

*A Study of the Gospel of*

# Luke

*FPCSM, January 2012*

*Luke 3:1-9:36*

First Presbyterian Church San Mateo



### ***How to use this study guide:***

- ◆ Set aside a few minutes each day for study (*notice that you are given five days worth of material each week, so you can miss up to two days and still be able to keep up!*).
- ◆ Pray before you begin.
- ◆ Read the passage for the day, then answer the questions. Actually writing out your answers, or journaling about what you are discovering will help you get a lot more out of the study.
- ◆ You may find it helpful to use a study Bible, or a Bible with good notes which will help you to understand the context of what you are reading about each day.
- ◆ At the end of each day's reading is a suggested "prayer focus." Close your time in prayer, shaping your prayer around what you learned that day, and around the prayer focus for the day.

**Day 1—read Luke 3:1—14** 

- What was the core of John’s message? (v. 3,8)
- What does Luke say will happen after John “prepares the way”? (v 6)  
What would that mean to people living in Palestine 2000 years ago?  
What does that mean to you today?
- What did John tell the crowd who came to him to do? the tax collectors? the soldiers? Why do you think he had those specific instructions for those specific groups of people?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for places in your own life where you need repentance.

**Day 2—Read Luke 3:15—38** 

- Summarize what John prophesied about the “one” who was coming (v. 16-17) How was this “good news”? (v18)
- Describe what happened when Jesus was baptized.
- By tracing Jesus’ genealogy, Luke is establishing that Jesus was fully human—why was that important to Luke? Why is that important to us?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for humility.

**Day 3—Read Luke 4:1—13** 

Look closely at each of the temptations described in this passage.

- What was the appeal of each one?
- What was it’s price?
- How are the temptations similar? Different?
- How did Jesus defend himself? What can you learn from that?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for the strength to stand against temptations in your own life.

**Day 4—Read Luke 4:14—30** 

- Who did the Nazarenes think Jesus was? Who was He really?
- What is Jesus 5-fold mission (v18-19)? How does He fulfill it literally? Spiritually?
- What is Jesus’ point in v.24-27, and why did that anger the Nazarene’s so much? What do you learn about God’s Kingdom from this passage?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for someone you know who does not understand who Jesus is.

**Day 5—Read Luke 4:31—37**

- How is this story related to the one before (especially v.18-19)? What similarities and differences do you see?
- Why were the people amazed? (v. 32, 36)
- Do you think of Jesus as having “authority” in your life?
- How does Jesus’ authority bring freedom in this passage? In your life?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for our nations leaders.

**January 8—14**

**Luke 4:38—6:11**

**Day 1—read Luke 4:38—44**

- What was Simon’s mother-in-law’s response to being healed? Why do you think she reacted that way?
- What does this passage show about Jesus’ character? Based on what you read in this passage, think of at least five adjectives that would describe Jesus.
- Jesus said His ministry was to “preach the good news of the kingdom of God” (v. 43) What do you learn about the Kingdom from 4:14-41?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for someone you know who is ill.

**Day 2—Read Luke 5:1—11**

- If you had been Simon Peter when Jesus asked him to “put out his boat” what would you have said or done?
- Is Jesus asking you to “put out your boat” in some way right now? What have you “said or done” about that?
- Why do you think Simon reacted the way he did after the catch of fish? (v.8)
- Does it surprise you that these men “left everything and followed” Jesus? Why or why not?
- In what ways have you, or haven’t you “left everything” to follow Jesus?

*Prayer focus:* Pray about any fears that you have.

**Day 3—Read Luke 5:12—26**

- Look carefully at what Jesus told the man with leprosy to do after he was healed (v.14); why do you think Jesus told him to do that?
- What new realm of Jesus' authority is demonstrated in v.17-26?
- In that story, what motivates the people, friends, man and Pharisees to each respond to Jesus' actions the way they do?
- Was the faith Jesus commended (v.20) necessary for forgiveness of sins? Why or why not?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for healing for a friend, or for yourself.

**Day 4—Read Luke 5:27—39**

- What do Jesus' words in v. 31-32 reveal about His mission?
- What is Jesus implying in the parable in v.34-35? In 36-39? How does this relate to Levi's call and to the disciples' not fasting?
- Old garments tear when patched, and old wineskins break when re-filled. Why do you think people sometimes prefer to patch their old coats or keep their old wineskins?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for "the outcasts" in our community.

**Day 5—Read Luke 6:1—11**

- What is the main issue here for the Pharisees? For Jesus?
- What do you learn about the differences between Jesus and formalized religion in the events of 5:27-6:10?
- What did Jesus claim, and why was that significant? What does that mean to you?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for FPCSM.

**Day 1—read Luke 6:12—26** 

- Who's in the crowd? Why have they come?
- What four qualities ought to characterize kingdom people (v. 20-22) How would you define each? What is your reaction to this? Why?
- What is taught here about God's kingdom?
- What attitudes (toward self, the world and God) tempt rich and respected people to lose the greatest blessing?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for the poor.

**Day 2—Read Luke 6:27—36** 

- In general, what is Jesus' rule for life from this passage?
- What does it mean to "love your enemies"? What is love? Who are your enemies?
- How has God been merciful to you? (v.36) To whom do you need to show mercy right now?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for an "enemy" (or someone who is difficult for you to love).

