

Luke 1:1-4 “That You May Know”



Questions from Nov 30, 2025

(1) Many had written about Jesus based on eye-witness accounts.

- ❖ One was Mark, who wrote in the 50s AD and published in the 60s. Luke uses Mark's account as the foundation of his book.
- ❖ Story-telling was preferred over books, and disciples memorized their Master's teachings to pass them on. But as eye-witnesses died, written accounts were needed to preserve accuracy.
- ❖ However, writing was hard because it required education, extra money and free time, which few people had.

(2) "It seemed good" for Luke to write.

- ❖ "It seemed good" = a rational decision guided by the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ For three reasons
 - i. Luke had carefully researched Jesus' life from the beginning. He was part of the early church in Antioch and likely spent two years in Israel with Paul.
 - ii. Luke had the education to write a historical biography.
 - iii. A Roman high official was asking Luke questions about Jesus.

(3) Luke wrote so that you may know with certainty.

- ❖ "Know" (epignos) means to see and recognize.
- ❖ Historical research can only yield degrees of probability. Luke's goal in writing these things is to give confidence in the historical facts about Jesus, but even more so to help us know Jesus personally. That is the only way to have complete assurance.

Ice Breaker

(1) Share about Thanksgiving and how you are doing. Pray for each other.

Digging Deeper

- (2) Read Luke 1:1-2 and Point 1. After Jesus' resurrection, why didn't the disciples all go home and write books? What eventually motivated people to write books about Jesus?
- (3) In his introduction Luke writes in classical Greek making it clear that he is very educated. Why was it helpful, rather than arrogant, for him to do so?

Living Out

- (4) Read Luke 1:3 with the ESV translation. "It seemed good" is used in Luke and Acts to refer to a rational decision that was guided by the Holy Spirit. Can you think of a decision that you believe was guided by the Holy Spirit? Or one that you need His guidance for?
- (5) Read Point 2. When our interests and abilities/training enable us to meet a need, it often shows we are called by God to do so. Based on these criteria, can you share something you feel called to do?
- (6) Read Luke 1:3-4. Why is it unhelpful to tell people struggling with doubts to stop questioning and just believe? How did Luke respond?
- (7) Read Point 3. What is the difference between knowing historically reliable facts about Jesus, verses knowing Jesus personally? While both are good, why can only the second give complete assurance?