

LUKE: Who is JESUS?

LEADERS NOTES[®]

Ken Moser

EFFECTIVE
YOUTH MINISTRY
PRESS 



LEADER'S NOTES

Dear Youth Leader,

Welcome to Effective Youth Ministry Press free leader's notes!

These leader's notes are for the Youth Bible study booklet *Luke: Who is Jesus?* that is for sale from www.effectiveyouthministry.com.

These notes are designed to assist your in preparation and enable you to get the most out of your Bible study time.

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Regards,

Effective Youth Ministry Press Team

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LUKE: WHO IS JESUS?

introduction

Welcome to the gospel of Luke!

If you want to learn about Jesus, the gospel of Luke is a great place to start. This gospel is a trustworthy, well-researched account written by a man who took great care in giving us the facts about Jesus. It is also the longest and most comprehensive account that we have of the life of Jesus. Luke contains stories that the other gospels don't have and even tells us a little bit about Jesus as a young man.

As you work through these studies you will meet a man like no other. Jesus is the most influential and pivotal figure in all of history. He is the Lord of the universe who came down to earth to die on the cross for us. He was also a great teacher who showed us the true way to live.

In these studies you will see that Jesus was (and is!) the most amazing person who ever lived. He is more powerful than the forces of evil, nature and even death itself. A life spent getting to know him is the best life of all.

Enjoy this great gospel!

Ken Moser

LUKE: Who is JESUS? * leader's notes:

Study 1

The Fulfillment of God's Plan Luke 1:1-4

This study is designed to:

1. Show your group that Jesus came to fulfill God's great plan of salvation.
2. Show your group that the Gospel of Luke is trustworthy.
3. Show your group that this book is an orderly, historically accurate account of the life of Jesus.

There is a lot of content here, so be prepared. If you need to you can trim or cut some out.

let's get started

Have the young people place a mark on the scale then share their answers. Then have them answer the question about sharing their faith by circling a response from the list provided and share their answers.

going deeper

Ask a volunteer to read Luke 1:1-4.

Jesus is the fulfillment of God's big plan! (v.1)

Have three volunteers each read the three Bible references and then write down how Jesus fulfilled each prophecy.

Micah 5:2: This is a prophecy that Jesus will be born in Bethlehem. He will be the ruler over Israel. (This is often read at Christmas time).

Galatians 4:4-5: This tells us that God's timing was perfect. Jesus came to fulfill God's plan as laid out in the Old Testament. He did this by being born as a man (who was also God) to bring us back from sin and judgment.

Hebrews 1:1-2: Jesus is God's final word to us. He had previously sent prophets, but in these 'last days', God has spoken his final words in his son who is the creator of the universe.

This book is true! (v. 2-3) Three simple, quick questions:

1. **Who has Luke spoken to? (v. 2)** Eyewitnesses and servants of God
2. **What has he done to make sure the book is trustworthy? (v. 3)** Carefully investigated everything from the beginning.
3. **What kind of story has he written? (v. 3)** An orderly account (begins with Jesus' birth, ends with his ascension).

In light of these verses, what would you say to someone who tells you, "The Bible is just a bunch of made up stories"? Or, "You can't trust what the Bible says"? This is hard to maintain in light of what Luke tells us (and what he did to make sure his book is trustworthy).

FYI (For your information): Who was Luke? Who was Theophilus?

Optional: If you like, you can have volunteers read these two sections aloud.

This book is “orderly”!

What does it mean that this book is an “orderly account”? It begins with the birth of Jesus (after his cousin John the Baptist), contains a story of his youth, ends with his death, resurrection and ascension to heaven.

Why is it important? How does this help us? This is not a “hodgepodge”, random account of Jesus – it’s sources and version of the life of Jesus is reliable.

Please notice: Luke wrote this book for his friend (v. 4).

Why did he write this book? To give him certainty of what he has been taught.

Why is this fact important to us? We can be certain of what we have been taught as well.

Did you know...

