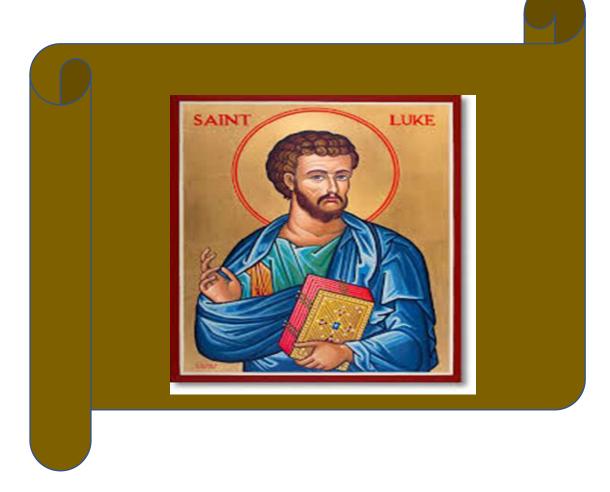
The Gospel According to St. Luke

Middle school Ministry



Introduction

	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 prophesies	Focuses on deeds	Focused on history	Focused on theology
Symbol	The human face	The lion	The Ox	The Eagle
	Sym	bols of th	e Four Go	ospels
	Matthew Winged	Mark	Luke	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=PLHedjl0_e2nk5yEwV9kLxOBn-oJwCt5OK

3) The reference book for Fr. Tadros Malaty → see separate attachement

4) Upper room app \rightarrow Sermons \rightarrow Bible study \rightarrow 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_dClxzr0 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 <u>doctor, a painter, and a Gentile</u> 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 <u>Theophilus</u> (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).



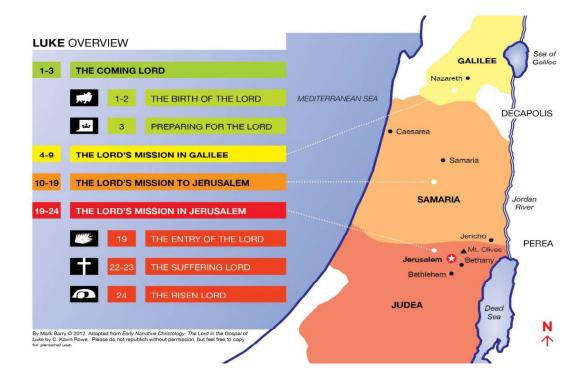
E- Why do we symbolize this gospel as an OX?

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? <u>St Luke offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind</u>, 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 4: [1 lesson] Chapter 24

Chapter 24

Servant's preparation:

1-A sermon from upper room app about Luke 24
The unexpected: <u>https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+u573sgg</u>
2-Is the resurrection real?
<u>https://m.soundcloud.com/copticanswers/is-christs-resurrection-a-real-fact-part-2</u>

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? <u>St Luke offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind</u>, 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.

Remember:

Last lesson we learned from Peter that pride and excessive self-confidence is all what Satan wants, to get us to fall. Satan likes to sift us like wheat, with God's permission, to allow all the weed or unnecessary things to be separated showing the best of what we have, just like Peter after his temptation, He became much stronger and preached boldly.

Main points in the Chapter 24:

- 1- The Empty Tomb 1- 12
- 2- The Amos Disciples 13- 35
- 3- Appearing to His Disciples 36-43
- 4- Sending His Disciples 44- 49
- 5- His Ascension Into the Heavens 50- 52
- 6- Their Relationship to the Temple 53.

