

# **AN INTRODUCTION TO LUKE**

## **Investigating Jesus**

### **LUKE 1:1-4**

**ICE BREAKER** What nonfiction book have you read lately? How do you know that what the author has written is true?

**BACKGROUND** Luke was a physician and travel companion of the apostle Paul. He also meticulously recorded the \*facts\* of the life of Jesus so we could be certain of our faith.

**THE BIG PICTURE** The Gospel is for everyone! We can be certain HIS words are true!

#### **DIGGING DEEPER: Read Luke 1:1-4 & Acts 1:1-2**

**The Author of Luke** Luke tells the story of Jesus from the unique perspective of an unchurched Gentile, a physician and historian. How would being a Gentile give Luke a different perspective of Jesus? What would you expect from the writings of a doctor? Why is his account reliable and trustworthy? Why is it encouraging to know that Luke took such great pains to investigate/record history so accurately?

**The Recipient of Luke: Theophilus** We don't know much about Theophilus, but he was most likely a government leader, wealthy, prominent, educated and a Gentile. Why did Luke write to him? (v3) What kinds of questions do you imagine Theophilus would want Luke to answer in his writing?

**The Book of Luke** What is Luke investigating? (v2) What is unique to Luke's gospel?<sup>1</sup> Why are each of these unique items significant?

**The Jesus of Luke** Luke presents Jesus as the "Son of Man" — God in human flesh who came to walk with the wounded/broken/outcast/hurting... What is the significance of this theme?

**Purpose of Writing Luke** What was the purpose of writing this book? (v3) What did Luke want us to be certain of? How does Luke's careful investigation make you more confident in reading the book of Luke?

#### **CONCLUSION**

- Why is Luke's message appropriate for people in our world?
- How do you think Luke's emphasis on talking to eyewitnesses and writing an orderly account will help you as you study his Gospel in the coming weeks?
- Luke had to research and discover Jesus for himself in order to share him effectively with others. Think back to when God became more than a word to you — when you discovered He wanted a personal relationship with you. What first got your attention? How did you know it was true?
- What are you looking forward to learning about Jesus as we study this book together?
- What stood out to you the most in this message/passage?

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<sup>1</sup> The uniqueness of Luke's gospel: (1) Only Gospel written by Gentile (2) Longest/detailed Gospel (3) 41 unique passages/stories (4) Shows Jesus' compassion for the poor/outcast