Optional: If you like, you can have volunteers read this section aloud.

getting active

Helping each other

If we ever have doubts, how can the book of Luke help us to keep going in the Christian faith? This is a trustworthy, orderly account of Jesus so we can trust the facts.

How can we help each other to trust the Bible?

Ask the group to share ways they can help each other to trust the Bible. This could include studying it together, bringing difficult questions to one another or to the group, encouraging each other to be reading it regularly.

let's pray

Lead a prayer time using the listed suggestions and spend some time praying about what they have learned in today’s study. Pray also for any other matters the group shares.

stay tuned

Next week we will see that Jesus is the promised rescuer!

Each week encourage the young people to use the personal bible reading plan including learning the memory verse.

LUKE: Who is JESUS? * leader's notes:

Study 2

The Promised Rescuer Luke 4:14-21

This study is designed to show your group that:

1. Jesus rescues us from sin.
2. This is part of God's great 'rescue plan' for us.
3. Without Jesus, we would all be lost in sin and face God's judgment.

Each week ask if anyone used the personal bible-reading plan. Ask them to share about what they read and if they have any questions about it.

Each week check to see if anyone can recite the memory verse from the previous week. You can do this by asking them to recite it altogether OR, by writing down on pieces of paper and them reading their answer OR, by asking volunteers one at a time to recite it. You may like to ask those who are confident to go first – repetition will help everyone to learn/remember it better. You may also like to have a prize for everyone who can say it.

let's get started

Ask each member to share about whether they have ever rescued anything or anyone (maybe a lost or injured animal) and share the story.

Ask each member to share if they have ever needed to be rescued and if so, share what happened.

It would be good if everyone could answer at least one of the sharing questions.

going deeper

God's great rescue plan for us!

As one or more volunteers to read Luke 4:14-21.

What kind of reputation does Jesus have at this time? (v. 14-15) He was praised by everyone (v. 15). He had a very good reputation.

You may have someone read the FYI sentence or just move on to the next question. Do not read the Isaiah passage as it will be in the next section.

What are the five things that the Spirit of the Lord has anointed Jesus to do? (v. 18-19)

1. Preach good news to the poor 2. Proclaim freedom to the captives 3. Give sight to the blind 4. Release the oppressed 5. Proclaim the year of the Lord's favor

Are these things that any person could do?

No – this is the fulfillment of an Old Testament prophecy. Only God's son can do it.

Jesus said he fulfilled this passage so what does this passage tell us about him? He has come from God to save us.

What does this say about other religions or other religious leaders who claim to be important? Jesus has an authority and importance that they do not have.

Jesus is the “promised one”!

Have one or more volunteers read Luke 7:18-23.

Why was John so concerned about who Jesus was? (See Matthew 11:2 to find out where John was at the time.)

John was in prison and possibly fearful about his life. He was wondering if Jesus was really the promised one he had been waiting for.

The answer that Jesus gives to John’s disciples comes from a number of verses in the book of Isaiah:

Have three volunteers read a passage each. After each one is read write down Jesus’ answer.

29:18-19 The deaf hear, the blind see, the humble and needy rejoice

35:5-6 The blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the mute speak

61:1-2 Good news to the poor, the captives released, the mourners comforted

What do you think it would have meant to John and his followers that Jesus was the fulfillment of these promises? Great joy and praise to God. This would have given John comfort in his circumstances of imprisonment.

Ask the group members if there is anything new they have learned about Jesus from these passages.

Think Spot

Why do we need to be rescued anyway—what’s the big deal?

Ask four volunteers to read the passages provided and then ask four questions provided. If there is not enough time to look at all four passages you may want to stay with the two Romans passages.

Romans 3:9-26 All have sinned/none are righteous

Romans 6:23 The price for sinning is death

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (esp. v.20-21) We must be reconciled (brought back into friendship) with God **1 John 1:8-2:2** We are all sinners and it is very serious

What does this tell us about ourselves? Unrighteous, sinners, sentenced to death, out of relationship with God.

What did God do for us in his son Jesus? God gave his son to pay the penalty for our sin. Jesus gave up his life as a sacrifice for our sin. We now have eternal life.

