

1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

7 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

9 According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

“The fact that Luke used written and oral accounts does not deny the verbal inspiration of what he wrote. It simply means that the Holy Spirit guided him in the choice and arrangement of his materials.” BBC

The Gospel of **LUKE**

Lesson 1
Chapter 1 - Verses 1-19

Luke's Introduction

Chapter 1, Verses 1-4 - Luke Explains why he is writing this Gospel.

1. The writer of this gospel was Luke (who also wrote the book of Acts). He was a **Gentile** (Non-Jew), a physician, and the first historian of the church.
2. The Gospel of Luke was written about 60 years after the **death** of Jesus Christ.
3. Luke wanted the life and ministry of Jesus Christ preserved in accurate writing for **future** Christians.
4. Because truth was important to Luke, he relied heavily on **eyewitness** accounts. - LASB



Luke writes in verse 1 that the events of the ministry of Jesus were '*most surely believed*' by the early Christians. This tells us that the stories of Jesus were actual **events** that happened and people saw it with their own **eyes**!

John's Parents

Chapter 1, Verses 5-12: - Luke introduces us to the parents of John the Baptist.

1. John's parents were Zacharias (means *the Lord remembers*) a priest and Elizabeth (means *the oath of God*).
2. John's parents lived during the time when **wicked** King Herod ruled Judea.
3. John's parents lived an obedient life, that **pleased** God.
4. John's parents had no **children**. This was a huge embarrassment for a Jewish couple.
5. John's father, Zacharias, worked in the **temple**, serving the Lord.
6. Incense was burned in the Temple twice daily. When the people saw the smoke from the burning incense, they **prayed**.
7. The smoke drifting heavenward symbolized their prayers going **up** to God's throne.



Zacharias and Elizabeth lived with the humiliation of not having any children and they also lived under the power of a wicked government, but they still were **faithful** to God and they were **blessed** by God!



Zacharias and Elizabeth didn't merely go through the motions in following God's laws; they backed up their outward compliance with inward obedience. Unlike the religious leaders whom Jesus called hypocrites, Zachariah and Elizabeth obedience was from the **heart**. - LASB

Angel Appears

Chapter 1, Verses 11-17 - The Angel Gabriel announces the birth of John the Baptist.

1. The Angel Gabriel appeared before the priest Zacharias in the holy place of the **temple** when the people were praying.
2. The Angel Gabriel's appearance **scared** Zacharias, but the angel reassured him that his prayers had been answered.
3. The Angel Gabriel announced to Zacharias that a **son** would be born to Elizabeth and his name will be John.
4. The Angel Gabriel announced to Zacharias that his son will be **great** in the sight of the Lord.
5. The Angel Gabriel announced to Zacharias that his son would not drink **wine** or strong drink.
6. The Angel Gabriel announced to Zacharias that his son would be **filled** with the Holy Ghost, from the time of his birth.
7. The Angel Gabriel announced to Zacharias that his son would turn many people of Israel **back** to their God.
8. The Angel Gabriel announced to Zacharias that his son would have the spirit and **power** of Elijah.
9. The Angel Gabriel announced to Zacharias that his son would get people **ready** for the Lord.



John the Baptist was *great in the sight of the Lord*, and that is the only kind of greatness that really **matters**.



John the Baptist was filled with God's Spirit so he can fulfill his special mission. We also need the Holy Spirit's **help** to do God's work effectively.

Zach Doubts

Chapter 1, Verses 18-19: - Zacharias has a hard time believing the Angel Gabriel.

1. Zacharias did not **believe** the Angel Gabriel's promise that he would have a son.
2. Zacharias thought both he and his wife were too **old** to become the parents of a child.
3. Zacharias wanted the Angel Gabriel to give him **evidence** to prove he would have a son.
4. The Angel Gabriel becomes very **angry** with Zacharias.



When we look at our physical situation, it is easy to **doubt**, but with God, all things are possible!



If you are waiting for God to answer some request or to fill some need, remain **patient**. No matter how impossible God's promises may seem, what he has said in his Word will come true at the right time. - LASB

11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

“The name John means “the Lord is gracious” and the name Jesus means “Savior”. Both names were given by God and not chosen by the parents. Throughout the Gospels, God acts graciously and gives salvation to His people. He will not withhold it from anyone who sincerely comes to Him.”

LASB

20 And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

21 And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple.

22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.

24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

25 Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

“Zachariah and Elizabeth had been childless for many years, but God was waiting for the right time to take away their disgrace.”

The Gospel of **LUKE**

Lesson 2
Chapter 1 - Verses 20-38

Can't Talk

Chapter 1, Verses 20-25 - Zacharias is punished for not believing God's promise.

