

ADVENT 2019

HE WILL



A STUDY OF LUKE 1-2 PART 2

A LOOK AT THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISES
THROUGH CHRIST IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY
ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A RESOURCE FROM
ARISE MINISTRIES COLLECTIVE

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***For our Saturday morning girls.
We have such joy sharing &
learning with you.***

ABOUT US:

We are just two gals trying to learn how to study the Bible better. We have not been to Bible College, or even completed our undergrad degrees. We don't claim to be scholars or experts in theology. We do believe the Bible is for everyone, and we have spent many hours at our kitchen tables pouring over the pages of our Bibles, learning from teachers, and asking lots of questions. This little study guide is our first attempt at putting on paper the study method we have come to love, because of how it leads us to know the character of God. We think that changes everything. We hope you enjoy digging in and learning with us.

Your sisters in Christ,

Mary & Eryn

HE WILL
a study of Luke 1 & 2
PART 2

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CONSIDER AS YOU STUDY

We believe the Bible should be studied *for the purpose of understanding who God is*. The Bible is His story. Our primary focus will always be looking for God in the scripture, discovering what it reveals about His character, and what He is doing throughout the text. While it's tempting to search scripture for ways it applies to our own lives, we must first understand what it says about God's nature, His work, and the context in which it was written.

We believe that *knowing* the Bible is for everyone, and want to grow our bible study muscles! Please practice the habit of first doing your homework before consulting any outside commentary or teaching (including podcasts or videos). It's ok, and even good, to sit in the unknown for a little bit. The Spirit often reveals himself there. We hope you'll do the homework independently before discussing it with your small group or a friend. This will help you wrestle through the text and gain as much understanding as possible on your own. Consult any outside teaching or commentary if you want to dig deeper, but only after doing your homework and discussing with others.

Lastly, we encourage you to gather with a group of other women who want to deepen their knowledge of the Word with you. Studying scripture is so rich and enjoyable when shared with friends (or a great way to make new ones), and we love to see women processing what they've learned together. We hope you'll grab a friend or two or five and dig in together! Meet after you've spent the week doing the homework and have a discussion about what you learned.

We think doing things in this particular way really helps get the most out of your investment of studying God's Word. It's been our experience that this process becomes more enjoyable over time, and you see the connections come alive when the pieces of scripture you study begin to build on each other, little by little. It takes effort and commitment, but will be worth it. The truths of God's Word will "never return void" (Isaiah 55:11). We hope you enjoy it!

WEEK THREE

Once again, we encourage you to keep soaking in the whole chapters of Luke 1 & 2 throughout our study. Read it all as a story, and then read it again. And maybe again.

RE-READ LUKE 1:57-66 and mark these keywords as you read:

Circle the word **salvation** in red

Circle the phrase ***laid them/treasured up in their heart(s)*** in pink

Circle the word **Holy Spirit** in blue

Circle the word ***praise/worship in orange***

Circle the word **peace** in purple

1. What did you learn about God through reading and marking the text?

2. In your own words, write a summary of these verses in a few sentences.

3. What statements in Gabriel's foretelling of John's birth have already been fulfilled in vs 57-66? Fill in the chart below.

Gabriels Fortelling	John's Birth
Lk 1:13	Lk 1:57
Lk 1:13	Lk: 1:60+63
Lk 1:14	Lk 1:58
Lk 1:20	Lk 1:64

4. Zechariah and Elizabeth saw the fulfillment of Gabriel's foretelling in their son John. How do you think this impacted their belief that God would fulfill the remaining promises? What were God's remaining promises?

5. Look at the reaction of the neighbors and relatives observing these events. (65-66).

- What did they do ?
- What did they ask?

RE-READ LUKE 1:67-80

6. Make a list of the attributes of God you see in this passage.

HINT: It will be helpful if you read this section in multiple translations.

7. In your own words, write a summary of these verses in a few sentences.

8. Finally able to speak again, Zechariah begins prophesying. Take a look at the cross references and make notes of your observations in the chart below:

Zechariah's Prophecy Luke 1:68-79*	What is similar?
(68) Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people	1 Kings 1:48
(69) and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,	Ps 18:2
(70-71)as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;	Ps 106:10
(72-74) to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,	Gen 22:15-18 Zeph 3:15-17
(75) in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.	Eph 4:24 Titus 2:12
(76) And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,	Mal 3:1
(77)to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,	Mark 1:4
(78-79) because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Text used from ESV Crossway.org 2001	Mal 4:2

9. What has the Lord raised up (69)?

10. Refer to Daniel 7:24. Daniel receives an interpretation of his dream. What do the "horns" represent here?

Refer to Revelation 17:12. An angel is explaining the meaning of his vision to John. What does the angel say the "horns" represent?

What do you think the "horn" represents in Luke 1:69 and Psalm 18:2?

