

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

"LOST AND FOUND" | LUKE 1: 1-4 | PASTOR BRIAN

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is a memorable biography book, movie or documentary and why?

"Book Intro and Overview"

Luke wrote his gospel as a biography of Jesus so people could learn about him. What are the benefits of taking time to learn enough about Jesus to be able to explain Him to others?

"Most Excellent Theophilus and the Diligence of Dr. Luke"

Luke as a doctor was thorough and wanted to accurately create an accurate account for Theophilus to teach him and answer his questions. How do we know which people we should pour our time and effort into influencing?

"The Purpose of God and the Certainty for You and I" (1: 1-4)

Luke was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write this historical account to share evidence that gives the reader confidence in believing Jesus came to seek and save lost people. What does it say about God that He would use a scientific writer to explain the Gospel?

REFLECTION QUESTION:

In our current culture, people are taught to doubt and question everything. Yet we all eventually have to make a choice about what we believe is true and hopefully we have solid reasons for our choice. Have you taken time to learn and understand reasons for what you believe about Jesus? Are you willing to approach the gospel of Luke with focus and an open mind?

Lost & Found

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-6 AL: Men's Breakfast. BCC. Elem Camp. Women's Mtg. R&R.
- B. Slide7 Justice Matters: January is Human Trafficking awareness/prevention month.
 1. We will be sharing information and ways to be involved all month long, as we look toward our *11th annual Justice Matters*, on Sun, Feb 6. [bracelet]
- C. Tonight, Night of Prayer: pastor Gilbert is leading, 6:30-7:30 Agape room.
 1. Baskets up front, write down your prayer requests. Also, ch, pastors, ministries, missionaries.
- D. Join me Wed Night: Psalm 1 [finished 80, 70 more to go] Take a handful thru Jan.
- E. Slide8 Prayer: Sidlow Baxter said, *What God chooses he cleanses, what God cleanses he molds, what God molds He fills, what God fills he uses*. God please: *choose, cleanse, mold, fill, & use us*.

II. Slide9 THE BOOK INTRO AND OVERVIEW Last taught 2005. Nu yr, nu book.

- A. In the Gospels: Matt speaks to the Jews. Mark/Romans. Jn/Greeks. Luke/Gentiles.
- B. Fact: Lk is the *longest book* of the NT. 1,151 verses. 568 vss are the words of Jesus!
 1. So 1/2 of what we read is what Jesus said. Let's get to know Him!
- C. Book Overview: Luke's Gospel is the prequel (vol.1); book of Acts his sequel (vol.2).
 1. Both are historical biographies. Lk, telling the biography of Jesus (62 ad). Acts, the biography of the early church (63 ad).
 2. Luke broken down: Lk.1&2 = 30 yrs of Jesus' life.
Lk.3 - 19:28 = 3 yrs of Jesus' life. Lk.19:29 - 24:53 = 1 week of Jesus' life.
 - a) So 25% deals with His last week before He died.
 3. Luke & Acts constitute 28% of the NT, making Luke *the most prolific* of its contributors. [Lk wrote 2,138 vss. Paul wrote 2,033]
 - a) It is written in the most refined Greek in the NT, giving it unsurpassed literary richness & beauty.

D. Slide10 Let's read the 1st 4 verses, *1 long run-on sentence*.

III. Slide11a MOST EXCELLENT THEOPHILUS

A. Theophilus: [Θεόφιλος *Theophilos*] God/friend (friend of God) or *lover of God*.

1. Both of Luke's books are addressed to *Theophilus*. Probably a Roman believer. Possibly an official (most excellent) who needed grounding in the faith. Or, may have been an open-minded seeker.

a) Maybe struggling w/his association in a movement that had *Jewish origins*.

B. This was the ancient way to acknowledge your benefactor. They would dedicate their play or poetry or book to their donor. *That's what this is!*

1. So Theophilus hires, supports, and funds Luke. Go find the truth and the facts for me Luke (very expensive). I need an educated, objective, scholarly, and academic historian.

2. Go find out ... Did a virgin have a baby? Did Jesus walk on water? Did He take a little boys lunchable & feed a stadium of people? Did He yell at nature and it listened? Did He cast demons out of people? Did He really die, then rise, and 500 people really saw it? Luke go find out!

3. Slide11b If you're a skeptic this morning, I hope you appreciate this. Christianity is much more than a philosophical system, it is a historical reality!

C. Theophilus the Generous! He paid for 2 books of the Bible to get written.

1. He paid for Luke to take a couple years off work and go collect all the information from witnesses.

2. Theophilus could have bought a new camel with nice rims, but instead because of his generosity we now have Vol 1&2.

D. And let's notice, the longest book of the NT was written to one man.

1. Maybe to remind us it's not about the herd but about the individual.

a) But, if you're a Lover of God, then it's written for you too.

