

## Study Guide - 30 December, 2018

Series: Luke

Text: Luke 2:22-52



*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.*

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## 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 eye witnesses (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

The scene opens with the presentation of baby Jesus in the temple in Jerusalem. In this first account, both Simeon and the prophetess Anna prophesied and confirmed Jesus' Messianic identity (Luke 2:22-38). The passage then moves forward to Jesus' encounter at the age of twelve (Luke 2:41-51). After the Feast of the Passover, Jesus was found missing. Several days after, he was found in the temple amongst the teachers, listening and asking them questions. Jesus' understanding and answers at a tender age amazed many. Despite his parents'

inability to understand what Jesus' was saying to them (Luke 2:50-21), Jesus returned home in submission to them.

In summary, Luke's documentation of the progress by which Jesus grew in "wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man" (Luke 2:52) is seen in this passage.

*Read Luke 2:22-38*

*22 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,*

*29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;  
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation  
31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel."*

*33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."*

*36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.*

1a. How are Simeon and Anna described?

1b. What is the promise the Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon?

1c. What have both Simeon and Anna been waiting for?<sup>1</sup>

2a. What is the reason Simeon can die peacefully? (29-32)

2a. If you were to die tomorrow, would you have peace? Why can Christians have confidence in knowing what will happen when we die?

3. In what way will Jesus bring about the fall and rising of many?

4. How will Jesus cause a sword to pierce through Mary's own heart?

5. How has Jesus and his gospel revealed the thoughts of your own heart? How has Jesus turned your life upside down?

6. If we consider Simeon and Anna to be Old Testament saints who were waiting for the redemption of Israel, what do they teach us about how the Old Testament relates to Jesus?

*Read Luke 2:39-52*

*39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.*

*41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 44 but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, 45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And*

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<sup>1</sup> Question modified from Mike, McKinley. *The Kingdom has Come*, The Good Book Guide to Luke 1-12 (US: The Good Book Company, 2016), 10.

all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." 49 And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.  
52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature[i] and in favor with God and man.

7. How do we know Jesus' parents were people who trusted in God? (v39, 41, also v22-24, 27)

8. What is the result of Jesus' parents small acts of obedience in this passage?

9. In this passage, the tension between Jesus' humanity and his divinity is especially clear. What features suggest that Jesus is an ordinary human child? What features indicate that he is the unique Son of God?<sup>2</sup> (v49, 51, 52..)

10. Why does Jesus' humanity and divinity make him a perfect saviour for us?

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<sup>2</sup> Question modified from C. D., "Jimmy", III, Agan, *Luke: A 12-Week Study*, Knowing the Bible Series (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2015), 14.

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