Why is it so important to trust in him? Without him we are out of relationship with God and sentenced to death for our sin.

What happens to those who are not rescued by Jesus? They are under judgment for their sin (rebellion against God).

Ask the group members to share their response to someone who says they don’t need to be rescued and then ask them to share how they feel when they are told that they need to be rescued from their sin.

Helping each other

What does it mean for us that God’s plan of salvation is fulfilled in Jesus? We can be sure of our salvation.

What must our response be? Joy and praise and acceptance of God’s gift of salvation.

Let's pray

Lead a prayer time using the listed suggestions and spend some time praying about what they have learned in today’s study. Pray also for any other matters the group shares.

stay tuned

Next week we will see that Jesus is more powerful than demons and the Devil!

LUKE: WHO IS JESUS? * LEADER'S NOTES:

Study 3

MORE POWERFUL THAN DEMONS (and the Devil)! LUKE 4:31-36

This study is designed to show your group that:

1. Jesus is more powerful than Satan and the demonic.
2. We can rest assured in Jesus' power.

let's get started

Ask the group members to choose their answer from the list provided. Then ask the two sharing questions about they and others see Jesus.

going deeper

Jesus goes up against a demon! Read Luke 4:31-36.

How does the demon react to Jesus? (v. 34) Recognition. Resentment. Fear.

Why do you think he reacts this way? He knows that Jesus is stronger and has the authority to cast him out of the man.

How do you think he recognized Jesus? Demons know who the son of God is. They know this because of Jesus' authority and power of them.

What does Jesus say to him? (v. 35) Get out.

What is the last thing the demon does to the man? (v. 35) Why do you think he does this? He threw the man to the ground. Ask for the opinions of the group about why the demon does this. One suggestion is that this may be the final sign that the demon wants to cause pain and destruction to the man.

What was the people's response to this event? Amazement.

What does this tell us about demons? They are no where near as powerful as Jesus. It also tells us that they are on earth to cause harm.

What does it tell us about Jesus? Total complete authority over the demonic.

Ask the group to choose what their response would be to meeting a demon-possessed person.

Jesus is much stronger than Satan!

NOTE ERROR: The passage Matthew 7:7-11 should be Luke 11:14-22

Why do you think the crowd accused Jesus of using Satan's power? Failure to recognize who Jesus is. They may have been thinking that if demons are powerful and Jesus is powerful then he must be the prince of demons.

Summarize how Jesus responds to their accusation. It is wrong to think that Satan would work against his own kingdom. Satan wants his evil kingdom to reign. I am here to destroy Satan's work. **What does he mean in v.21 & 22?** Satan is the strong man. However, Jesus is stronger and has overpowered Satan. This is evident in Jesus being able to case out demons.

What does this passage tell us about Jesus? He is much stronger than Satan. He has come to overthrow Satan's work.

Ask a volunteer to read FYI.

Ask a volunteer to read Colossians 2:13-15 (esp. v. 15).

When Jesus died for us on the cross, what did he do to “the powers and authorities” (this is another way of talking about the devil and demons)? They are disarmed. He also showed us that they are not as powerful or important as people thought them to be.

What is the connection between Jesus dying and his victory over the demonic? It is the ultimate and most powerful triumph. His death gave us forgiveness from sin and removed our condemnation. Satan has no longer has power over us.

Ask volunteers to read the three Bible passages and note Jesus’ power over Satan and then ask the two questions about Jesus’ power over the devil.

If you have time you could also read Revelation 20:10.

Helping each other

How does the fact that Jesus is so powerful help us? We do not need to fear Satan or his demons **What practical differences will it make to your life?** Suggested answers: Confidence and lack of fear.

Does the fact that Jesus is stronger than demons mean that we can mess around with the occult? No, not at all. We have turned our backs on evil and sin.

How can we help anyone who is scared of Satan or the demonic? Suggestions: encourage them to read about Jesus in Luke. Pray with and for them. Talk with them regularly – reminding them of Jesus’ great power and love.

let's pray

Lead a prayer time using the listed suggestions and spend some time praying about what they have learned in today’s study. Pray also for any other matters the group shares.

stay tuned

Next week we will see that Jesus can forgive sins (he is more powerful than disease as well)!

