

LESSON 1
TO TELL THE TRUTH
LUKE INTRODUCTION



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

2 Which of these sources of information do you trust the least: television news, radio news, newspapers, news magazines, tabloid magazines? Why?

3 Which of those news sources do you trust the most? Why?



Read the introduction to Luke, Luke 1:1–4, and the following notes:

- ☐ 1:1, 2 ☐ 1:1–4 ☐ 1:3, 4

4 What reasons did Luke give for writing his Gospel (1:1–4)?

5 Why is his account reliable and trustworthy (1:3)?

6 Who is Luke’s audience—to whom did he write this book (1:3)?

7 What is the significance of the introductory words to Luke’s Gospel?



Luke wrote that he had “carefully investigated all of these accounts from the beginning” so that he could “write a careful summary” (1:3). Certainly Luke’s investigation would have included interviews with eyewitnesses to Christ’s life and checking and rechecking any written reports against the facts. As a Gentile, Luke could have been objective in his research. As a doctor, he would have been meticulous. As we read and study Luke’s biography of Christ, we can be confident that it is an accurate account. Written to Theophilus, the Gospel of Luke is for all those who love God.

8 Christians believe that Luke and the other Bible writers were inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit as they wrote, so that all of the Bible is accurate. Why, then, is it important that Luke was a careful historian?

9 In 1 John 1:1, 2, John wrote about being an eyewitness to the Word of life. What might have motivated Luke and John to begin their books with these strong claims of accuracy?

10 Luke had to research and discover Jesus Christ for himself in order to share him effectively with others. For Luke, firsthand knowledge was essential to faith. Think back to when God became more than a word to you—when you discovered that he wanted a personal relationship with you. What first got your attention? How did you know it was true?



11 Suppose you were to write a brief story of your personal experience with Christ—the “Gospel according to _____ [your name].” What would you say were your reasons for turning to Christ? How would you describe your life since then?

12 Whom would you like to reach with your Gospel (for example, unbelievers at work, in the neighborhood, at school, or in your family)?

13 What questions about Christianity would they want answered?

14 What would make you a credible, reliable witness to them?

15 Name someone you know who would be encouraged to learn that Luke took pains to record history accurately.



16 Write a brief prayer of thanks for the reliability of the Bible.

A What qualifications did Luke have for writing a Gospel to a Gentile audience? What special qualifications has God given you to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ?

B Why was the theme of the “perfect human” especially appropriate for a Greek audience? What themes in Luke strike a responsive chord in you?

C How is the Greek culture of the first century similar to ours today? Why is Luke’s message especially appropriate for people in our world?

MORE
for studying
other themes
in this section