

One Year Bible – Week 12

Summary: Luke reading

The Gospel of Luke may be the most detailed of the Gospels in the sense that Luke's goal is to give an "orderly account" from "careful investigation." (Lk 1:1-4) This week takes us through the Birth of Jesus to the calling of the disciples. Note the differences between Luke and the other two Gospels. You may even want to flip back and forth between them and notice what Luke emphasizes.

Things to Look For and Questions to Ponder as You Read:

- *NT* – The birth of John the Baptist and his father Zechariah's reaction are unique to the gospel of Luke. (Lk 1:57-80) One can imagine Luke's investigation leading him to this side story. Why do you think this account is included in the Gospel of Luke? Why is this important? – *Mar 15*
- *NT* – Luke provides the only recorded scene of Jesus' early childhood. Scholars believe that he must have interviewed Mary as he investigated Jesus' life. (Lk 2:41-52) What do you notice about Jesus as a child? How does this story affect your faith in Jesus as the son of God? – *Mar 17*

Small Group Questions:

- 1) *NT* – Luke records a foreshadowing of God's plan in Jesus through a man named Simeon and a prophetess named Anna. (Lk 2:21-40) Read this story and discuss some of the things that were said of the infant Jesus. What do you imagine was going through the minds of Mary and Joseph when they heard these reactions? What thoughts come to your mind when you hear the words of Simeon and Anna? Discuss the significance of these passages as they relate to apologetics (defending the Christian faith to nonbelievers). – *Mar 16-17*
- 2) *NT* – Luke records Peter's (Simon) meeting Jesus after a long night of fishing. (Lk 5:1-11) Jesus instructs Peter and his crew to go out again and to let down their nets. He somewhat reluctantly does what Jesus asks. Upon doing so they make a miraculous catch of fish. Then Peter responds with words that are seemingly out of place, he says: "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" If you were Peter, knowing only what he knew of Jesus at this moment, how do you think you would have responded? Why do you think Peter responded in this way? Would you expect Jesus to respond the way he did to Peter? What does this dialogue show us about Jesus and how we might relate to him? – *Mar 21*

Summary: Numbers reading

Balak, king of the Moabites, summons Balaam to curse the Israelites yet his plans are thwarted. The Israelites falter in their faithfulness to YHWH. Moses commissions Joshua to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. The Israelites defeat the Midianites.

[Numbers Extra Credit]

Zealous for God... In an episode of blatant disregard for God, some of the Israelites turn to worship another God. Phinehas, priest and grandson of Aaron acts in a dramatic way against this behavior. Read Numbers chapter 25 together. What was God's reaction to the behavior of the Israelites? to Phinehas? What does the passage indicate about why God reacted this way? How do your observations from this passage change or confirm the way you think about your own behaviors in life. – *Mar 16*

Journal the Psalms this week:

What causes you to praise God? What is it that so moves you that you must proclaim his glory? Spend some time reading Psalm 63. Note the Psalmist's words in verse 3. Journal about how easy or difficult it is for these words to be spoken as your own. Ask God to help you see more clearly his love as being better than life. – *Mar 20*

A Lenten Sermon-related Question

Reading Schedule:

Num = Numbers / Lk = Luke / Ps = Psalms / Pr = Proverbs



Mar 15 – Num 22:21-23:30 / Lk 1:57-80 / Ps 58:1-11 / Pr 11:12-13
Mar 16 – Num 24:1-25:18 / Lk 2:1-35 / Ps 59:1-17 / Pr 11:14
Mar 17 – Num 26:1-51 / Lk 2:36-52 / Ps 60:1-12 / Pr 11:15
Mar 18 – Num 26:52-28:15 / Lk 3:1-22 / Ps 61:1-8 / Pr 11:16-17
Mar 19 – Num 28:16-29:40 / Lk 3:23-38 / Ps 62:1-12 / Pr 11:18-19
Mar 20 – Num 30:1-31:54 / Lk 4:1-30 / Ps 63:1-11 / Pr 11:20-21
Mar 21 – Num 32:1-33:39 / Lk 4:31-5:11 / Ps 64:1-10 / Pr 11:22

One Year Bible – Week 5

Reading Schedule:

