

Dundonald Youth: Luke

Week 1: Luke's 'orderly account'!

Open in prayer: Ask God to be with you, speaking to you through his word, helping you to trust Jesus Christ.

BEFORE THIS STUDY - listen to Pete TG talk here: <https://youtu.be/VfpEpaKbVYg>

As I just said in the video - this term we are going to be looking at the bit of the bible written by a man called Luke. Unfortunately he doesn't have Instagram, so to find out a bit more about him we're gonna need to do some research. Follow the references to start filling in Luke's bio:

Who was he?

Read Colossians 4:14. The Apostle Paul is the author of this letter (Colossians 1:1) so clearly Luke is a close friend of Paul's, and Luke is a doctor. In Colossians 4:10-11 Paul says only a few Jews are working with him to spread the good news about the Kingdom of God, so Luke must not be Jewish = a Gentile.

Read Philemon 1:23-24. Again, Luke is called a fellow worker. He isn't in prison with Paul, but he's a close colleague.

When was he?

Read Acts 16:10. In the book of Acts (which is written by Luke) we read about Paul's dramatic conversion (Acts 9) and his travels as a missionary, as he travelled around telling people the good news about Jesus. In Acts 16:10, for the first time in the book Luke uses 'WE' and 'US' because now Luke is *with* Paul. The year is around 51AD, about 20 years after Jesus' death & resurrection. At some points in the book of Acts, Luke is travelling with Paul (and writes in 1st person) and at other points he isn't with Paul (and writes in 3rd person) - eg. **read Acts 20:14-17** and notice the change from 'we' to 'Paul'. We know that Luke was with Paul all the way to Rome and the end of Paul's life because the 'we' language continues to the end of Acts, and because of what Paul writes in **2 Timothy 4:9-11** (take a look!). Scholars date the letter of 2 Timothy (and Paul's death) to around AD68, so Luke was travelling and observing and writing from about 20-60 years after Jesus had returned to heaven.

Conclusion: Luke was a gentile doctor, who had become a follower of Jesus, and was a fellow worker with Paul, travelling around spreading the good news about Jesus.

Dundonald Youth: Luke

Read Luke 1:1-4

How does Luke introduce his gospel? How did he write this book, and why?

verse 1-2 - Luke wasn't the first/only person to write about Jesus! Many eye-witnesses of Jesus' life and ministry told people what they saw and heard. This book is going to be about the things that have been '*fulfilled*' among us' because everything God *promised* in the Old Testament is *fulfilled* by Jesus.

verse 3 - Luke, a doctor by profession, has '*carefully investigated*' everything '*from the beginning*' so he decides to write an '*orderly account*' of who Jesus was and what he did, for his friend / acquaintance 'Theophilus'. We don't know much about this man, but 'Theophilus' simply *means* 'friend of God' so clearly Luke didn't want Theophilus to be the only person that read this book... God inspired Luke, and had it perfectly recorded so that people like us could read it too!

verse 4 - this book is written SO THAT the 'friend of God' may **know** with **certainty** the things they've been taught. Luke will need two volumes to write everything he wants to say (Luke & Acts) and you can read **Acts 1:1-2** to see how he describes Volume I in his own words...

What do you think Luke's prayer would be for us, as we read his book? Luke has written his orderly account so that people can know with certainty the things they've heard / been taught about Jesus. Many of us have been taught stuff about Jesus by parents / Kids & Youth leaders / friends, or maybe we're discovering things for the 1st time as we read Luke's gospel - either way Luke's prayer would be the same: that we'd **know** who Jesus is, what he has done, *why*, and that we'd put our **faith** in Him.

How does Luke 1:1-4, and the 4 'Attributes of Scripture' (Authority, Clarity, Necessity, Sufficiency) encourage you that doing these bible studies are a good use of your time? Jesus is unquestionably the most influential person to ever walk the earth. 2,000 years later his teaching still shapes the world, and his claims about eternity and judgement and salvation *must be* carefully considered. How wonderful that God has given us the bible?! How helpful that Luke has carefully investigated and recorded everything so that we can be confident about what we believe?! What other/better way to learn how to be saved and how to live a full, joyful, godly life?! What a glorious journey we are embarking on together!

Pray: Thank God for his word, and pray that we would grow a strong & confident faith in Jesus.

Listen/Sing: How Firm a Foundation - Co-Mission (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dumT-u9tR78>)

Meditate: 2 Timothy 3:16