IV. Slide12a **THE DILIGENCE OF DR. LUKE, MD. (1-4)** *having followed all things closely for sometime in the past, to write an orderly account for you*

A. Dr. Luke, MD: Col. 4:14. *Luke the beloved physician greets you.*

1. Some say science and Christian faith, are like oil & water.
2. Some say, science and medicine don't have a part in the Christian faith. They say, you don't need to go to a doctor, or take meds, or have medical insurance. They say, Just have faith, pray, trust God and He will heal you. Then they'll go to the Gospel of Luke and show you that Jesus healed people. And then go to the book of Acts and show you the HS healed people.
 - a) But they forget to recognize ... both books were written by a medical doctor.
 - b) Dr. Luke basically says, *Jesus is our Great Physician, who sometimes does miraculous healings, and other times uses other physicians.*

[Haiti medical clinic: Creole. *Nou sèvi, Jézi géri* - we serve/treat, Jesus heals]

B. Luke receives the *greatest compliment* from Paul (2 Tim.4:11) "*Luke alone is with me.*"

C. Luke was probably a Greek. He is from Antioch, Syria. Remained unmarried, & died at the age of 84 (which I think means he was a *good doctor*, since people barely live till 40 in that day). He was converted late in life. He became a companion of Paul on some of his journeys. He writes as a Christian historian.

1. Slide12b He writes with the Gentiles in mind – thus he translates the Aramaic terms, & explains Jewish customs & geography.
2. Thus, he traces Jesus genealogy back, not to Abraham [father of the Jews] (eg. Mt.), but back to Adam [father of all mankind]
3. You can tell Luke loves people: he speaks the most of the poor. He also gave a special place to women and children in his writings.

D. Luke treated people with medicine, but also *spiritual medicine* for their souls.

1. He was a follower ... of Jesus' followers. He wasn't an Apostle, but a doctor that God used mightily.
 - a) Ty to those dedicated to your studies/professions, *Albab's Story* (Ethiopia).

2. Luke was a doctor, a journalist, a humble man (doesn't even mention his name in this Gospel). A faithful man to Paul, all the way till Paul's death. He was a single man (could have been married ... *Did I tell you I wrote a book of the Bible? Oh, and I'm a doctor*) ha!

E. **Slide12c** Luke did serious investigative work & collected from **3 main Sources**:

1. **Written documents** (*many have undertaken*) - Mt & Mark were already written, **and** some of the writings of Paul.
2. **He interviewed eyewitnesses** (*eyewitnesses & ministers of the Word*) - (30 yrs after death/res) Peter, Paul, Mary.
3. **Oral traditions** (*have delivered them to us*) (as most were illiterate).

F. **Orderly account** – He wanted to give an accurate & authoritative account of the *birth, life, teaching, death, & resurrection* of Jesus. **So** he was a close observer, excellent writer, painstaking historian, self-effacing chronicler, well trained physician, earnest Christian worker, & faithful friend.

1. **What** are you pouring yourself into at this time, in order to have **good answers, reasons, explanations?**
2. **Who** are you pouring yourself into? - Who is your Theophilus?

V. **Slide13 THE PURPOSE OF GOD** *that the Lost would be Found*

A. **Key Word**: Jesus is presented as *the Son of Man*. 26 x's

1. Jesus, **the most human** of us all. See, our humanity isn't a *liability* it's an **asset!**
2. Rebecca Pippert, *Out of the Salt Shaker*, "Jesus gives us permission to be human. Yet we struggle to believe that God intends for us to be fully human... we're afraid that being made of flesh & blood meets with **divine disapproval**. The fact that we love to laugh, take a walk w/a friend, sip tea, & read a good book for the sheer pleasure of it is probably regarded from on high, we fear, **w/a cosmic frown**. We forget that it was **God's**

*idea, not ours, to make us human. How do we discover what it means to be authentically human? We look to **Jesus**.*" [He is irresistible!]

B. **Key Verse:** 1:3,4 & 19:10 *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*

1. So He didn't only come for the **Jews**, but for the **Samaritans & Gentiles**, *poor & rich, respectable & despised, tax collectors & religious leaders.*

C. **Key Chapter:** Ch.15 captures in 3 parables, *the lost sheep/coin/son* the crux of the gospel, that **God through Christ, has come to seek & save the lost.** Theme: *Lost & Found*

D. **Slide14** Uhh, Doc Luke, where's the **Holy Spirit** in all of this?

1. Heb.1:1,2 *Long ago, at many times and **in many ways**, God spoke to our fathers by **the prophets**, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us **by his Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*

2. **In many ways** God spoke to His servants. **Sometimes God used:**

a) **Direct oracles/dictation** (i.e. *To the angel of the church in Ephesus write*).

Other times ordinary historical research (as in the case of Luke).

Still other times He used Q & A, allegory's acted out, preaching, or signs.

b) Since God spoke so **clearly** it caused men & women to live on a higher plane. [Abraham had the faith to sacrifice his son. Moses to w/stand Pharaoh. David to go against Goliath. **And Daniel** to achieve & maintain integrity in Babylon]

c) **Yet** Gods communication to man was still fragmented & lacking ... **until** he spoke **by His Son**.

3. **So** Luke, wrote his gospel, **under the inspiration of the HS**, **after** he had **carefully researched** the life of **Jesus Christ!**

VI. **Slide15a THE CERTAINTY OF YOU AND I (4)** *that you may have **certainty** concerning the things you have been taught*

A. **The Certainty** of a truthful record. Luke wrote so Theophilus (and other *lovers of God*) would know the **truth & certainty** of the Christian's *Good News*.

1. Though we live in a world where **relativism** is pushed & **absolutes** have been shelved, **so** we still need **more than ever ... Certainty!**

2. Slide15b ***Digging for facts*** is a much better exercise than *jumping to conclusions*. - **And facts** do not cease to exist, **because** they are ignored.
3. It's so important to know, ***What we believe & Why we believe them***.

B. Communion:

C. Keywords: communion, death, resurrection, God, Gospel, history, Holy Spirit, Jesus, soul.