Genesis = Ge / Exodus = Ex / Matthew = Mt / Psalms = Ps / Proverbs = Pr



Jan 25 – Ge 50:1-Ex 2:10 / Mt 16:13-17:9 / Ps 21:1-13 / Pr 5:1-6
Jan 26 – Ex 2:11-3:22 / Mt 17:10-27 / Ps 22:1-18 / Pr 5:7-14
Jan 27 – Ex 4:1-5:21 / Mt 18:1-22 / Ps 22:19-31 / Pr 5:15-21
Jan 28 – Ex 5:22-7:24 / Mt 18:23-19:12 / Ps 23:1-6 / Pr 5:22-23
Jan 29 – Ex 7:25-9:35 / Mt 19:13-30 / Ps 24:1-10 / Pr 6:1-5
Jan 30 – Ex 10:1-12:13 / Mt 20:1-28 / Ps 25:1-15 / Pr 6:6-11
Jan 31 – Ex 12:14-13:16 / Mt 20:29-21:22 / Ps 25:16-22 / Pr 6:12-15

Summary: Exodus reading

The book of Exodus tells of the beginning of the Israelite people as the forming of a nation. In the first chapters of Exodus we are introduced to Moses. Moses is the subject of many well known Bible stories and is attributed authorship of the first five books of the Bible; Genesis – Deuteronomy. Since we left Joseph the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob have gone from privilege to enslavement in Egypt. God is about to deliver them through Moses.

Summary: Matthew reading

This week's reading includes significant events such as Peter's confession of Christ's identity, Jesus' foretelling of his death, the transfiguration (the appearance of Jesus in a glorified state), the parable of the unmerciful servant, the story of the rich young man, and Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (which is the reason for celebrating Palm Sunday)

Things to Look For and Questions to Ponder as You Read:

- The question resounds throughout the ages. It is the question every human must answer. In Mt 16:13-16 Jesus prefaces by asking his disciples "Who do the people say that I am?" Then he directly asks, "But what about you? Who do you say I am?" Some see Jesus as a popular historical figure. Others may acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God yet their lives do not reflect their words. All of life hinges on the answer of this question, and it is a question each of us answers every day we live. What is your answer? Who do you say Jesus is? What then does that mean in your life? – Jan 25
- As you read about the life of Moses, take note of the interventions and the gaps of God's guidance. What do you discover about God as a result of your observations? Make a list.

- Whenever you read "The LORD" all in capital letters you are not reading the same as "The Lord" not all in capital letters. "The LORD" all in capital letters is the personal name of God. Some have pronounced it Yahweh (yā – way), and others Jehovah (Je – hō – vah). Both are the same consonants with different vowels. We don't actually know how to pronounce it because vowels were not written and the Jews throughout history revered God's name as so holy that they did not ever speak it. However God's name is pronounced we do know that when we read "The LORD" we are reading his personal name.

Small Group Questions:

- 1) *OT* – God speaks at length with Moses after Moses approached Pharaoh to demand he release the Israelites. (Ex 5:22-6:12) What phrases or concepts do you see repeated in this dialog? What is the significance of these repeated phrases/concepts? What does God say about himself in this conversation? Which of these qualities stands out to you most and why? – Jan 28
- 2) *NT* – What is Jesus speaking against as he commands that we become like little children? (Mt 18:1-9) How serious does Jesus sound about this subject: what in the passage indicates this? What are some common obstacles to being humble as a child? – Jan 27
- 3) *NT* – The passage in Matthew 18:15-20 is an often referenced prescription for how believers should handle conflict and another's sin. What is the goal of this process? Take a moment to list the stages of the process. Why do you think God designed the process this way? Share any stories you have observed (with care to avoid gossip or slander) about how this process has helped or would have helped. – Jan 27
- 4) *NT* – Have someone read Mt 18:21-35. The passage indicates that forgiveness is the point of the parable. From the passage, what conditions do you observe that qualify forgiveness? Why do you think it is difficult to do? What suggestions would you give to help make forgiving easier? – Jan 28

Journal the Psalms this week:

Psalms 23 may be the most well known Psalm, but familiarity has a tendency to numb over time. Reread Psalm 23 and list all the personal affirmation statements you notice (ex. "I shall not..."; "I will...") and spend some time journaling about the reasons you can trust them. (ex. I shall not be in want because the Lord is my shepherd and he knows my needs.) Interact with God in your journal about anything new he shows you from this Psalm.