If we used the references above to help define what the "horn" symbolizes in verse 69, you could say the "horn" of salvation would be the _____ of salvation.

11. Think back to week 2 when we looked at the meaning of "Jesus" name.

What does the name "Jesus" or "Yeshua" mean? _____

So what do you think Zechariah is announcing here?

12. Zechariah says in verse 69 that a "horn of salvation" will be raised up from the house of His servant -----.

13. Look at 2 Samuel 7:12-16. God is speaking to Israel's King David through the prophet Nathan. What does it say God will do through King David?

14. What does Luke 1:71-72 say He will do (referring to Jesus/Horn of salvation)?

- (71) ----- and

- (72)----- and

15. Verses 72-73 refer to the holy covenant God made with Abraham. Look at Genesis 22:16. What was the promise God made to Abraham?

16. Why do the people of Israel receive this salvation? (74b-75).

17. What does Zechariah say John will do in verse 76? Where have we heard this before?

HINT: Look back to your answer in week 1 question 15. What does Gabriel say John will do?

18. What kind of a king do you think the people of Israel expected to come? What do you picture when you think of a king?

19. Look up the definition of the word "king" in a standard English dictionary. Write down what it says to help you gain clarity.

20. What kind of king does Zechariah describe in Luke 1: 78-79?

He will...

- Give light to ----- and
-----.
- Guide -----.

RE-READ LUKE 2:1-5

21. What does Luke highlight about Joseph in verse 4? Luke 1:27 will help you clarify.

22. Now take a look at the genealogy of Jesus according to Matthew 1:1-16 (Joseph's line). Note below some of the key players in Jesus family tree, and where they appear.

23. Now look at the genealogy of Jesus according to Luke 3:23-38 (Mary's Line). Note below some of the key players in Jesus family tree, and where they appear.

TIP: It might seem confusing that both genealogies use Joseph's name, but have differences. It is a traditional view held by Bible scholars that the genealogy in Luke is actually Mary's family tree. Jewish tradition did not include women's names in genealogies. Without a deeper understanding of the cultural context and original Greek language, it is not as obvious to us as it would have been to the original readers.

24. Why is it important to see that both sides of Jesus lineage (Mary & Joseph) can be traced to King David? Revisit Luke 1:32 to help with your answer.

APPLICATION:

25. How has God used a season of waiting in your life to bring you to a place of deeper faithfulness and worship, like he did with Zechariah's season of being unable to speak?

If you are *still waiting*, how can you worship & show faithfulness right now, even before your prayers are answered? Think back to week 2 of our study. Reflect on Hannah's example of weeping & worshipping while she waited for a child in her season of barrenness 1 Samuel 1.

26. Verse 78-79 speaks of the coming Savior, a "Sunrise from On High, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death"(ESV). In our modern times, who do you think those people are? Do you know anyone sitting in a dark place? This season can be one of the hardest for those living in darkness & shadows. How can you give light of the Sunrise to them?

THIS WEEK'S WRAP UP

The aspect of God's character that really stood out to me this week was:

In light of this characteristic of God, I see that I am -----.

What step(s) can I take this week to better live in the truth of who God is calling me to be?

WEEK FOUR

Once again, we encourage you to keep soaking in the whole chapters of Luke 1 & 2 throughout our study. Read it all as a story, and then read it again. And maybe again.

RE-READ LUKE 2:6-40 and mark these keywords as you read:

Circle the word **salvation** in red

Circle the word **spirit/ Holy Spirit** in blue

Circle the word **wonders/marvel/amazed** in green.

Circle the word **glorify/glory** in yellow.

Circle the word **Law of the Lord (or Law of Moses)** in pink

Circle the word **peace** in purple

Circle the word **praise/worship** in orange

1. What did you learn about God through reading and marking the text?

2. In your own words, write a summary of these verses in a few sentences.

Luke 2:6-21

Luke 2:22-35

Luke 2:36-40

RE-READ LUKE 2:6-24:

3. The event in verses 6-7 is **very significant**. Use your own words to describe what happens here.

Look at these cross references and make notes of connections you see or phrases they have in common.

John 1:14

Isaiah 9:6-7

1 John 1:1-3

This is the moment where the Son of God comes in human flesh, dwelling among us, so that it would be clear to us who God is. In Christ, He gave us a way to be in relationship with Him for eternity. THIS. IS. HUGE. ***Don't miss it.*** Let's take a minute to pause and soak that in. Now would be a great time to pray and thank God for the incredible, tangible gift He has given us in His Son, Jesus.

4. How do the shepherds respond to the appearance of the angel in Luke 2:9?

How did Zechariah feel when he saw the angel in Luke 1:12?

How did Mary feel when she saw the angel in Luke 1:29?

What does the angel say in response to all three about their fear?

