

The Gospel According to St. Luke

Middle school Ministry




Introduction

The 4 Gospels comparison

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
To whom it was written	Jews	Romans	Greeks	Christians
Subject	The Messiah the king	The Messiah the conqueror of Satan	Christ the lover of mankind	Christ the Incarnate Word
Main message of Jesus	Fulfills the Law	Performs wonders	Saves mankind	Dwells among us
Gospel content	Focuses on prophecies	Focuses on deeds	Focused on history	Focused on theology
Symbol	The human face	The lion	The Ox	The Eagle

Symbols of the Four Gospels



Matthew
Winged Man
Mark
Winged Lion
Luke
Winged Ox
John
Eagle

1- Servant's preparation:

- 1) Explanation of the gospel of St Luke chapters 1-12 and an introduction for Bishop Yousef
<https://www.suscopts.org/diocese/bishop/bible-study/holy-gospel-according-to-st-luke/>
- 2) A link for Fr. Doud Lamei 's bible study in Arabic
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHedjI0_e2nk5yEwV9kLxOBn-oJwCt5OK
- 3) The reference book for Fr. Tadros Malaty → see separate attachment
- 4) Upper room app → Sermons → Bible study → Luke , you will find sermons for each chapter, links provided at the beginning of each lesson below.
- 4) Two illustrative videos that could be used by servants to prepare or to show at the beginning of each unit.
 - Part 1 [chapter 1-9]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIb_dClxzo0
 - Part 2 [10-24]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26z_KhwNdd8

2- Book introduction:



A- Who is St. Luke?

- ❖ The word “Luke” is probably an abbreviation of the Latin word “Lucanus” or “Lucuis”, which means ‘the carrier of the light’ or ‘the enlightened’.
- ❖ He is the only one among the writers for the Testament who was not a Jew, but a Gentile
- ❖ St. Luke was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle and became his companion on his numerous journeys.
- ❖ He met St. Paul on his second missionary journey in Troas and accompanied him to Philippi. Then, he joined him again on his third journey heading to Jerusalem. It appears that he may have stayed in Palestine during the two years’ imprisonment of St. Paul in Caesarea. They also travelled to preach in Rome together (Acts 28:30).
- ❖ He was not one of the disciples, nor one of the apostles.
- ❖ It came by oral tradition that he had painted the first picture of the Virgin Mary.
- ❖ He departed in Bithynia at an old age. Some say that he was martyred during the reign of Nero at age 84.

B- Characteristics:

- ❖ He wrote this Gospel and the Book of Acts to an Alexandrian nobleman named **Theophilus** (Luke 1:3), calling him “most excellent”, which is a special title for one who holds an important position within the Roman Empire. Some say that Theophilus is one of these three:
 1. He might be someone whose name the apostles did not want to mention, instead, calling him Theophilus which means ‘he who loves God’ in order not to reveal his identity and cause him harm.
 2. Or someone who truly bore this name. The apostle wrote him the Gospel of truth (the Gospel of St. Luke) to understand the Church and its mission (the Acts), in order to attract him to the faith rather than resist the Church.
 3. Luke was a doctor and a servant; he may have treated his own master before setting him free. In order to show his gratitude and give the most precious thing he could offer; he wrote him the gospel of our Lord Jesus and the history of the first Church
- ❖ St Luke did not meet Jesus in person but believed later when he met St Paul. In order to record accurate details about the whole story of Jesus, he interviewed eyewitnesses like St Mary and the disciples and may be main characters he wrote about like the Samaritan and Zacchaeus to be able to collect accurate and reliable understanding of all things and document them for all generations in a perfectly historical way.
- ❖ Picture a scientist going about some great work. He or she is searching for the cure for some horrible disease or making some marvelous new discovery. First the scientist digs for facts, looking deeply, studying carefully, investigating every clue, relentlessly hunting for any and every fact that will make the discovery deeper, richer, and more accurate.

