

INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

What do we know about Luke?

- He was a doctor and a historian
- He is the author of Luke and Acts and so is the biggest contributor to the NT
- He was a companion of Paul
- He was a Gentile
- He was a details person; having “carefully investigated everything from the beginning” and deciding to “write and orderly account.” (1:3)

What characteristics are present in Luke’s account?

- Written to a specific person – “most excellent Theophilus.” (1:4; cf. Acts 1:1)
- Written for a Gentile audience, from a Gentile perspective (e.g. genealogy Ch 3)
- The Holy Spirit is very active throughout the Gospel (e.g. 1:35, 41, 67, 80)
- Salvation is for ALL people! The socially unexpected are highlighted throughout the gospel – women, poor, Centurions, lepers, prostitutes etc.
- The relationship between Jesus and the religious elite intensifies as the narrative progresses. For example, read Ch 15 with this in mind.

JJJ – Jesus’ Journey to Jerusalem

- From his return to Galilee in 4:14 through to 9:50 Jesus ministry takes place around Galilee in the north.
- 9:51 represents a major turning point in Jesus ministry and the rest of the Gospel; “As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.”
- From this moment on everything is moving from Galilee towards Jerusalem. (e.g. 13:22; 17:11; 19:1,* 11, 28)

Bible Study Pattern

1. Read

Long Slow Read – LSR. Read a few chapters, slowly, over the course of an hour or two in your preparation.

Tempo Read – Read and reread the passage under question several times, taking note of verses/phrases/characters that stand out – e.g. Jesus, Holy Spirit, poor, women.

Repeats – Choose one verse to memorise. Repeat it many times throughout the day and over the course of a week or so. Meditate on the verse and pray it in and out.

2. Examine (exegete)

Study the passage in question with the use of appropriate tools (e.g. commentary). I will provide some questions and guidance in each study here.

3. Reflect (connect to us)

Reflect on the passage for us today. For example, if this healing took place at Box Hill Hospital today, what would be the reaction?

4. Imagine (difference for our time)

Engage your imagination and dream of how your life, and the lives of those around you, could be different as a result of what God has revealed to you.

5. Perform (our role in bringing about the difference)

Commit to tangible actions that will bring that dream to reality.