Luke: Who is Jesus? * leader's notes:

Study 4[©]

The one who can forgive sins (and heal as well) Luke 5:17-26

This study is designed to show your group that:

1. Jesus forgives sins.
2. Jesus was a healer.
3. There is/are no sins that Jesus will not forgive if you turn to him.

let's get started

Ask the group members to answer the question about friendship by choosing one or more answers from the list provided. Share answers and then answer the question about whether a friend had done something really great for you and what it was.

going deeper

Jesus is the healer & forgiver!

Ask one or more volunteers to read Luke 5:17-26.

Ask what impacts them but if there is nothing move on to the next question.

How do you think the sick man (and his friends) felt when Jesus forgave his sins and didn't heal him straight away? Answer by checking the box of one of the options listed.

Why did Jesus forgive the man before healing his paralysis? This was his real problem in God's sight. This had eternal consequences while not being able to walk was a temporary problem.

Why did they accuse Jesus of blasphemy? (v. 21) They knew that only God could forgive sins. If Jesus forgives, he must be God.

What would have happened if Jesus simply healed the man and left it at that? He would still have to pay the price for his sins (eternally).

Look again at v. 23-24. What do you think Jesus is saying? What is the connection between the power Jesus has to heal and the power he has to forgive sins? Both of these are things that only God can do.

Jesus came to forgive our sins!

If you have time, you can look at one or more of the passages provided.

Why is it such a big deal to have our sins forgiven? Sin keeps us away from God. Forgiveness = eternal life.

What difference should it make in our lives? We should be joyful, thankful and realize that it is a great event.

Jesus forgives even the worst of sinners!

Ask one or more volunteers to read Luke 7:36-50.

Why do you think the woman was so upset? When she sees Jesus, she knows for certain that she is very sinful.

Why did the Pharisee not like her? He thought himself above her (and felt that he was not a 'sinner').

What does this short story about Jesus mean? (v.41-43 & 47) If you have been forgiven for a lot of sin you will be very grateful

Why were the other guests puzzled by what Jesus said? (v. 49) They were confused because they did not recognize Jesus as God and knew that only God could forgive sins.

What does this story tell us about Jesus? Again, we see that he is the Lord who brings true forgiveness of sin.

Is there anything that someone could do that Jesus wouldn't forgive? No, If you trust in him you will be forgiven. (The only sin that is not forgiven is an unrepentant heart).

Helping each other

While the first story isn't really about friendship, what does it tell us about the sick man's friends? They cared deeply for him. They also saw Jesus as the one who could truly help him.

How can we reflect this in our friendships with each other? Help each other in our relationship with Jesus.

What do we learn about forgiveness in this study that can be put into practice this week? Jesus brings true forgiveness. Turn to him in repentance when you sin.

let's pray

Lead a prayer time using the listed suggestions and spend some time praying about what they have learned in today's study. Pray also for any other matters the group shares.

stay tuned

Next week we will see that Jesus is more powerful than death!

LUKE: WHO IS JESUS? * LEADER'S NOTES:

Study 5

THE DESTROYER OF DEATH LUKE 7:11-17

This study is designed to show your group that:

1. Jesus is more powerful than death.
2. Jesus has freed us from the bondage that the fear of death brings.

let's get started

Ask the group members to answer the first sharing question. Answer the second question by checking the appropriate box then share answers.

going deeper

Jesus is stronger than death!

Ask one or volunteers to read Luke 7:11-17.

Why is the death of the son so tragic for this woman? She was a widow. She would now be totally alone with no-one to help her.

Why do you think Jesus told the woman not to cry? He was there to give her son back to her.

Notice the response of the crowd. What two things do they say about Jesus? (v. 16) He is a great prophet and he has come to help his people.

What does this story teach us about Jesus? He is more powerful than death.

Jesus has conquered death!

Ask one or more volunteers to read Hebrews 2:14-18.