Lesson overview:

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

The Empty Tomb 1-12

- Luke ends the 23rd chapter by noting that the women who had been a part of Jesus' entourage since the days in Galilee followed Joseph of Arimathea as he took Jesus' body and laid it in his own tomb. Since it was late Friday afternoon and the Jewish Sabbath begins at sundown Friday, there was no time to give Jesus' body the proper preparations for burial, which amounted to wrapping the body carefully along with spices and perfumes. So, the women, obedient to the Law, waited until Sunday morning.
- At the first ray of light, the women hurried to the tomb. Mark tells us that on the way they realized that they had no one with them who could roll away the huge stone that sealed the tomb (Mark 16:3).
- The tombs of the rich in Palestine were either natural caves or artificial caves carved out of a mountainside. They were sealed with a huge circular stone that was rolled in front of the mouth of the cave.
- But when the women reached the tomb, they discovered that the stone had already been rolled away. They entered the tomb but found no body. Jesus left the tomb empty, and the stone sealed. This is just as He was born of the Virgin and her virginity was untouched. He sent His angel to roll the stone, so that the believers might find in the empty tomb the deposit of the resurrection. As they were puzzling over this turn of events, two gleaming figures appeared to them (v.4). No doubt the women were terrified because these were no ordinary men.
- The angels said to them the most wonderful words ever spoken on earth: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" (vv. 5-6). Then they reminded the women that Jesus had predicted, as long ago as during the days in Galilee, that He would be raised again on the third day. "Then they remembered his words" (v. 8). We can certainly understand why these words had been forgotten in the trauma of the previous days.
- Luke tells us that the women went back to where the Eleven were gathered. (Notice Luke's change in terminology from "the Twelve" to "the Eleven.") That these men were all together indicates that they had regrouped at some point following the Crucifixion. One can only imagine what they had been discussing during the Sabbath.
- The men refused to believe the women's report, labeling their words "nonsense" (v. 11). But Peter, ever the bold in spite of his indiscretion in the high priest's courtyard, ran to the tomb. There he discovered that the women were right: Jesus was not there.

The Amos Disciples 13-35

- In Acts 1:3, Luke's second volume, Luke indicates that a period of about 40 days passed between the Resurrection and the Ascension, during which time Jesus "spoke about the kingdom of God." We have very little record of these 40 days. In his Gospel, Luke records only three incidents.
- In the first incident we find two of Jesus' disciples, one named Cleopas (v. 18) and the other unnamed, apparently returning to their home village of Emmaus, some assume he could be St. Luke. Both were believed from the 70 apostles. Emmaus was a small town just seven miles northwest of Jerusalem. These two had apparently stayed in Jerusalem until after the Crucifixion and had not been able to return home because of Sabbath travel restrictions.

- As they were walking on the road, they were joined by a third person. Naturally these two disciples
 were discussing the events of the past few days. The third individual [Jesus] joined their discussion
 and began to interpret the incidents they were relating in light of Old Testament prophecy (vv. 25-27).
 When they reached Emmaus, the two disciples invited him to stay the night with them.
- During their evening meal, Jesus apparently took charge of the supper and "took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them" (v. 30). Perhaps because this was so reminiscent of Jesus' actions during the Passover meal, they suddenly recognized that this individual to whom they had been talking all day was Jesus himself.
- We can only speculate why these two disciples had not recognized Jesus earlier. Perhaps the appearance of the risen Lord was very different. Perhaps God had for some reason prevented them from recognizing Him to get a chance to explain many prophecies to them. But as soon as they did recognize the Christ, He "disappeared from their sight" (v. 31).
- Immediately they headed back for Jerusalem, located the apostles, and told them their story. While they were still relating what had happened to them in Emmaus, Jesus appeared in the room.

Appearing to His Disciples 36-43

- Understandably the disciples "were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost" (v. 37). Jesus reassured them and allowed them to have physical proof of His reality.
- John, who was present at Jesus' first appearance to the Eleven, even adds the detail that the doors of the room were locked "for fear of the Jews" (John 20:19). "They were terrified till He gave them peace.
- Even though His wounds were healed, yet their traces were still there! The Lord saw this is useful to the disciples, to keep the scars of His wounds, so the wounds of their souls be healed, and they believe in His resurrection. He was not hungry, but He asked to eat. He thus ate in His authority, not out of necessity, so that the disciples realized the reality of His body.