1. Because Zacharias did not believe God, he was punished and would not be able to talk until the child was **born**.
2. When Zacharias finally came out of the sanctuary, he had to use **hand** gestures to communicate with the people.
3. The congregation knew that Zacharias had seen a **vision**.
4. When Elizabeth became pregnant she went into seclusion in her home for **five** months, praising and thanking God for what he had done.



When the Christian does not believe God, it will seal their **lips**, and cause them to lose their witness, testimony and song.

God's Choice

Chapter 1, Verses 26-30 - God chooses Mary to be the mother of Jesus.

1. God **sent** the Angel Gabriel to the small city of Nazareth, to tell a virgin named Mary, that God has a plan for her.
2. Mary was engaged to a young man named Joseph, a descendant of King **David**.
3. Mary was troubled by the angel's greeting; she **wondered** what it meant.
4. The angel calmed her fears and told her that God had **chosen** her to be the mother of His son.



The Angel Gabriel did not **worship** Mary or pray to her; he simply greeted her.



The Angel Gabriel did not **say** that Mary was full of grace, but that she was highly favored.



Mary was an unknown, young, poor, female, but God still chose her. Don't you ever **think** that God can't use you!



Mary is going to learn that being God's chosen, does not bring instant success. Because God chose Mary, she will have to endure much **pain** and mocking.

Wonderful Name

Chapter 1, Verses 31-33 - The Angel Gabriel tells Mary about the greatness of her Son.

1. The Angel Gabriel told Mary that she will become **pregnant** by the Holy Ghost, give birth to a son and call his name Jesus (meaning Jehovah is the Savior).
2. The Angel Gabriel told Mary, that Jesus will be a **great** person and many will call Him the Son of God (Highest).
3. The Angel Gabriel told Mary, that God will give Jesus the throne of His father **David**.
4. The Angel Gabriel told Mary that Jesus' kingdom will never **end**.



1000 years before the birth of Jesus, God promised David that David's kingdom would last **forever** (2Samuel 7:16). This promise was fulfilled in the coming of Jesus, a direct descendant of David, whose Kingdom will never end.



700 years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah prophesied that a virgin girl will become pregnant. She'll have a son and name him Immanuel which means 'God with **Us**'. (Isaiah 7:14)

Mary's Confusion

Chapter 1, Verses 34-38: - Mary needed some help understanding God's plan.

1. Mary was expected to **believe** the miraculous.
2. Mary did not understand how she could become pregnant and have a child, when she had **never** had relations with a man.
3. The Angel Gabriel told Mary that her pregnancy would be a **miracle** of the Holy Spirit.
4. The Angel Gabriel told Mary that Elizabeth her **cousin**, was six months pregnant also.
5. The Angel Gabriel encouraged Mary to believe that **nothing** is impossible for God.
6. After the Angel Gabriel explained all these things, Mary told the Angel that she is Lord's maid, and she is ready to **serve** Him.



Why is the Virgin Birth so important? Because Jesus was born of a woman makes Him human; but because Jesus is the Son of God, Jesus was born without any **sin**.



The birth of Jesus to a virgin is a miracle that many people find hard to believe. But if we believe that God is the Creator of the universe, we should have no doubts that God has the power to create a **child** in a virgin's womb. - LASB



Mary submitted to God's **plan**, even though she did not completely understand it!

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

“God's announcement of the birth of a special child was met with various responses throughout Scripture. Sarah, Abraham's wife, laughed at God. Zechariah the father of John the Baptist, doubted God. By contrast, Mary graciously submitted to the plan of God. She believed the angel's words and agreed to bear the Christ child, even under humanly impossible circumstances. God is able to do the impossible. Our response to his demands should not be laughter or doubt but an obedient, willing acceptance.”

LASB

39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;

40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

45 And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

50 And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

52 He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

The Gospel of **LUKE**

Lesson 3

Chapter 1 - Verses 39-66

Elizabeth's Visitor

Chapter 1, Verses 39-45 - Mary visits Elizabeth after the Angel visits them both.

1. After the Angel Gabriel told Mary that Elizabeth was pregnant, Mary went to Elizabeth's house.
2. Elizabeth's baby jumped in her womb, when she heard Mary's voice.
3. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with the power of God.
4. Elizabeth tells Mary that she is blessed among women, and the baby in her womb is also blessed.
5. Mary wonders why God would choose her to be the mother of Jesus.
6. Elizabeth tells Mary about the baby jumping in her womb.
7. Elizabeth tells Mary that she is blessed because Mary did not object to the plan of God, but she believed.