- ❖ Similarly, in this study, we are going to look at Jesus through the eyes of those who actually witnessed Him, and then told their story. That is what a witness is: a person who sees or experiences something, then tells others what he or she has seen.

C- The Time for his writing

- There is no sure tradition regarding the time of this writing or its site. St. Irianus thinks it was written before the martyrdom of St. Paul.
- Since the gospel was written before the book of Acts, and the book of Acts was written before the martyrdom of St. Paul the apostle, therefore many believe that it was written between the **year 63 and 67 AD.**

D- Its Aim:

- ❖ ***This Gospel was recorded for the Greeks***, who are known for their own philosophy and literature, which is why it was written in a refined and poetic style.
- ❖ ***He offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child. St. Luke presented Christ to the Gentile world as a Mean to find their inner happiness and joy. He began the Gospel with joy with announcing [the birth of Jesus] and concluded it with joy [Jesus rose from the dead]; something the Greek legends and philosophies lacked.
- ❖ Jesus Christ came as a Friend to support us; praying in many places: (3:21; 6:12; 9:18, 29; 22:39-46), and teaching about praying (Our salvation is not philosophy).



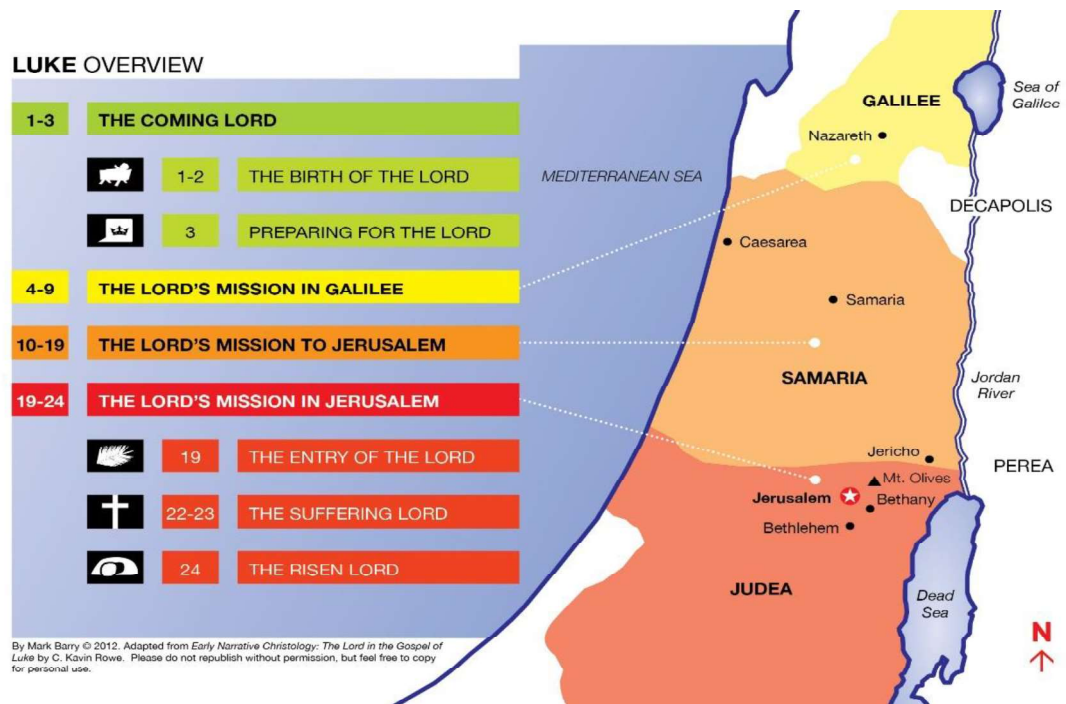
E- Why do we symbolize this gospel as an OX?

The ox associated with the Gospel of Luke fits well since it speaks to the great sacrifice of Jesus, and the ox was an important animal for sacrifice as required in the Torah.

