

Journey Through Luke & Acts

Session 1 | Who Is Jesus and Why Did He Come?

Discussion Guide

- KEY THEME -

An introduction to Jesus and His mission

- OPENING COMMUNITY BUILDER QUESTIONS -

Select one or more of the questions below to get your group discussion started.

1. What silly habit do you have that no one really knows about?
2. Have each person say their name and add a positive adjective that describes them. Have the next person repeat the names before them and add their own name (ex. Joyful Jack).
3. How would your spouse or closest friend describe you?
4. What made you decide to be part of a group for a season?

If you think your group needs a little bit more warming up before diving into the Bible passages for this week, try one of these community-building questions.

- Let's say you want to learn more about a particular topic—like fishing or cooking. You decide to read a book to help you learn the basics. What kinds of things would you look for in picking out the right book?
- Imagine that you've been given an assignment by your boss to learn everything you can about a fire that destroyed an entire neighborhood in your town 20 years earlier. How would you conduct your investigation?

- THE BOOK OF LUKE | LUKE 1:1-4 -

Study Questions

Read Luke 1:1-4 aloud as a group twice. Then select a few of the questions below to discuss.

1. According to these first four verses, why did the author of the book of Luke write what he did? How do you think what Luke wrote helped to provide Theophilus certainty?
[For a discussion of why scholars believe it was Luke who wrote this Gospel, see the overview written at the beginning of the *Journey* book]
2. What does Luke say he did to draw up his account? If you had wanted to write an account about who Jesus was and what He'd done on earth, who would you have interviewed? Where would you have gone? What would you have read?
3. Why do you think Luke included these first few lines in his account? How do they impact your own reading or understanding of Luke's account of Jesus and the meaning of His life, death, and resurrection?

- KNOWING ABOUT VS. KNOWING - LUKE 1:26-38; 2:4-12; 3:21-22

Study Questions

Read all three of the passages of Scripture referenced above aloud as a group two or three times each, and include multiple readers. Then select a few of the questions below to discuss.

1. What stood out to you the most in these passages of Scripture? Why?
2. What are the various names or descriptions given to Jesus in the passage? What meaning does each name or description carry?

- WATCH THE VIDEO -

3. What has helped you know *about* Jesus? Alternatively, what has helped you *know* Him? **[this question is in the video]**
4. How would you describe Jesus to a friend? **[this question is in the video]**
5. Consider God the Father's words to Jesus as He was baptized: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Why do you think God spoke these words over Jesus at His baptism?
6. Imagine God the Father speaking the same words He spoke over Jesus to you. How would that feel?

- MISSION & A COMMUNITY - LUKE 4:14-21; 6:12-16

Study Questions

Read the passages of Scripture referenced above aloud as a group two or three times each, and include multiple readers. Then select a few of the questions below to discuss.

1. How would you describe Jesus' mission on earth?
2. What did Jesus' words about His mission make you feel? What did they make you think?
3. What element of Jesus' mission resonates the most with you?
4. Why do you think Jesus chose 12 disciples to train, teach, and share His life with?
5. What do you think your mission is? How does it relate to Jesus' mission?
6. Why do you think community matters as you fulfill your mission?

- CLOSING THOUGHTS -

As your time comes to an end, remind your group members when you're meeting next and to read the second week of devotionals from the *Journey* book (or online) in preparation for that meeting. Close your time together by praying for whatever difficulties or needs were shared during your gathering.