

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**Certainty**

LUKE 1:1-4

OVERVIEW

Luke is the longest and most comprehensive of the four Gospels, presenting Jesus as the Perfect Man who came to save sinful men. Growing belief and growing opposition develop side by side. Those who believe his claims are challenged to count the cost of discipleship; those who oppose him will not be satisfied until the Son of Man hangs lifeless on a cross. But the resurrection insures that his ministry of seeking and saving the lost will continue through his disciples once they have been equipped with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Luke reveals that Jesus is the King, and he has come to inaugurate his Kingdom. (Adapted from *Talk Through the Bible*).

APPLY // 1 JOHN 4:7-12

1. Read 1 John 4:7-12.
2. Why is it important to realize “God is love” (in his essence) and not just that God does loving things?
3. How does the love defined and demonstrated in this passage compare with what our culture often says about love?
4. In what ways have you been loved by other church members? How has this helped you see and savor God?

STUDY // LUKE 1:1-4

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

Introductory Notes: The Gospel of Luke belongs to what is called the three “Synoptic Gospels” – Matthew, Mark, and Luke. These Gospel “see” (optic) “together” (syn-). They each tell the same basic story about Jesus Christ from a similar point of view (as different from that of John).

1. Read Luke 1. (We’ll focus on verses 1-4).
2. From these four verses, what do you learn about the Gospel of Luke?
3. What do we know about Luke? See Colossians 4:14; Philemon 1:24; 2 Timothy 4:11.
 - a. See below for note on Lukan authorship.
4. Why would “many” seek to compile an account of the “these things that have been accomplished (or fulfilled)” and what were “these things”?
5. What is significant about “those” being described as “eyewitnesses”?
6. In verse 3, what does the word “word” refer to here? Who are the “ministers” of it?
7. What does verse 3 reveal about Luke?

8. In verse 3 Luke tells us he wrote to Theophilus. What can we learn about Theophilus from the text? Why did Luke write to him?
9. What do these beginning verses tell us about the historical accuracy of this Gospel?

Note on Authorship: The third Gospel does not name its author. This is also true of the book of Acts, the author's second work. This does not mean, however, that the original readers did not know who wrote these two books. The "we" sections of Acts (16:10–17; 20:5–21:18; 27:1–28:16) assume that the author was a companion of Paul and participated in the events described in those sections. Thus the author of Acts was probably one of Paul's companions listed in his letters written during those periods (Luke is listed in Col. 4:14; 2 Tim. 4:11; Philem. 24) and not one of those referred to in the third person in the "we" sections (cf. Acts 20:4–5), thus the list can be narrowed down to Titus and Luke. Titus has never been seriously regarded as a possible author of Acts, and Luke best fits the description/requirements. (From *ESV Study Bible*)

- General Bible study questions:
 - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
 - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: How is your love for God? For one another?