3- Book outline

Its sections:

1. Unit 1: Our Friend became like us and was tempted like us, **chapters 1-4**
2. Unit 2: Our Friend feels our suffering, **chapters 5-18**
3. Unit 3: Our faithful Friend, **chapters 19-23**
4. Unit 4: Our Friend, the Risen from the dead, **chapter 24**



Unit 1: [3 lessons]

Our Friend became like us and was tempted like us chapters 1-4

St Luke presents the Son of God as a Friend, One that we can befriend not fear.

1. Introduction (**Chapter 1** v 1-4).
2. The promise of the Baptist to Zachariah and Elizabeth (v.5-25).
3. Meeting Elizabeth (v.26-38).
4. The birth of John (v.57-80).
5. The birth of Christ (**Chapter 2**)
6. The shepherds meet Him (v.8-20).
7. The circumcision of Jesus (v.21).
8. His entrance to the temple (v.22-40).
9. Jesus challenging the Jewish elders (v.41-52).
10. His baptism (**Chapter 3**) and the genealogy of Christ (v.23-37).
11. Jesus was tempted before beginning His ministry at Galilee (**Chapter 4**)

Chapter 1

Servant's preparation:

A sermon from Upper room app bible study about chapter 1

<https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+nkahjqy>

Brief introduction:

At the beginning of each lesson, please mention this book overview.

- ✓ Who is St. Luke? He was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle later after resurrection.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Greek after collecting testimonies from eyewitnesses to accurately record all details of Jesus's life.
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? ***St Luke offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child.

Main points in the Chapter:

1. An introduction to the book 1-4
2. The good news to Zacharias of John's birth 5-17
3. Zacharias' dumbness 18-25
4. The Annunciation of the Divine Incarnation 26-38
5. Mary's Encounter with Elizabeth 39-45
6. The Virgin's hymn of Praise 46-56
7. John's Birth and the Circumcision 57-66
8. Zacharias the priest's Prophecy 67-80

Lesson overview:

Please go over main events of the chapter briefly as follows

The gospel of St. Luke started with a short introduction that mentioned how, why and to whom was the book written. We explained that in the previous introduction.

John the Baptist's birth: 1-25

- Because St. Luke was a man of science, being a physician, he clearly defined the date of the event of John's birth
- Even though that time, there was corruption and there were no prophecies for 3 centuries, God saw Zacharias and Elizabeth, noticed their righteousness, and honored them to get John the forerunner before the Christ.

- In this conversation that occurred between the archangel Gabriel and Zacharias the priest inside the Altar, we notice that Zacharias did not believe the angel's words, in spite of seeing the angel and listening to the angelic voice in a tangible way which made him blameworthy of it, particularly because the holy history mentions living examples of elderly people who begot children whereas their wives was barren, such as Sarah, Abraham's wife for not having children.
- In (Luke 1: 17) "And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah". The Scholar Oreganus comments on this statement saying, "He did not say in the soul of Elijah, but rather 'in the spirit of Elijah and his power'. The spirit that dwelt in Elijah also dwelt in John, and the power in Elijah was also in John.
- The archangel declared himself that he is Gabriel, he came carrying the divine promise and the good news, but he also had to discipline Zacchaeus with dumbness as God commanded.

The Annunciation of the Divine Incarnation 26-38

- God chose a virgin who is betrothed to a man [engaged but for the Jews, it is like married without physical union]. God's choice was perfect because Jesus had to come from a virgin but if she were seen pregnant without being married, people would stone her thinking she was a sinner.
- The Holy Spirit came on her to sanctify her womb and start her conception, this happened the minute she agreed to accepting the assignment of being the mother of God. Her obedience opposes Eve's disobedience. She was more obedient than Zacchaeus who questioned the angel.

Mary's Encounter with Elizabeth 39-45.

- The virgin St. Mary has now carried in herself He who carries the burdens of the world, and He who provides for everything, she did not worry about what is hers, but rather in the receiving spirit, she hastened to the hills to the city of Judah, so as to serve Elizabeth.