What great thing has Jesus achieved by becoming like us? (v. 14) He came to earth in bodily form and has faced death before us. By doing this, he destroys the power that the devil holds.

What power did the devil have over us? (v. 15) We were enslaved by our fear of death.

What does v. 17 tell us about how Jesus freed us from the fear of death? He became 'like us' (flesh and blood) and made atonement for our sins. (Atonement – he removed the sinful barrier between us and God and bought us back to God by paying the penalty for our sin).

Ask volunteers to share about friends who may fear death and talk about what they can say to them in light of these verses. If you have time, look up 2 Tim. 1:10 and read more about what Jesus has done for us.

But wait, there's more! Here's another glimpse into the power of Jesus: Luke 8:49-56.

Ask one or more volunteers to read Luke 8:49-56.

Why do you think Jesus says what he says in v. 50? He has the power to heal the girl.

What must Jairus do? Believe and trust in Jesus.

Notice the reaction of the crowd. Why did they laugh? They knew the girl was not asleep but dead – perhaps they thought Jesus did not realize this or they did not know/believe that Jesus could raise someone from the dead. However, in Jesus eyes, she would soon be 'awake' (come back to life).

What does this story tell us about Jesus? Again, he has the power over death.

Helping each other

How should these stories from Luke (and the teaching from Hebrews) shape the way we think about death? We should not be afraid.

How can we help each other to not be fearful about death? Keep reading about Jesus, praying to Jesus, and encouraging each other to reflect on his power.

Is there anything we can do to trust Jesus more in light of the fact that one day we are going to die? Suggested answer: Keep getting to know him better and better. Encourage each other to do the same.

let's pray

Lead a prayer time using the listed suggestions and spend some time praying about what they have learned in today's study. Pray also for any other matters the group shares.

stay tuned

Next week we will see that Jesus is the promised Messiah from God!

LUKE: WHO IS JESUS? • LEADER'S NOTES:

Study 6 ©

THE CHRIST WHO MUST SUFFER AND DIE (LUKE 9:18-22, 18:31-34).

This study is designed to show your group that:

1. Jesus is the Christ—he is the anointed one sent from heaven.
2. Jesus had to suffer and die for us. He would rise again from the dead.
3. We must be clear on who he is really is.

let's get started

Ask the group members to select one or more of the answers provided for the first question, then share their answers.

Ask group members to write an answer for the second question and allow volunteers to share their answers.

going deeper

Don't get it wrong... Jesus is the Christ!

Ask one or more volunteers to read Luke 9:18-22.

What are the three incorrect responses in v.19? 1. Elijah 2. John the Baptist 3. One of the prophets.

Do you know who these people are? If they do not know who they are give a short explanation. Suggested response: Elijah was an old testament prophet first mentioned in 1 Kings 17 who called the people to repentance from worship of false gods/idols. He is sometimes as a representative of the prophets (Mark 9:4). John the Baptist was prepared the way for Jesus calling people to repentance. The prophets were God's messengers that called God's people to repentance.

What is Peter's correct answer? (v.20) The Christ.

Do you know what this word means? (Note this question will be answered in the box below.)

What are the four things that must happen to the Son of Man (v.22)?

1. Suffer 2. Be rejected 3. Be killed 4. Be raised to life.

After reading this Bible passage, what would you say to someone who said, "Jesus was simply a great teacher" or "Jesus was an amazing man who showed us a good way to live"? Ask volunteers to share answers. Suggested answer: This is incorrect. He is the Christ sent by God who suffered, died and rose from the dead. This is what he taught repeatedly.

Is "Christ" Jesus' last name?

Read the paragraph about the meaning of the word "Christ". If you have time you can read one or more of the passages provided.

When Peter says, "You are the Christ of God" in Luke 9:20, what exactly does he mean? The one sent by God who will save us.

Jesus tells us again what must happen.

Ask a volunteer to read Luke 18:31-34.

Compare this passage with Luke 9:21-22.

What are the similarities?

Jesus says he will suffer, be killed and rise again.

