



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 narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses 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 certainty 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 John foretold: would be born to a priest named Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth. "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 advanced in years" (1:6-7).

- ❖ 1:26-38: The birth of Jesus foretold: would be born to a virgin named Mary who was betrothed to a man named Joseph. "The Holy Spirit 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 God" (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?