The Virgin's Hymn of Praise 46-56

- When Elizabeth's tongue was released in blessings to the Virgin because she has believed the promises and has carried the Word of God in her womb; likewise did the Virgin's tongue began do praise God.

John's Birth and the Circumcision 57-66

- John's birth became a preaching sermon, though it had begun mysteriously, but the Lord has become a companion to him so as to support him; for God took John to the wilderness while young, and there He took care of him and raised him, so that he appears to Israel at the appropriate due time.

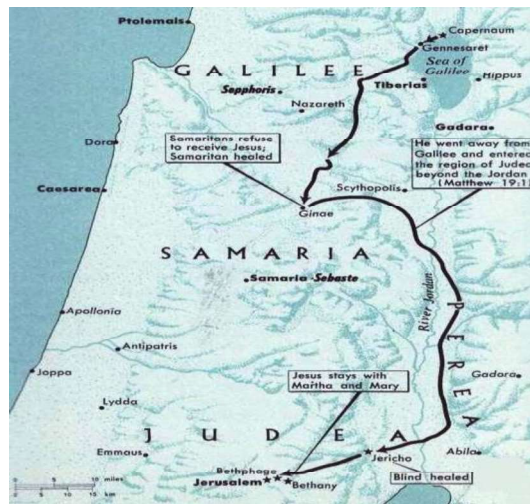
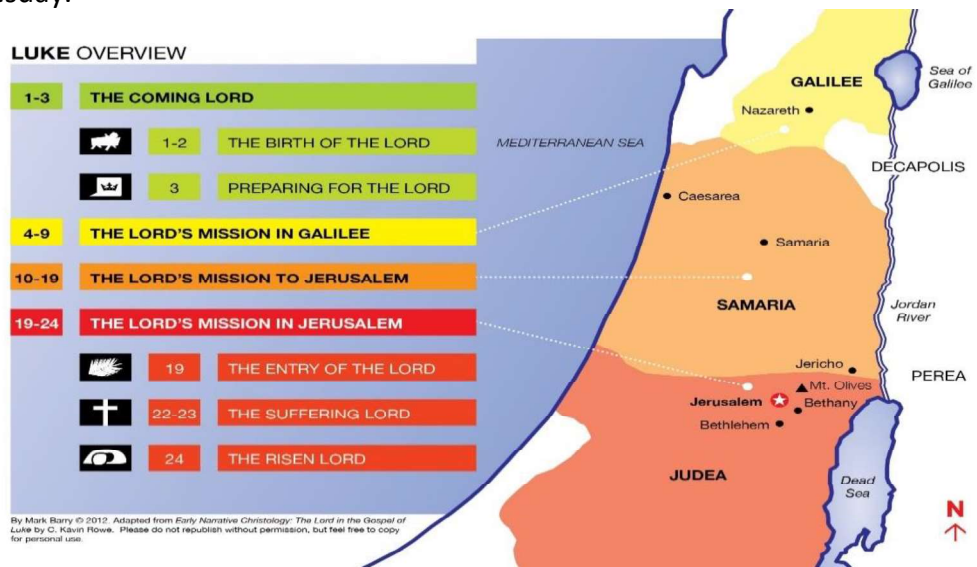
Goal we learn: [Submit to God's will]

In this chapter, we have many points to learn from, but we will focus on St Mary and her submissive response to the angel. **"Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."** Luke 1:38

Unit 3: [4 lessons]

Chapters 19-23

Since Luke's record, like that of the other three Gospel writers, is not an autobiography, he gives a disproportionate amount of space to the events he considers important. That can give us an inaccurate understanding of the time involved. We must remember that Luke devotes only three chapters to his discussion of the first thirty years of Jesus' life (1:1--3:20). He gives six chapters to the next two and a half years, the time Jesus spent in Galilee (3:21--9:50). Then Luke allots ten chapters for the next six months in Jesus' life, the time between Galilee and Jerusalem (9:51--18:27). Now, Luke will take five chapters to cover only one week (18:28--23:56) and spend three of those chapters (22-24) on one twenty-four-hour period. There are two and a half chapters detailing the first half of Jesus' week in Jerusalem, from Sunday through Wednesday.