**Day 3—Read Luke 6:37—42** 

- What principle does Jesus reveal in 6:37-38 about why we should treat others as we would like to be treated?
- What happens when we try to be someone else's spiritual guide and judge when we are blind to our own weaknesses? (v. 39)
- What can you do to be sure there are no "planks in your own eye"?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for someone you need to forgive.

**Day 4—Read Luke 6:43—49** 

- Can you think of a positive example of a person who speaks out of the "overflow of their heart"? How is that helpful to you?
- Evaluate your own heart by the standard of v.45; what areas of your heart need forgiveness and cleansing?
- What's the key to surviving life's storms? (v.48-49) What have you done, or are you doing, to ensure your foundation is strong?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for those in our world who are suffering right now due to physical storms that have occurred (hurricanes, earthquakes, etc.).

**Day 5—Read Luke 7:1—17**



- Jesus' good news is for "the poor." Who are the poor who receive Jesus' ministry in v.1-10? In v.11-17?
- What conclusion did the people draw about God from Jesus' actions here? (v.16b)
- What practical difference does it make whether you live by confidence in your own goodness, or by trust in Christ's power? How does this reveal itself, especially in a crisis?
- Is there somewhere in your life where you need to experience Christ's healing power? What can you learn from this passage to help you?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for someone who has lost a loved one.

**January 22—28**

**Luke 7:18—8:25**

**Day 1—read Luke 7:18—35**

- What is John's question? Why do you think he asks this? What might have been his expectations about how the Messiah would act? (see v.3:16-17)
- What six things characterize Jesus ministry? (v.22) How do you see that today?
- How did people respond to Jesus' words? (v.29-30)
- What does v.35 mean?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for those in our church's congregation who need healing.

**Day 2—Read Luke 7:36—50**



- In this passage, what seems to be Simon's main concern? Jesus' main concern?
- What caused the prostitute to show great love toward Jesus? (v.36-38)
- What do you think Jesus' purpose was in telling the parable in v.41-43?
- On what basis is the woman "forgiven" and "saved"? What do you learn from this?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for those who are unemployed.

**Day 3—Read Luke 8:1—15**



- Who was traveling with Jesus? Why do you think Luke gives us this detail? What does it tell you about Jesus?
- Make a list of the factors that affected whether the seed grew a crop; what truths do you see in these?
- How would this parable have been particularly helpful to the disciples and those traveling with Jesus?
- What is the result for the “seed on good soil”? (v.15) What does this tell us about the purpose of our lives?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for a heart that is “good soil.”

**Day 4—Read Luke 8:16—21**



- If Jesus and His message are the lamp of truth, what is this parable saying about the kingdom of God? What is the promise for those who do and don't listen?
- Who are Jesus' family? What does this mean to you today?
- How have you “heard God's word and put it into practice this week?”

*Prayer focus:* Pray for a family member.

**Day 5—Read Luke 8:22—25**



- How did the disciples fail to show faith in this passage?
- What was Jesus teaching his disciples by ignoring the storm, and then rebuking it? What was their reaction? (v.25)
- What do you think the disciples expected of Jesus when they awoke him? (v. 24)
- What character trait of Jesus is revealed in this story that is important to you today?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for someone you know who is going through a “storm”.

**Day 1—read Luke 8:26—39**

- Describe what life was like for the demon possessed man (v.26-29).
- How does Jesus treat the man differently than the way others have?
- How do the pig farmers respond to what Jesus does? The townspeople? Why?
- What does Jesus tell the man to do, and what does he do? (v.39) What does this teach us about how we are to respond when Jesus does something for us?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for those who suffer from mental illness.

**Day 2—Read Luke 8:40—56**

- What do you learn from this passage about Jesus as a person—his character and his priorities?
- Of all the people pressing for Jesus' attention (see v.40), two get through to him in this story; what similarities do you see in them?
- How would you summarize what the disciples might have learned on this day? What does that mean to you today?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for someone with a chronic or long-time illness.

**Day 3—Read Luke 9:1—9**

- What did Jesus give the Twelve (v.1), and what did He send them out to do?
- Why do you think Jesus gave them the instructions that He did? (v.3)
- How was the mission of the Twelve related to Jesus' own mission? (see 7:22, 8:1, 9:2)
- In what general ways does the disciples' mission apply to Christians? In what specific ways does it apply to you? How can you act on your mission in the next few weeks?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for one of the missionaries our church supports.

**Day 4—Read Luke 9:10—17**

- What attitudes toward needy people does Jesus model for His disciples? (v.11-13)
- What do the Twelve tell Jesus to do? (v.12) What other things might they have suggested or requested for Jesus to do in that situation?
- What might have the disciples been thinking as they collected the leftovers?
- What would you say is the main point of this story?

*Prayer focus:* Pray for those around the world who do not have enough food.

**Day 5—Read Luke 9:18—27**

- Why do you think Jesus asked his disciples the two questions in v.18 and 20?
- What does Jesus reveal to His disciples about what is to come?
- What activities or attitudes are key to following Christ? (v.23)
- Name one way in which a modern Christian may be tempted to “save his life”. (v.24)

*Prayer focus:* Pray for the desire to follow Jesus today.

*Some questions in this study guide are based on material from the following sources:*

Luke, LifeChange Series, NavPress, 1995.

Serendipity New Testament for Groups, Serendipity House, 1990.