesser, but rather is the one blessed. She is not an object of worship (compare 11:27, 28; MATTHEW 12:46-50).

24. What did Mary as well as other women need?

1:47 _____

25. Who was this Saviour?

2:11 _____

The advent of John 1:57-80

26. When was Zacharias' mouth opened?

1:64; compare 1:20 _____

27. What did Zacharias understand to be the immediate purpose of the Saviour's coming into the world ?

1:68; compare ROMANS 3:24 _____

28. Who is it that sits in darkness (1:79)?

JOHN 3:19 _____

29. What is the only light that can penetrate this darkness?

JOHN 1:9 _____

The advent of Jesus 2:1-52

30. What was prophesied concerning Bethlehem (2:4)?

MICAH 5:2; JOHN 7:42 _____

31. What did the swaddling clothes suggest (2:7)?

ISAIAH 53:2; II CORINTHIANS 8:9 _____

32. What was significant about Jesus being found by humble shepherds (2:8)?

JOHN 10:11 _____

33. What was the glory that shone round about the angels (2:9)?

EXODUS 16:10; 40:34, 35 _____

34. What is said about those who continue to spread good tidings (2:10)?

ROMANS 10:15 _____

35. For what was Bethlehem noted in olden times (2:11)?

II SAMUEL 23:15 _____

36. Of what is this significant?

JOHN 4:10 _____

37. How many would have the peace Jesus brought to earth (2:14)?

ROMANS 5:1 _____

38. Give the reason Jesus was circumcised according to the law (2:21; compare LEVITICUS 12:3).

GALATIANS 4:4, 5 _____

39. Why was the offering of two turtledoves accepted by God in place of a lamb (2:24)?

LEVITICUS 12:8 _____

40. What was the consolation for which Simeon was waiting (2:25)?

2:38 _____

41. Before whose face had God prepared this salvation?

2:31; compare PSALM 98:2 _____

42. Why did not Simeon pronounce blessing upon the child as well as the parents (2:34)?

HEBREWS 7:7 _____

43. How soon did the wisdom of Christ begin to attract attention?

2:42, 43, 47 _____

44. What did prophecy have to say about His wisdom (2:40)?

ISAIAH 11:2, 3 _____

45. What did Paul later say about His wisdom?

COLOSSIANS 2:3 _____

46. Why was Jesus about His Father's business so early in life (2:49)?

JOHN 9:4 _____

47. What business did Jesus follow at Nazareth (2:51)?

MARK 6:3 _____

48. What admonition is given to all Christian children?

EPHESIANS 6:1, 2 _____

49. What is the best way to win the favor of God and man (2:52)?

ROMANS 14:18 _____

50. What plan did Solomon prescribe?

PROVERBS 3:3, 4 _____

51. If we cannot have the favor of men, of what should we make sure?

ACTS 7:9, 10 _____

check-up time No. 1

You have just studied some important truths about the birth of Christ. Review your study by rereading the questions and your written answers. If you wish, you may use the self-check test as an aid in reviewing your lesson. If you aren't sure of an answer, reread the Scripture portion given to see if you can find the answer. Then take this test to see how well you understand important truths you have studied.

In the right-hand margin write "True" or "False" after each of the following statements.

1. Moses was named before he was born. _____
2. The angel Gabriel announced the birth of John to his mother Elisabeth. _____
3. All believers are to be filled with the Holy Spirit. _____
4. Jesus is to receive the throne of David. _____
5. The kingdom of Christ will last forever. _____
6. Mary, the mother of Jesus, needed a Saviour. _____
7. The home into which Jesus was born was wealthy. _____
8. Simeon knew that Christ would come into the world. _____
9. Jesus started the work of His Father late in life. _____
10. Jesus increased in wisdom, stature, and deity. _____

Turn to page 96 and check your answers.