His Ascension into the Heavens 44- 52

- During the 40 days that Jesus walked among the disciples, He commissioned them as witnesses to carry the message of salvation to all nations (vv. 46-47). After that, He "left them and was taken up into heaven" (v. 51). What is surprising is that the disciples did not grieve over the Lord's ascension, and His being physically separated from them. They rather returned to Jerusalem with great joy.
- In Luke's account of the Ascension in the Book of Acts, he adds the appearance of an angel who
 promised, "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same
 way you have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). We know that the disciples lived the rest of their
 lives in the daily anticipation of the fulfillment of that promise. And so, have Jesus' disciples for nearly
 2,000 years.



Goal we learn:

In this lesson, we will dive into some apologetics to defend the story of resurrection and explain why we believe it is true.

Lesson delivery idea

ENGAGE THE WORD

Will The Real Jesus Please Rise !

This activity begins with an encounter with three imaginary theologians, Rev. Julius Wishyheart, Prof. Malcom Souldeath, and Dr. Herbert Faithstrong.

Rev. Wishyheart represents the viewpoint of the liberal Christian scholar, Prof. Souldeath represents the viewpoint of the skeptic, and Dr. Faithstrong represents the viewpoint of the orthodox Christian.

Ask three of your youths in advance to be prepared to read these three theological statements or, for fun, have youth role-play the theologians. Will the Real Jesus Please Rise:

Well, let's listen to them as they express their views on what happened after the Crucifixion:

 Rev. Julius Wishyheart: At some point soon after Jesus' death, after the disciples had recovered from their initial shock and grief, they began to reflect on all that Jesus had taught them. It was at that point that they realized that He had not really left them. His inspiration would always be with them. And because He was God and had returned to eternity to join the God the father. To express this concept, and especially to teach it to new converts, they <u>created parables</u>, just as Jesus had done like The parable of the Ascension. The last chapter of Luke is true, but not literal. The things described there did not literally happen, but the ideas they illustrate are true. The Christ is alive in God and in our hearts.

- 2. Prof. Malcolm Soul-death: Obviously, Jesus, having royally botched his life, wound up being executed by the Romans with the blessing of the Jewish leaders. The disciples—poor, naive dupes that they were—could not bear to admit their stupidity and failure and return to their homes in Galilee. So, in the days following the Crucifixion, while they were hiding from the Jews like cowards, they cooked up the story of the Resurrection. Somehow, they convinced other simple people that they were telling the truth. They told this story enough times that they probably began to believe it themselves. And this story became the foundation for the church, which has perpetuated the mythology of Jesus for some 2,000 years.
- 3. Dr. Herbert Faithstrong: Jesus was right when He said that only those who have the childlike qualities of faith and trust can enter the Kingdom. If God is who we believe Him to be, if He could create the universe, if He is omnipresent and omnipotent, what is so hard about believing that He could raise Jesus from the dead? Neither of your theories, Rev. Wishy-heart, and Prof. Souldeath, explains the incredible change that occurred in the disciples in just a matter of days. No lie could take the cowardly Peter and turn him into the dynamic Peter who boldly preached in Jerusalem just a few weeks later. No myth could take the band of frightened, defeated, and demoralized disciples and turn them into giants who turned the entire known world upside down in a matter of a few years. Only the supernatural power of God, shown in the resurrection of the Christ, could cause that!

Well, who do you believe this time?

The youth will probably select the third one since it is the one they have heard all their lives. But press them to support their choice: Why do they agree with Dr. Faithstrong? Why do they think his position is superior to the other two? Why do they believe the other two are wrong? Let us explore the validity of resurrection.



Is the bible true?



We believe in the resurrection because it was documented in the bible but how do we know if the bible is reliable? Do we have an accurate copy of the original New Testament?

- > No, but manuscripts [copies] are found from the mid-first century.
- No ancient work is even close in terms of manuscript support of the NT.
- > The whole NT could be reconstructed by thousands of quotations used by early church fathers.
- At least 10 ancient non- Christians writers referred to Jesus within 150 years of His life.

