

Deeper Riches: Luke Bible Study
Week 3 - Luke 2:1-52

Before You Begin...

This week's passage is so well known that you have likely heard it read aloud before. When coming to such a familiar passage, it is sometimes challenging to set aside our previous assumptions about the text and see it with fresh eyes. It might help to choose a translation that is different than the one you normally use. Or you could read the text slowly, pausing to ask yourself why Luke chose to include certain phrases or details in the story that you've maybe taken for granted. What do these words actually mean? Are there any details you have heard added to the story over the years that are not actually in the Bible? Lastly, this may be the first time you are reading this passage in its context, so look for ways this story connects to the stories around it.

"God, give me fresh eyes to see the story of the birth of your Son. Open my mind to grasp the glory of this Christ child and give me new wonder and awe at who you are and what you have done. Speak to me through your Word, and help me to properly receive the Savior of the world."

Day 1 - Luke 2:1-7

1. **Read Luke 2:1-7.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice things like:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**?
- **repeated words** or ideas*

(*If you prefer to take some time to write out more observations, try using the **Observation Guides** at DeeperRiches.com/Luke or write out your observations and thoughts in a journal.)

2. Read **Luke 2:1-4.** What do these historical figures and events tell you about what was happening in Israel at the time of the birth of Christ?

3. Read **Luke 2:4-6.**

- a. What is the reason Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem?
- b. Read **John 7:42.** What was the significance of Jesus being born in Bethlehem?
- c. What do these events from **Luke 2:1-6** tell you about the means God uses to accomplish his purposes on earth? Why do you think it might be important to remember that today?

Please Note: This free printable is the copyright work of DEEPER RICHES. Please do not alter the content without permission of the author. If you would like to purchase for distribution, please contact us at: www.deeperriches.com/contact. Thank you!

Luke Study Guide: Week 3 - Luke 2:1-52

4. Luke has made it clear that this is the birth of the long awaited Messiah King from the line of David.
- What details make this birth different than other “royal” births you have heard of?
 - What do the circumstances of the birth (**Luke 2:7**) reveal about the kind of King this baby is going to be?

5. **Philippians 2:5-11** describes the humility the Son of God took upon himself in this moment. Read it with the baby in the manger in mind. What stands out to you? How does that passage impact how you view the scene in Luke 2:7?

6. The historical fact that the Son of God took on a human body is an essential tenet of the Christian faith called “**the incarnation.**” Why was it absolutely necessary that He take on a real human body and be born as a baby? Consider both **Hebrews 2:14-18** and **Hebrews 9:22**.

7. Stop and think: What difference does it make in your everyday life that God, the Son, humbled himself and took on human flesh?

RESPOND right now in prayer to what God has shown you today. If you can, get on your knees or bow your head and sincerely talk to God about these things.

Day 2 - Luke 2:8-19

1. **Read Luke 2:8-19.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice things like:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**?
- **repeated words** or ideas

2. What kind of people receive the announcement of the birth of the Savior (**Luke 2:8-9**)? What does this tell you about the Kingdom of God?

Luke Study Guide: Week 3 - Luke 2:1-52

3. What stands out to you as significant about the “good news” that the angel shared with the shepherds (2:10-12)?

4. How does this “**good news for all the people**” compare with the news that went out to all the people in **Luke 2:1**? What does that tell you about how Jesus is different from the kings of the earth?

5. What do you make of the fact that the announcement that began with one angel turned into an army of angels praising God?

6. How does Jesus’ birth compare to the birth of John the Baptist (in Luke 1) in terms of both **humility** and **glory**?

7. The multitude of angels proclaimed: “**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased**” (Luke 2:14 ESV).

a. Which kind(s) of peace does Jesus bring on earth? Circle your answer(s):

Peace between nations

Peace in human relationships

Peace between God and Mankind

Peace between God and individual people

**Deep Dive: Can you explain how Jesus brings peace on earth in each one of the above areas? Consider peace that has already been achieved and also peace that will come in the future.*

b. This peace is for “**those with whom [God] is pleased?**” (NIV says, “**those on whom his favor rests.**”) What do you think this means?