You can tell if someone is filled with the Holy Spirit by what comes out of their mouth.



There was not a trace of jealousy in Elizabeth; only joy and delight that the baby would be her Lord.



God blesses each individual in different ways, we should never be jealous if someone seems more blessed than us.

Mary's Song

Chapter 1, Verses 46-56 - Mary glorifies God in song for what He was going to do.

1. Mary sings that she is the most fortunate woman on earth!
2. Mary sings that what God has done for her will never be forgotten.
3. Mary sings that God's name is holy, set apart from all others.
4. Mary sings that God's compassion and kindness is resting upon all the people, from every generation, who respect Him and fear Him.
5. Mary sings that God's compassion and kindness is timeless.
6. Mary sings that because of this one miracle, God has shown His strength.
7. Mary sings that because Jesus is coming, God has turned the tables on those who are proud and arrogant against God.

Mary's Song

Chapter 1, Verses 46-56 - Mary glorifies God in song for what He was going to do.

1. Mary sings that God sends the rich away empty, and **fills** up the hungry with good things.
2. Mary sings that God promised a Messiah to **Abraham** the father of Israel.
3. Mary stayed with Zacharias and Elizabeth for **three** months, then she went back home .



Many have **rejected** God's gifts, but Mary believed, received and rejoiced over the gift God had given her.



Mary gave God all the credit for what was happening in her life. If you do anything good or if anything good happens to you - Please Give God the **Glory!**

John's Birth

Chapter 1, Verses 57-66: - The birth of John was unusual and totally unexpected.

1. Elizabeth's relatives and friends were **happy**, because they believed God had blessed her with a son.
2. On the eighth day, when the child was circumcised, relatives and friends assumed that the baby would be named after his **father** Zacharias, but Elizabeth told them that the baby will be named **John**.
3. The relatives and friends did not **understand** why Zacharias and Elizabeth were naming their child John.
4. The relatives and friends made hand gestures at Zacharias to see what his final **decision** would be.
5. Zacharias asked for a tablet, he settled the matter by writing that the baby's name was to be John, and the people were **astonished**.
6. Soon as Zacharias wrote "John", the power of **speech** had returned and he began to praise God.
7. The news spread quickly that John was no ordinary **baby** and the power of God was upon his life.



When Elizabeth rejoiced, her relatives and friends rejoiced with her. We should always be **happy** when others prosper .



On the eighth day, everyone came together to circumcise the child. It should be every parents Joy to **give** their child back to God!



When God opened Zacharias' lips, he began to praise God! When God opens our lips, we should do the **same**.

53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

54 He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;

55 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

56 And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

57 Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son.

58 And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.

59 And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father.

60 And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John.

61 And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name.

62 And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called.

63 And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all.

64 And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God.

65 And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea.

66 And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.

67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,

68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

71 That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;

72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;

73 The oath which he sware to our father Abraham,

74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,

75 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,

78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

80 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.

The Gospel of **LUKE**

Lesson 4

Chapter 1 - Verses 67-80

Zach's Praise

Chapter 1, Verses 67-80 - Zechariah praises God for sending Jesus.

1. Zacharias has changed from a person who did not believe God, to a person filled with the **power** of God.
2. Zacharias is filled with the Holy Spirit and begins to **praise** God for what He had done .
3. Zacharias describes Jesus as the **horn** of salvation that came from the royal line of His servant David.
4. Zacharias sings praises for the fulfilled prophecy that God had promised long ago through the **preaching** of his holy prophets.
5. Zacharias prophesied that Jesus would deliver His people from their **enemies**.
6. Zacharias praises the Lord for His faithfulness to His promises; and that He **remembered** the covenant of salvation He made with Abraham.
7. Zacharias praises the Lord for His mercy that will deliver His people from Satan and sin and cause them to serve Him **without** fear - forever!
8. Zacharias prophesies that his son John would be called the prophet of the Most High, and he will **prepare** the hearts of the people for the coming of the Lord.
9. Zacharias says that the coming of Jesus is like the **sun** rising on a dark world.
10. The chapter closes with a simple statement that John grew physically and spiritually, remaining in **hiding** till the time of his public appearance.



Zacharias describes Jesus as the horn of salvation. A horn is a symbol of **power**, and the power Jesus has, is His ability to save **anyone** from the penalty of sin and place them into a close relationship with God. Only Jesus has this power!



John's future mission was to **prepare** the way for people to receive Jesus - our mission today is very similar.



John lived in the wilderness so he can separate himself from the world and focus on his spiritual growth. If we are going to be strong in the Lord, we need to separate ourselves from the world and make Jesus the **highest** priority in our lives.