Are the writers of the New Testament eyewitnesses?

- Yes, all NT writers record same basic events with different details. They cite at least 30 real historical figures, confirmed by ancient non-Christians and archaeology.
- Luke refers to many historically confirmed details in His gospel and Acts. Both were written within the first 70 years AD. If any reference was made up, contemporary people would have complained.
- Those writers gained nothing out of their faith in what they wrote and preached but they lost their own lives; this proves their honest testimony.

Did Jesus really die on the cross?

- It was researched by physicians and scholars. Scourging by Roman soldiers is an extremely cruel punishment that many die from it on its own.
- Jesus was nailed to the cross through His wrist and with every breath, He needs to pull on the nail in His feet to ease the stretched muscles and allow air in which is accompanied by severe pain. The breathing process continues until the person is too exhausted to breath in and die of cardiac arrest.
- Jesus's legs weren't broken because He was dead. No one can argue that those soldiers were experienced in identifying a dead person and know they would be killed if a crucified person escaped death.
- If we were to assume Jesus had escaped death on the cross and came out of the tomb, He would have been handicapped and would not impress His disciples to witness for Him. The opposite happened

Was Jesus's body really not in the tomb on Sunday morning?

- Being buried by Joseph of Arimathea could not be made up by gospel writers because he was a popular Jewish figure that everyone would notice if not true.
- We are sure there were guards either Roman or Jewish guarding the tomb or else the Jewish leaders would not have confirmed their presence by claiming they were asleep when the disciples stole the body.
- 24: 12 "Stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves." If the disciples had stolen the body, they would not have <u>folded the linens</u>, but they would have stolen the body as quickly as possible.

Did Jesus rise from the dead?





What if the disciples were deceived that they saw Him after He rose as the atheist professor said?

As we know that no one was at the tomb while Jesus was rising but like any event, we have evidences for its occurrence even without seeing it. We know He died on the cross as proven by the physicians then we have eyewitnesses who saw Him after His resurrection. Why were they not hallucinating?

- 1. The early Christians could not have been hallucinating as a group over 500 could not imagine the same exact event.
- 2. The early movement of Christianity spreading in many countries shows that people have been convinced and touched by that faith to the extent of death.
- 3. No one in the first century would have believed in Jesus as God unless they were sure He rose from the dead.
- 4. The empty tomb is verified even by Jesus's enemies.
- 5. Jesus is not a legendary, but a true story and He was referred to by many non-Christians as a great teacher. If He is a great teacher, He could not have lied when He claimed He is God or else everyone would have called Him a crazy man, not a great wonder maker and teacher. He fulfilled numerous prophecies written hundreds of years before Him, He performed miracles and lived a sinless life. Finally, Jesus predicted and accomplished His own resurrection.

Take home Prayer

Thank you, dear Lord, for dying on the cross for my salvation. Thank you for giving me the joy of The Resurrection to make me feel the victory over death. Not only that, but we have many evidence for the truth of the bible that we can rely on and debate against the published thoughts around us trying to shake our faith. Let us have the faith of a rock that can never be moved by anything till the last breath.

Memory Verse: ["]Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen!" 24:5-6

References:

For chapter 8: https://www.agapebiblestudy.com/Luke Gospel/Luke Lesson 7.htm

For chapter 13 & 14 : <u>https://childrensministry.com/sunday-school-lesson-parable-of-the-feast/</u>

https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-71-god%E2%80%99s-lost-and-found-luke-151-10

For chapter 15 &16 : <u>https://bible.org/seriespage/50-lost-and-found-luke-151-32</u>

For chapter 17: https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-78-more-faith-or-more-obedience-luke-175-10

For chapter 20: https://bibletalk.tv/what-to-do-when-they-dont-accept-you

https://gracegems.org/Ryle/l20.htm

For chapter 21: https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/I21.htm

For chapter 24: The case for Christ book by Lee Strobel

End of Luke's Bible curriculum

Please pray for the Curriculum ministry