Chapter 19

Servant's preparation:

Thank you, Lord chapter 18, + part of chapter 19 : <https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+kvo9etr>

A sermon from upper room app about Luke 19 <https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+esa4cpp>

Brief introduction:

At the beginning of each lesson, please mention this book overview.

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- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Greek after collecting testimonies from eyewitnesses to accurately record all details of Jesus's life.
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Remember:

Last lesson we talked about the characteristics of a powerful prayer, being persistent, focusing on myself not others, not going hungry without talking to God for long and to pray with all not part of my heart. Prayer is not an equation to get what you need but a friendship with God.

Main points in the Chapter 19:

1. Zacchaeus hosting the Lord 1- 10
2. The Parable of the ten Pounds 11- 27
3. Drawing close to Jerusalem 28- 40
4. His Weeping over Jerusalem 41- 44
5. Purifying the Temple 45- 46
6. His teaching at the Temple 47- 48

Lesson overview:

Please go over main events of the chapter briefly as follows:

Zacchaeus hosting the Lord 1- 10

In Jericho lived a tax collector named Zacchaeus. In spite of the image of this man we might have gotten in childhood from that simple song, "Zacchaeus was a wee little man, and a wee little man was he," Zacchaeus was no freak or clown. He was a very rich and very powerful man. Jericho was an important city in the Middle East trade routes, and the man appointed by the Romans to be tax collector there was a significant figure. But for all his power and wealth, Zacchaeus had a need. And he hoped that Jesus might be able to fill that need.

Being shorter than the crowd, Zacchaeus resorted to climbing a tree to see the traveling rabbi. As Jesus passed by, he stopped and called Zacchaeus down from the tree. Notice Zacchaeus' response. Zacchaeus' heart was exalted above every earthly thought, and thus he offered much more than what the law had ordered. He offered half of his money to the poor; and he also asked to give back four times as much to anyone he has dealt with wrongfully

He promised to return all the wealth he had gained from cheating. In doing this, Zacchaeus was able to do what the rich young ruler had been unable to do--make a change in his lifestyle. Zacchaeus' conversion was genuine. He was ready to turn his back on his previous life and start over with the value system of the Kingdom. Statements of faith are wonderful, but actions of faith are even more wonderful.

The Parable of the ten Pounds 11- 27

Our study concludes with the parable in 19:11-27. Here we see a man leaving his fortune in the hands of his servants while he travels out of the country. Two of the servants wisely invested their master's money, earning a five-fold and a ten-fold return. (Not a bad interest rate!) These servants were rewarded with increased responsibility. (Note that in the Kingdom the reward for a job well done is a bigger job!) The third servant, however, hoarded his portion of the master's money out of fear of losing it. The master punished him for his poor management.

What does this story say to us?

1. At one level it says that when God has given us an ability or a resource, we should nurture it until it grows. A Christian youth, for example, who has a talent for music, science, drama, or language has an obligation to develop and use that talent.
2. Another level of interpretation is suggested by the idea that prompted the parable in the first place. Jesus told this parable "Because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once" (v. 11). The people following Jesus were expecting Him to rise up at any moment as a powerful military conqueror and establish a political kingdom in Israel. They were expecting God to intervene in history on their behalf. But Jesus was trying to get them to understand what He had told the Pharisees in 17:21--the Kingdom is within the hearts of men and women. The Kingdom is a spiritual reality, not a political one. The Israelites had spent all those centuries waiting for God to intervene, and all the while the potential Kingdom was within them!
3. A third interpretation of this parable involves us more directly. We, too, are waiting for a coming King. Before Jesus left, He gave us resources and instructions. When He returns will He find that we have ignored the instructions and hoarded our resources or that we have followed the instructions and multiplied our resources?