8. How were the shepherds supposed to find this newborn Savior (**Luke 2:12**)? Imagine what kinds of fears and obstacles they might have had to overcome in order to go investigate what had been told to them.

Luke Study Guide: Week 3 - Luke 2:1-52

9. What did the shepherds do with the good news the angels brought them? List in order everything the shepherds did in **Luke 2:15-20**.

10. How about you? Are you letting the “**good news**” about Jesus affect you so deeply that you are compelled to praise God and tell others what has been revealed to you? What do you think God wants you to do with this today? What fears or thoughts hold you back?

Take a moment right now, to “**treasure up**” the good news of this passage. Like Mary, **ponder** it in your heart. If you have not treasured this good news daily as you should, **confess** that to God and **ask** Him to make the glory of the gospel burst forth in your life again.

Day 3 - Luke 2:20-40

1. **Read Luke 2:20-40**. Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice things like:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**?
- **repeated words** or ideas

2. Read the short description in **Leviticus 12:1-8** of the religious rites surrounding childbirth. To what extent do Mary and Joseph obey this Law of Moses (**Luke 2:20-24, 39**)? Why do you think it was important for Jesus to be entrusted to earthly parents who would obey God’s Law about these things?

3. According to **Leviticus 12:8**, why did Mary and Joseph bring a pair of pigeons as their sacrifice instead of bringing a lamb? Why might Luke have included this detail?

4. What do you notice about Simeon in **Luke 2:25-28**? How is he able to recognize that Jesus is the Christ child?

Luke Study Guide: Week 3 - Luke 2:1-52

5. Read **Luke 2:29-32**. Why do you think Simeon said, “my eyes **have seen** your salvation” (past tense) when the saving work of Christ’s death on the cross was still in the future?

6. What new information do we learn from Simeon about **salvation** that would have been especially encouraging to Luke’s audience (**Luke 2:30-32**)?

How might this relate to the end of Zechariah’s prophecy, **Luke 1:78-79**?

7. Think about Simeon’s prophecy in **Luke 2:34-35**:

- a. According to Simeon, how was Israel going to receive this Savior?
- b. What do you think it means that Jesus will cause some in Israel to “rise,” and some to “fall”? (Consider **1 Peter 2:6-8**).
- c. Can you think of any reason why people would oppose Jesus, the Prince of Peace?
- d. How have you seen the mention of Jesus reveal the thoughts of people’s hearts?

8. a. What do Simeon and Anna have in common?

b. Why do you think God chose to reveal the Christ to them?

c. In what way are they an example for us of how to be “*a people prepared*” to receive Jesus when He comes again? (Consider **Hebrews 9:28**.)

9. God rewarded Simeon and Anna because they were totally devoted to waiting for the promised Messiah. How about you? What thoughts, feelings, hopes or fears come into your head when you think about Jesus coming back?

Stop right now and **P.R.A.Y.** to the Lord about these things. (**P.R.A.Y.** = **Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield**)

Day 4 - Luke 2:41-52

1. **Read Luke 2:41-52.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice things like:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**?
- **repeated words** or ideas

2. What seems important to you about why Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem in **Luke 2:41-42**?

3. Why do you think Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem when his family left? Consider how Jesus' view of his family, of Himself, and of Jerusalem may be different than Mary's at this point.

4. It was the established practice in the temple for teachers of the Law to sit with their students and engage in an exchange of questions and answers.

- a. How do the teachers in the temple seem to receive Jesus at age 12? (**2:46-47**)
- b. Carefully read verses **2:46-47**. What do you notice about Jesus' style of interaction with the teachers in the temple?
- c. Read **Luke 20:1-8** and describe how things will change (or stay the same) when Jesus enters the Temple during his adult ministry.

5. Jesus called the Temple, "**my Father's house**" (2:49). You can read about the first dedication of the temple in **1 Kings 8**. Pay special attention to King Solomon's words in **1 Kings 8:12-13** and **27**. With these words in mind, what is the significance of Jesus' presence in the temple?

6. What do you make of how differently Mary and Jesus seem to experience this event (**2:48-50**)?

Luke Study Guide: Week 3 - Luke 2:1-52

7. With the reception Jesus received in the temple, perhaps he could've begun his ministry right then and there. Instead, Luke tells us he went with his parents back to Nazareth and was submissive to them (**2:51**). Why do you think it was important for Jesus to live an ordinary life as part of an ordinary family for nearly the next two decades? Consider **Hebrews 2:17-18**.