What are the differences? There are not many differences, however, there is no warning not to tell anyone. We are told the disciples didn't understand him.

What is the point Jesus is clearly making about his future? He will suffer, die and rise. He is not simply "a great teacher" nor is he a political leader.

Why is it so difficult for some people to grasp the fact that Jesus had to die on the cross and then rise again? Ask the group members to check the appropriate box then share their answer.

Once more for the road!

Ask some volunteers to read Luke 24:36-53.

How is the setting different from our previous two readings? He has risen from the dead.

What are the disciples of Jesus now supposed to do with this message of his death and resurrection? Preach repentance and forgiveness to all nations (v. 47).

Why do you think Jesus repeats this message three times with his friends? He is making the point of who he is (the Christ) and what he must do for us.

Helping each other

Let's revisit a question we had at the beginning of the study: could you sum up why

Jesus came to earth in one sentence? He came to suffer and die and rise again to bring forgiveness for sin.

Now that we understand who Jesus really is, how do we bring this message to our friends? Share some suggestions.

let's pray

Lead a prayer time using the listed suggestions and spend some time praying about what they have learned in today's study. Pray also for any other matters the group shares.

stay tuned

Next week we will see that Jesus is God's son who must be listened to!

LUKE: Who is JESUS? • leader's notes:

BONUS Study ©

Listen to JESUS LUKE 9:28-36

This study is designed to show your group that Jesus is God's Son and we must listen to him.

let's get started

How good are you at listening? Ask the group members to circle a statement and then share your answers.

going deeper

Let's get the facts straight: Ask one or more volunteers to read Luke 9:28-36.

Ask what impacts them but if there is nothing move on to the next question.

Why do you think the appearance of Jesus changed? He was revealed as the true Son of God.

What did Jesus, Moses and Elijah speak about? (v. 31) His death and resurrection.

Why is this important? Jesus is going to fulfill God's plan through his death in Jerusalem. Why do you think God told the disciples to "Listen to him"? (v. 35.) He is the Son of God.

Place a mark on the scale provided that indicates how easy it is for you to listen (and obey) Jesus' words then share answers.

FYI: Who are Moses & Elijah?

Read the statement about Moses and Elijah. You should not read the Old Testament references provided but note they are there for people to read for themselves at another time.

Listening to Jesus:

Ask a volunteer to read John 10:27.

What does a follower of Jesus do? Listen's to his voice.

How can we "hear Jesus' voice clearly" each day? Read the Bible.

What would you say to someone who told you, "It isn't important to listen to Jesus or obey him"? (See the next verse—John 10:28.). People who want eternal life listen to Jesus (the giver of life).

Listening to Jesus (part 2): Read John 14:15.

What does a follower of Jesus do? Listen to Jesus and obey what he commands.

What does this mean for us day to day? Keep reading the Bible and do what it says.

How does one find out what Jesus commands? By reading the Bible.

(For more on this, read 1 John 2:3-6.)

Helping each other

How can we help each other to listen to Jesus and do what he says? Some suggestions: Encourage each other to read the Bible, go to youth group/Bible study/church. Encourage each other to do the things that Jesus tells us to do.

How can we help each other to continue getting to know Jesus better? Some suggestions: Regular fellowship with one another (e.g. Bible study, youth group, church etc.), studying the Bible together.

Is there anything we can do to help those who don't know him to "listen to him"? Some suggestions: Invite them to Bible study, try to have a Bible study with them, give them a Bible to read.

let's pray

Lead a prayer time using the listed suggestions and spend some time praying about what they have learned in today's study. Pray also for any other matters the group shares.

Other recommended resources for your youth ministry:

Small Group Bible Studies

Starting Out

By Ken Moser

Foundations for Christian Living

By Ken Moser

Luke: Who Is Jesus?

By Ken Moser

Luke: Jesus' Parables

By Ken Moser

Luke: Carry Your Cross

By Ken Moser

Death And Resurrection Of Jesus

By Julie Moser

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Groups**

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**Youth Evangelism: Reaching Young
People in a Way that Honours God**

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thank you

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