Drawing close to Jerusalem 28- 40 His Weeping over Jerusalem 41- 44

- Since 9:51, where Luke wrote, "As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem," we have been following Jesus on His slow and careful march through Samaria and Perea toward Jerusalem
- Common wisdom would dictate that if Jesus had any inkling of how much trouble He faced in Jerusalem, He would have tried to slip into the city unnoticed. But that would have defeated His

whole purpose for going there. He was going there to initiate the events that would lead to His death, a sacrifice planned eons earlier in the halls of heaven.

- So, rather than slip quietly into Jerusalem, Jesus entered the city in a manner that was sure to attract attention and stir up the opposition. His choice of a donkey colt (19:30-34) was not happenstance.
- The Old Testament prophet Zechariah had seen the Messiah riding into Jerusalem seated on a donkey colt (Zec. 9:9). This imagery was well known. Jesus adopted this prophetic means of transportation as a deliberate claim to Messiahship. The people, fully aware of the prophetic implications, greeted Jesus as their long-awaited Savior.
- As Jesus approached the city, He wept over what He knew would be its fate in another few decades (19:41-44). The future destruction of Jerusalem would happen soon.

Purifying the Temple 45- 46

- Arriving in Jerusalem, Jesus went to the Temple, the center of Jewish worship, where He found money changers and animal sellers conducting their business (19:45]. Both of these occupations were necessary for the operation of the Temple. Adult Jewish males were required to pay a temple tax, and since there was a variety of currency in the Middle East, money changers were necessary to convert the foreign currency into the required temple currency.
- The animal sellers were there to provide animals that had been certified by the priests as acceptable for ritual sacrifices. The problem with these two commercial operations is that the merchants took advantage of their monopoly and severely overcharged the visiting worshipers, giving the priests a cut of their profit in order to secure their franchise.
- Jesus' wrath wasn't directed so much at the actual business as at the unscrupulous operators who were using the pretext of religious ceremony to get rich. With some violence Jesus drove these unscrupulous merchants out of the Temple.
- If Jesus had been trying to slip into Jerusalem, He was certainly going about it the wrong way! Through the next few days Jesus sat in the Temple courtyards teaching and answering the questions of the people. He was also answering the questions of the religious leadership, who were desperate to trap Him into saying or doing something that would allow them to have Him arrested. He was upsetting their status quo, and their status quo was more important to them than God's plan of salvation.

Goal we learn: [Use my talents]

In this lesson, we will briefly learn how Zacchaeus had an active repentance, which was accompanied by a plan to change his life to the better. He repented when he experienced God's love and respect to him which fulfilled his needs. We will also learn that we were all given different minas or gifts by God according to our abilities and that God wants us to invest with them, not lose them but use them to earn heavenly rewards.

Lesson delivery idea

Let us learn few things from Zacchaeus:

1. Jesus started by calling Zacchaeus by name. Jesus knew the importance of a person's name. In some ways, the most important thing a person has is their name. If you have a person's name, you have the person. If you don't have their name, they don't belong. This may have been the first time Zacchaeus heard someone besides his mother say his name in a kind way. Saying his name made all the difference.
2. "Today I must stay at your house": Jesus was willing to reach out His hand in friendship to this man who was universally despised. Never reject those who are recognized by others. Learn to be tenderhearted like Jesus.
3. "Make haste and come down": Jesus was forward in pursuing friendship with Zacchaeus. He told Him to hurry up and come down because Jesus invited Himself over for dinner! But who made the first move? In a sense, they both did; Zacchaeus reached out to Jesus by literally "going out on a limb" for Him. Jesus reached out to Zacchaeus by speaking to him. They both reached out to each other.
4. Zacchaeus' repentance was in action, he didn't just say I regret my past, but he planned out how to change his life from that moment. Let us remember when we hear an advice that applies on us, don't delay, and take action and change yourself.