8. What else seems significant to you about the way Luke wraps up this story in **Luke 2:51-52**?

9. This is the only story of Jesus' childhood or adolescence in all of Scripture. Why do you think Luke chose to include this particular story? What does it reveal about Jesus and his mission?

10. How does Jesus' example in this passage encourage or challenge you personally?

Confess to God any sin that he brought to your mind. **Ask** Him to help you. Be specific.

Day 5: Pulling it all together

1. What is one thing you think Luke really wants us to understand from these stories of Jesus' birth and childhood? **If you have time, reread all of Luke 2 before answering.**

2. Luke makes it clear to us that Jesus is the long awaited Messiah King. What does this chapter demonstrate about the Kingdom of God? Who is this kingdom for, and what kind of King will this Jesus be?

3. What does Luke teach us about the role and work of the Holy Spirit in this chapter? Where was the Holy Spirit mentioned, and what was He doing?

Luke Study Guide: Week 3 - Luke 2:1-52

4. According to **John 1:29**, Jesus is “*the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.*” He was our final “**Passover Lamb**,” a “*once and for all*” sacrifice so that no further blood offering for sin is ever necessary in the temple (**1 Corinthians 5:7**, **Hebrews 10**). Looking back over **Luke 2:1-58**, how does Luke point to Jesus as the Lamb of God throughout this entire chapter?

5. Luke researched his gospel by interviewing eyewitnesses and people who were very familiar with these events. Who could have been Luke’s primary source for the events in these first two chapters? What evidence from the text supports your opinion?

6. What is your most important personal take-away from this chapter? (For example, was there a **key verse**, a **special insight**, an **example** to follow, a new **way to pray**, something that **challenged** or **convicted** you, etc...)

In what area of your life does this seem to matter most, and how?

One of the best ways to **apply** the Word of God to your own life is to simply pray about what you have seen in the passage. Try this acronym: **P.R.A.Y.** - **Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield.**

P.R.A.Y. in response to this passage:

<p>PRAISE. Thank and Praise God for Who He is and what He has done. Be specific.</p>	<p>REPENT. Confess your sin to God and turn from it. Agree with God about the things that need to change. Be specific.</p>
<p>ASK. What will you ask God to do based on what He has shown you? Be specific.</p>	<p>YIELD. What will you surrender to God? How can you trust and obey Him in response to what He has shown you? Be specific.</p>

Small Group Discussion Guide:

1. The baby in the manger is a very familiar story to most of us. What did you see in it this week that was new or awe inspiring? How does this impact how you think about Christmas? How does it matter to your life today?
2. Luke makes it clear to us that Jesus is the long awaited Messiah King. What does this chapter demonstrate about the Kingdom of God? Who is this kingdom for, and what kind of King will this Jesus be?
3. The multitude of angels proclaimed: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased." What kind of peace does Jesus bring on earth?
4. Does the "good news of great joy" have the same effect on you today as it did on the angels and the shepherds? Why or why not?
5. What strikes you as important about Mary and Joseph's visit to the temple with the infant Jesus? Why do you think Luke included these details?
6. In what way are Simeon and Anna an example for us of how to be "*a people prepared*" to receive Jesus when He comes again?
7. What does Luke teach us about the role and work of the Holy Spirit in this chapter? Where was the Holy Spirit mentioned, and what was He doing?
8. Luke 2:41-52 is the only story of Jesus' childhood or adolescence in all of Scripture. Why do you think Luke chose to include this particular story?
9. According to **John 1:29**, Jesus is "***the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.***" He was our final "***Passover Lamb,***" a "***once and for all***" sacrifice so that no further blood offering for sin is ever necessary in the temple (**1 Corinthians 5:7, Hebrews 10**). Looking back over **Luke 2:1-58**, how does Luke point to Jesus as the Lamb of God throughout this entire chapter?

What is your big take-away from this chapter of Luke? Is there anything you need to confess or yield to God in response to this Truth? What will you praise God for? What will you ask God to do?