

Introductory Material for the Gospel of Luke

(taken from the ESV Study Bible)

Who wrote it?

- Luke wrote this Gospel. Luke was one of Paul's companions and was also the author of the book of Acts.

When was it written?

- The approximate date is A.D. 62 and the Gospel of Luke is primarily narrative in form and follows the chronology of Christ's life and death.

To whom was it written?

- Luke wrote this letter primarily to a man named Theophilus who was probably wealthy and had prominent social standing. In addition, Luke's broader audience was Gentile Christians (like Theophilus) who had already been taught about Jesus but also to accomplish these goals: 1) to assure his readers of the certainty of what they had been taught 2) to help his readers understand how Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentile's entrance into the kingdom of God is in accord with the divine plan 3) to clarify for his readers Jesus' teaching concerning the end times and 4) to emphasize that his readers need not fear Rome.

Why was it written?

- Luke wrote his Gospel so that his readers would understand that the gospel is for all, both Jews and Gentiles alike, since Jesus is the promised one of God as prophesied in the Old Testament and as attested through God's saving activity in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Luke also emphasized the truthfulness of the Christian traditions his readers had been taught, so that by believing in Jesus Christ, the son of God, they would receive the promised Holy Spirit whom he gives to all who follow him.

Instructions

- *For Life Groups:* Pick one question from the **CONTEXT, OBSERVATION, and MEANING** sections. Spend the bulk of your time in the **APPLICATION** section by choosing at least three questions.
- *For Personal Study:* Answer every question in every section.

The COMA Method: Context Observation Meaning Application

The COMA method comes from the book "One to One Bible Reading" by David Helm and is a simple and holistic way to read, understand, interpret, and apply the Scriptures to your life. Its simplicity helps you study the Bible personally, one on one, or in group settings while staying faithful to the text. This method provides the tools to draw out the author's intended meaning and forces the reader to ask good questions of the text in order to understand it clearly in order to apply it appropriately. Please use this method anytime you study the Bible and pick up a copy of "One to One Bible Reading" by David Helm wherever books are sold.

Luke 20:1-18 - The King is Rejected

Harmony of the Events of Holy Week

Day	Event	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Friday/Saturday	Jesus arrives in Bethany				12:1
	Mary anoints Jesus				12:2-8
	Crowd comes to see Jesus				12:9-11
Sunday	Triumphal entry into Jerusalem	21:1-11	11:1-10	19:28-44	12:12-18
	Some Greeks seek Jesus				12:20-36
	Enters temple		11:11		
	Returns to Bethany	21:17	11:11		
Monday	Jesus curses the fig tree	21:18-19	11:12-14		
	Clears the temple	21:12-13	11:15-17	19:45-46	
	Returns to Bethany with the Twelve		11:19		
Tuesday	Disciples see the withered fig tree on the return to Jerusalem	21:20-22	11:20-21		
	Temple controversies in Jerusalem	21:23-23:39	11:27-12:44	20:1-21:4	
	Olivet Discourse on the return to Bethany	24:1-25:46	13:1-37	21:5-36	
Wednesday	Jesus continues daily teaching in the temple			21:37-38	
	Sanhedrin plots to kill Jesus	26:3-5	14:1-2	22:1-2	
Wednesday/Thursday	Preparations for the Passover	26:17-19	14:12-16	22:7-13	
Thursday	Passover meal/Last Supper	26:20-35	14:17-26	22:14-30	
	Upper Room Discourse				13:1-17:26
	Jesus prays in Gethsemane	26:36-46	14:32-42	22:39-46	
Friday	Betrayal and arrest (<i>after midnight?</i>)	26:47-56	14:43-52	22:47-53	18:2-12
	Jewish trial:				
	—before Annas				18:13-24
	—before Caiaphas and part of the Sanhedrin	26:57-75	14:53-72	22:54-65	18:19-24
	—before full Sanhedrin (<i>after sunrise?</i>)	27:1-2	15:1	22:66-71	
	Roman trials:				
	—before Pilate	27:2-14	15:2-5	23:1-5	
	—before Herod			23:6-12	
	—before Pilate	27:15-26	15:6-15	23:13-25	18:28-19:16
	Crucifixion (<i>approx. 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.</i>)	27:27-54	15:16-39	23:26-49	19:16-37
Burial (<i>evening</i>)	27:57-61	15:42-47	23:50-54	19:38-42	
Sunday	Empty-tomb witnesses	28:1-8	16:1-8	24:1-12	
	Resurrection appearances	28:9-20	16:9-20	24:13-53	20:1-21:25

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**Some questions are original while others are adapted from David Helm's "One to One Bible Reading" book, Warren Wiersbe's "BE Series" books, the Serendipity Study Bible, or other Life Application Study Bible notes.*

CONTEXT

1. What has just happened in the verses prior to this section (19:45-48)? How does that story relate to this section?
2. Read the parallel accounts of this story in Matt. 21:23-46 and Mark 11:27-12:12

OBSERVATION: *What is the difference between the biblical audience and us?*

1. In Luke 20:1 we see that Jesus was “teaching” and “preaching the gospel”. If Jesus had died on the cross or resurrected yet, how could He have been “preaching the gospel”? What specifically do you think He was teaching/preaching? What was unique about Jesus’ teaching that hadn’t been seen before? (see Mark 1:21-22)
2. In 20:8, Jesus doesn’t give the chief priests or scribes an answer to their questions. Why is this? What does this communicate about Jesus?
3. In verses 9-18, what is the clear message Jesus is trying to communicate through this parable?

MEANING: *What is the timeless truth of this passage?*

1. Are lost people genuinely interested in the truth of Jesus, the gospel, or the Bible? Why or why not?
 - a. Can this ever change? How so?
2. When God sends a prophetic message or warning to His people, how is that usually received? (see Hebrews 11:32, 35-38)
 - a. Why is ignoring messengers of God such a big deal? Does this still happen today? How so?
 - b. Why do people ultimately reject God and His messengers?
 - c. What does this look like in 2021?
3. If Jesus is The Cornerstone, who (or what) is NOT the cornerstone?

- a. Identify common “false cornerstones” that Christians cling to instead of Jesus.

APPLICATION: *How should the text change my view of God and myself?*

1. What people, things, or events led you to recognize Jesus’ authority? What authority does Jesus have (or demand) now?
2. How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding of Jesus, His mission, or His approach to lost people?
3. Have you ever ignored Jesus? Have you ever misrepresented Him? Have you ever rejected Him?
 - a. If so, explain what you learned from this experience.
 - b. If so, confess this to Him, seek accountability from fellow believers, and seek to not only acknowledge Him as Lord and Savior but also follow Him faithfully and seek to represent Him with holiness and integrity.
4. Have you ever tried to “soften” the message of the gospel in terms of its exclusivity (Christ is the only way to eternal life) or eternal judgment?
 - a. Why is the exclusivity of Jesus so hard for people to embrace?
 - b. How can you help lost people understand that this exclusive gospel message (John 14:6) is actually good news for them?
 - c. Why is the inclusivity message so appealing today?
5. Are you prepared to share the gospel (the bad news and the good news) in such a way that gives someone the opportunity to respond? If not, when are you going to get trained and equipped to fulfill this basic command of Christ? (Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:16-20)
6. What has God been teaching you recently through your study of the Word?
 - a. What’s your next step?