



Hello! This guide is provided to help facilitate a clear understanding of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truths to our lives individually and corporately. As such we encourage you to spend at least half your time pondering and discussing questions that are application focused. While the guide has been bulked up, we still need to prepare by praying through the passage, reviewing the guide on our own, and thinking about how our group might answer questions.

Overview of Luke

Background, Context and Structure

Luke the Greek physician was Paul's companion during his mission in proclaiming the gospel. Luke wrote this gospel as the first volume of a single work, consisting of The Gospel Of Luke and Acts. Both volumes are addressed to Theophilus and are written in a similar style. Acts refers to The Gospel Of Luke in its introduction. As a Greek and later a companion of Paul, Luke had never met Jesus personally, yet as a scholar and physician he set upon a task to interview and record the events of the life of Jesus, according to Jesus' close companions and earliest eyewitnesses (1:1-4). Luke's gospel is therefore the most detailed, and it contains the most material of the three synoptic gospels.

Christ in Luke

Luke's gospel presents Jesus as the fulfillment of OT's promises for the Davidic Messiah for both Jews and Gentiles. Luke stresses Jesus' concern and focus for social outcasts (tax collectors, prostitutes and Gentiles), and he tells us his ultimate concern in his mission statement of Jesus ministry in Luke 19:10, "The Son of man came to seek and to save the lost." He shows how Jesus does this by emphasising Jesus' prophecies about his suffering, his journey towards Jerusalem, and God's sovereignty Jesus' ministry and death. The fulfilment of Jesus' mission is in his death and resurrection.

Big Idea of the Text

This text introduces Jesus' ministry, and establishes the purpose for which He has come: to proclaim the good news to the poor, proclaiming liberty to the captives, giving sight to the blind, setting free the oppressed and proclaiming the Lord's favour.

Goal of this Study

To know Jesus as Messiah, and to follow in His ministry footsteps through the proclamation of the Gospel to the poor, the captives, the blind and the oppressed - the proclamation of the Gospel to the world we now live in.

What sorts of things are people enslaved to today?

Read Luke 4:16-30

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

*18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." 22 And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" 23 And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Physician, heal yourself." What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.'" 24 And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. 25 But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, 26 and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." 28 When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. 29 And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. 30 But passing through their midst, he went away.

1. Read Isaiah 61:1-2 (Jesus' synagogue reading).
 - a. Who was Isaiah, and what was he commissioned to do? (recall Isaiah sermon series (Isaiah 6))
 - b. What are the main themes of this passage? (Is 61:1-2)
 - c. What was the state of Israel at the time?
 - d. What sort of images and thoughts would come to mind for the Jews who heard Jesus' reading of Isaiah 61?

2. Compare Isaiah 61:1-2 versus Jesus' reading in Luke 4:18-19¹.
 - a. What is missing from Jesus' reading?
 - b. Why do you think this is the case?
3. How was Jesus received by His audience in Nazareth? (verse 20-29)
4. Why do you think Jesus chose² to read Isaiah 61?
5. In what ways did Jesus' life and ministry parallel Isaiah's? How did Jesus demonstrate that He is greater than Isaiah?
 - 6a. How have you experienced the power of the good news Jesus proclaims in your own life?
 - 6b. How does Jesus' mission statement in v18-19 challenge you to believe in the power of the gospel to save?

Read Luke 4:31-44

31 And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, 32 and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. 33 And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, 34 "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." 35 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. 36 And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" 37 And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region. 38 And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. 39 And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them. 40 Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. 41 And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ. 42 And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, 43 but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the

¹ Darrell L. Bock, *Luke*, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament 3 (Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Books, 1994), 404-405.

² *Ibid.*

kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.” 44 And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

7. List the events that took place in verses 31 to 41.
 - a. For each event, what triggered people’s amazement and astonishment?
 - b. What does this tell us about the purpose behind these miracles taking place?
8. How did Jesus’ ministry in verses 31-41 fulfil the prophecy of Isaiah 61?
9. We see that Jesus was having a significant ministry impact in Capernaum. Why did he leave Capernaum? (verse 43)
10. In verses 18-19, Jesus declares his mission statement - what he has come into the world to do - and in 31-44 we saw him demonstrating his mission. The church is the extension of Jesus’ ministry today. How does this passage inform us how we ought to do ministry today?

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