Now, let us learn how to recognize and use our talents:

Masterpieces not cookie cutter:



- God creates each of us as a masterpiece, He does not use a cookie cutter.

- God doesn't give us the same characters and doesn't treat us the same, but He gave us exactly what we need to be successful in the mission He designed us for.
- The minas in this parable are the gifts that God gives each us like your ability to sing, memorize, play music, listen to others, organize, manage, plan a trip or mission and so forth.

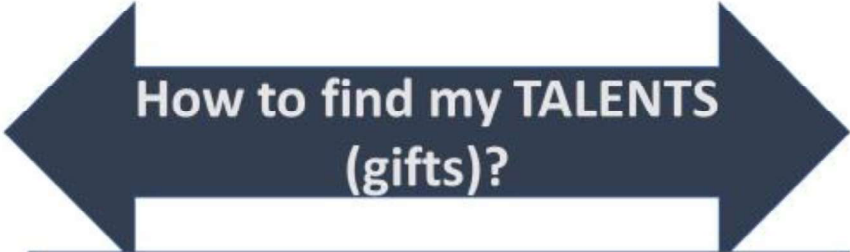
Did He create one type of giraffe? One type of insects?

He took His time and created millions of species of animals, flowers, and insects so that each of His creations is **UNIQUE**

When He came to humans, He created and is creating millions and trillions all the time but not 2 are the same!!!!!!

As He was creating a human, He didn't say oops that messed up, it is okay will fix it in the next human as if God ran out of undoes.

Same hand who created the stars, created you



- In the parable of the minas, God gave extra to the one with 10 minas, none to the servant who didn't use his minas !!!!
- God commented "19:26 'For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him'"
- The way God commented at the end doesn't work for anyone running for elections, as they would say this is unfair and social injustice.
- He is not like a boss expecting the same results from each employee, God is a father who treats each of his children individually according to their capabilities.



- A father left his house one day and told his 3 sons to do certain chores, he told the 16 years old to mow the lawn, the 10 years old to wash the dishes and the 4 years old to clean the toys.
- He gave each kid a different tool according to his abilities and the job needed.
- At the end of the day, the father will judge each one for doing his job perfectly well which is fair.
- It will be unfair to give them all a scrubber and get mad if the older doesn't do the lawn or expect the 4 years old to do the lawn because this doesn't match his ability. It will also be unfair to give them all different gifts and expect the same from all.
- However, God isn't like that, He gives us uniquely and judges us uniquely based on what He gave us.

- God may have given you a strong personality, your parents might not have liked it when you were 3 as you were bossing them around but God gave you this talent because He wants to make a difference through you, He wants you to be a leader, He will judge you if you don't use it properly.
- God might have given some of us a gift of compassion, where you make people feel good as you go, God will judge you if you don't comfort them.
- Before you were born, God had a design and a purpose for you. He gave you gifts to use them for this plan, if you don't recognize those gifts, you will mess up the plan.
- He would never ask you to do the lawn if He had gifted you a pair of scissors, thus you need to understand yourself and what your talents are in order to figure out God's plan for you
- Sometimes we think "if God had given the talent like this person, I would have been the happiest person", but that is a wrong way of thinking because God had given you the perfect talents to match your abilities and you just need to invest in them like the servants with the 10 and 5 minas. Do not go hide or lose your talent because God will ask you for it at the end.
- Sometimes you think that God gave everything to others but nothing to you and that is because you never found your own gifts yet.
- God's judgement is also His reward to us when we do what we were planned to do

Take home Prayer

Now I realize dear Lord that I am so special in your eyes, you created me as a masterpiece and gave me certain talents that I could invest and work with. Please help recognize what my talents are and use them properly so I get rewarded when you meet at judgment day and so you are proud of me.

- **Memory Verse** "19:26 *For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him*"