

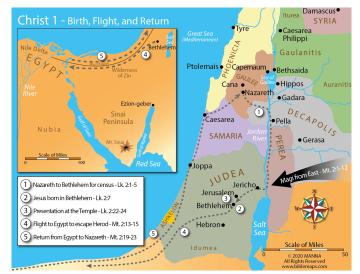
Why do we have *The Gospel of Luke* in our Bibles? Why was it written? Listen to the way it is introduced.

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a <u>narrative</u> of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were <u>eyewitnesses</u> and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have <u>certainty</u> concerning the things you have been taught. (1:1-4)

Doesn't it make sense that if we dig into Luke's gospel, it can also help us grow in our certainty about who Jesus is and the meaning of what he has accomplished?

After his mission statement, Luke goes on to describe two births being foretold. In other words, before they ever happened, God communicated something special about what would happen, who would be involved, and why it would all matter in the grand scheme of things.

- ★ 1:5-25: The birth of <u>John</u> foretold: would be born to a priest named <u>Zechariah</u> and his wife <u>Elizabeth</u>. "They were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were <u>advanced</u> in years" (1:6-7).
- 1:26-38: The birth of <u>Jesus</u> foretold: would be born to a virgin named <u>Mary</u> who was betrothed to a man named <u>Joseph</u>. "The



<u>Holy Spirit</u> will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of <u>God</u>" (1:32-33).

How does Luke 1:1-38 help us grow in certainty about Jesus? Let's talk about it...

For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's revisit Luke's introduction in 1:1-4. What stands out to you? Why is Luke writing this account? How should we look at what he has compiled?
- What can we find about this man named Luke in other parts of the Bible?
- When Luke writes something like, "In the days of Herod, king of Judea..." why should we pay attention? What does he want us to understand?
- ► Who were Zechariah and Elizabeth (1:5-7)?
- ► How do Malachi 3-4 (the conclusion of the Old Testament) relate to Luke 1:8-17?
- ► In your own words, what is the angel of the Lord saying in Luke 1:16-17?
- The angel identifies himself as Gabriel. Where else have we heard that name? What do we learn about angels from Luke 1:19?
- ► Does Luke 1:18-25 sound familiar? Does anyone from the Old Testament come to mind?
- ► What do the incredible things Gabriel promises to Mary mean in Luke 1:26-33?
- Why is the angel's answer in Luke 1:35 so important to understand?
- Take a moment to marvel at Mary's response in Luke 1:38. Is there anything we can learn from her example?
- ► How can Luke 1:1-38 help us grow in certainty about Jesus?