

## **Luke Observation Pocket Guide**

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### **PRAY: Invite God to Speak.**

“God, I want to hear from You. Prepare my heart for what you have to say. Holy Spirit, come and teach me from this Holy Book. Please help my mind to understand it. Help my eyes to see the beauty of Jesus Christ. Put new desires in my heart and teach me the fear of the Lord. I want to be changed by Your Word today.”

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### **READ: Get the lay of the land.**

Read the assigned passage. Read it again. Get a feel for the story. Mark the things that stand out to you right away. Glance at the previous passage to remember the context. Get a feel for the flow of the passage. Keep your eyes open for Luke’s major themes: **Salvation, Kingdom, Rejection, and Fulfillment**. Consider color-coding these themes.

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### **OBSERVE: What does the Word say?**

Continue to read and mark up the passage. Circle, underline, or highlight things you notice. Write down your notes and questions in a separate notebook. **Begin by listing some immediate questions you have.** Then work slowly through the passage writing down as many observations as your time allows. Here is an extensive list of things you might look for as you study a narrative book like Luke:

**WHO?** - List everyone mentioned in the story. What do you learn about the main characters?

- Does Luke mention anyone who is not present? Why might Luke have mentioned them here?
- Remember: Who is writing this narrative? Who is the original audience?

**WHAT?** - What happened? (or What is being talked about?) List the events in order.

- Are there any repeated words or ideas in the passage?
- What does Luke want us to compare or contrast? (Look for people/events/ideas next to each other.)
- If this is a “teaching” section, what is being taught? What style of teaching is used? (eg. parables, questions, overstatement, metaphor/simile, warnings, etc.)
- Does Luke quote or allude to any prophecies, promises, people or events from the Old Testament? (Consider using cross references to look these up.)

**WHEN and WHERE?** - Setting: When and where are these events taking place? Any significance?

- Biblical Context: What happened right before this? What is coming next?  
Where does this passage sit in the overall narrative of Luke? (1. Birth and Early Life, 2. Ministry in Galilee, 3: Journey to Jerusalem, or 4: Climactic events in Jerusalem)
- Historical/Cultural Context: Take note of practices, ceremonies, objects, titles, places, etc. that might be significant to first century Judaism, but unfamiliar to modern readers. You may want to get help from your small group leader, a Bible Dictionary or Study Bible to understand the significance of these things.

**WHY?** - Why did Luke place these people/events/stories next to one another? What do they have in common? Is there something to compare or contrast?

- Why did Jesus do (or not do), say (or not say) a particular thing?
- Why do you think Luke chose to include/omit certain details?

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- HOW:** - How does God (Jesus) interact with people in this passage? How do people respond?
- How do Luke's Old Testament quotations help explain what is happening here?
  - How does Luke point to **Salvation, Kingdom, Rejection, or Fulfillment** in this passage?

- FINALLY:** - Reread the passage one more time. What else do you notice?
- The Bible is primarily a book about God. What does this passage tell us about Who God is and what He is like?
  - What questions do you have that are still unanswered? **Unanswered questions are OKAY!** A long list of questions means you have thought deeply about the text. You may want to seek out answers to 1 or 2 burning questions you have. (Try reading other Bible translations, looking up cross references, journaling about the question, and talking to your spouse or small group. Once you have your own best guess about the answer, consult a Study Bible or trusted commentary to get an "expert" opinion.)

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### **INTERPRET:** What did it mean "THERE and THEN"?

- **Summarize or Outline the passage using your own words.** "What basically happened in this passage is..."
- **What do you think Luke really wanted his readers to understand from this passage?** Consider why Luke chose to include this particular story.

**Bonus:** Can you rewrite your answer in one sentence?

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### **APPLY:** What does it mean "HERE and NOW"?

What have I personally learned **about GOD** and **the Gospel** from this passage?

**What does this mean for my life?** Is there...

... an example to follow?	... a prayer to repeat?	... a verse to memorize?
... a sin to repent/avoid?	... a command to obey?	... a thought pattern to change?
... a promise to trust?	... a condition to meet?	

**How can I put this into action right away?** What will change in the next 24-48 hours? What action steps do I need to take? (Create reminders, tell someone else, make a phone call, memorize a verse, etc.)

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### **P.R.A.Y.:** Be transformed by responding back to God in prayer.

<b>P - Praise.</b> Thank and Praise God for Who He is and what He has done. Be specific.	<b>R - Repent.</b> Confess your sin to God and turn from it. Agree with God about the things that need to change. Be specific.
<b>A - Ask.</b> What will you ask God to do based on what He has shown you? How do you need His help? Be specific.	<b>Y - Yield.</b> What do you need to surrender to God? How can you trust and obey Him in response to what He has shown you? Be specific.