5. What is the angel's announcement in Luke 2: 10-11? Who is his good news for?

6. The angel gives the shepherds three signs to look for to confirm this announcement. List them below:

- -----
- -----
- -----

7. The heavenly host, in Luke 2:14, say, "glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is well pleased". What does Zechariah say in the final line of his prophecy about what the coming king will do?
8. What do the shepherds discover when they find Mary & Joseph?

HINT: Look at Luke 2:4 & 7

9. The text in verse 19 says, "Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart."

Look up the definition for the word "pondered" in a standard english dictionary and write it below.

We saw similar phrasing in Luke 1:65-66. Why do you think Luke includes this pause at these parts of the story?

10. What do the shepherds do on their way back Luke 2:20?

11. In verse 21, Mary & Joseph named the baby _____.

What does the name Jesus mean? _____

HINT: Visit your study guide week 1, page 7 and if you need to jog your memory.

RE-READ LUKE 2:25-35:

12. Why did Mary & Joseph bring baby Jesus to the temple? (v.27)

13. What did you learn about Simeon?

- He was _____ and _____
- Waiting for _____
- The _____ was upon him
- He would not _____

14. How did Simeon know that he would see "the Lord's Christ" before he died?

15. How did Simeon know to come to the temple when he did?

16. We read this about Simeon in verse 25: "the Holy Spirit was upon him". Who else have we seen described this way in Luke 1 and 2? Give your scripture references.

17. What similar character traits do you see in these people?

18. In verse 29, Simeon says "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;" What is Simeon referring to when he says "according to your word"?

HINT: look back to verse 26

What does making this connection show you about God?

19. In verse 28, Simeon takes the child (Jesus) into his arms. What does he say when he's holding Jesus in verse 30?

What does Jesus name mean again?-----

20. Who does Simeon say salvation is for in verse 32?

- -----
- -----

Why do you think this statement is important?

21. What does Simeon say the child is appointed for in verse 34?

RE-READ LUKE 2:36-40

22. What do we learn about Anna in verses 36-38?

23. What was Anna's response when she came upon Simeon talking with Mary in the temple?

24. Compare verse 40 to a similar phrase used to describe John in Luke 1:80.

What is similar to this verse?

What is the difference?

What does this indicate about Jesus?

APPLICATION

25. What would it look like for you to live out a "Spirit-filled" life similar to those we've seen in Luke 1 and 2?
26. As we saw Mary do in Luke 1:39, the shepherds in Luke 2:15-16 responded "with haste" to what the Lord made known to them. How ready are you to respond to God?

THIS WEEK'S WRAP UP

27. The aspect of God's character that really stood out to me this week was: -----

28. In light of this characteristic of God, I see that I am -----.

29. What step(s) can I take this week to better live in the truth of who God is calling me to be?

HE WILL STUDY SUMMARY

30. In the past 4 weeks we have seen that through Jesus' birth, God fulfilled His Law, His covenant with Abraham, and His covenant with David. What does that reveal to you about who God is?

What does this mean for you?

31. Throughout our study of Luke 1 & 2 we have seen several people respond to God's faithfulness: Elizabeth, Mary, Zechariah, the shepherds, the Heavenly host, Simeon and most recently Anna. What do they all have in common?

How do you respond when you see God's faithfulness in your own life?

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

We are so glad you've invested your time in studying Luke 1 & 2 with us. It is our prayer that through this study you have seen that God always does what He says He will do. By looking at the ways He fulfills His promises, we have such great hope for what is yet to come.

Throughout the story of scripture we see God's pattern of using unexpected people to accomplish His plans. We believe that all of this points to Jesus, the King of Salvation. From the moment of His birth, His life demonstrates that His Kingdom is not like earthly kingdoms. God's ways are not our ways. He came to bring Light to the darkness, and His Kingdom will reign forever.

As you close this study and celebrate Christmas, we hope you have a deeper understanding of the significance of this season and the hope that it brings for **all** people.

We are so grateful for you.

With Love,

Mary & Eryn

RESOURCES

Helpful resource Intro to Luke:

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/intros/luke.cfm>

Hebrew name resources:

<http://www.hebrew-streams.org/frontstuff/jesus-yeshua.html>

<https://ulpan.com/how-to-say-salvation-in-hebrew/>

Scripture Text

<https://www.esv.org/Luke+1/> (scripture quoted)

A couple resources from The Bible Project that we really enjoyed during our research process:

<https://thebibleproject.com/videos/gospel-luke-1/>

<https://thebibleproject.simplecast.com/episodes/5c984bc1-5c984bc1>

<https://thebibleproject.simplecast.com/episodes/9fdcba2b>

<https://thebibleproject.simplecast.com/episodes/4f1c3d3b>

Arise Ministries Collective Resource: Inductive Bible Study Method Worksheet

<https://ariseministriescollective.org/inductive-bible-study-method/>