

# 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](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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIb_dClxzo0)
  - Part 2 [10-24]  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26z\\_KhwNdd8](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).



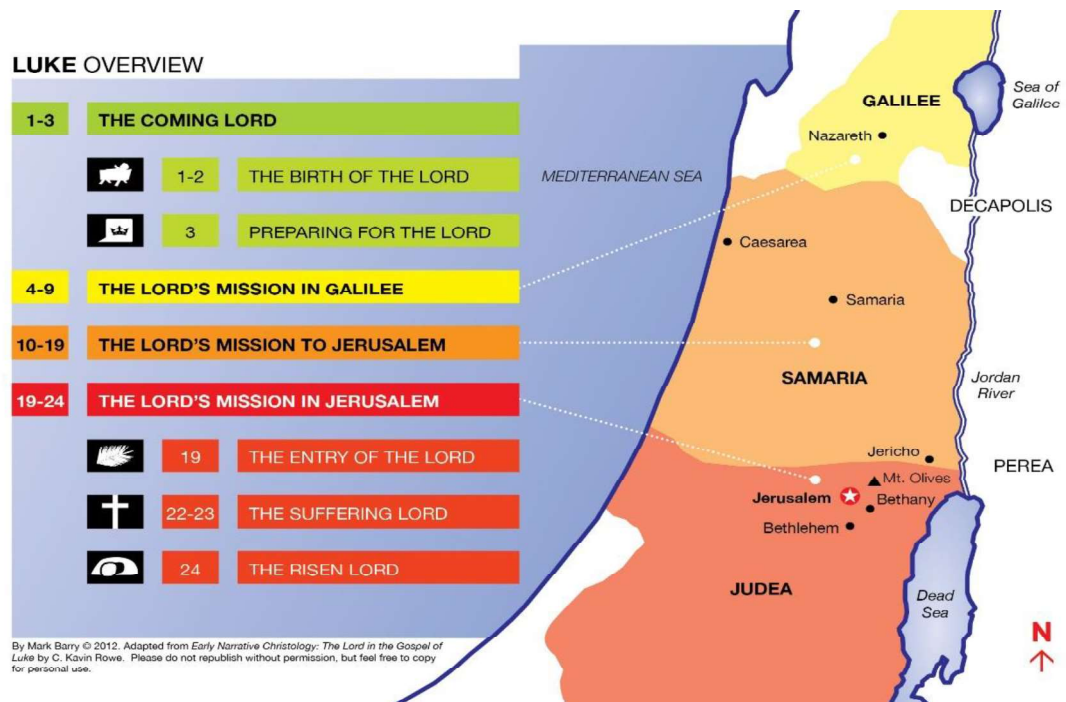
### E- Why do we symbolize this gospel as an OX?

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

# Chapter 3 &4

## Servant's preparation:

A sermon from upper room app about Luke 3

<https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+yvrww9r>

Chapter 4: <https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+efjpbkd>

## 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.

## Remember:

Last lesson we discussed the humbleness surrounding the birth of Jesus and how it was God's way of demonstrating His concern for all humankind. The birth of Jesus wasn't romantic. It was humble to the point of being primitive. But that was part of God's plan to bring the Messiah to the earth not as a king but as a servant. In choosing humble surroundings, God provided a connection to all humankind—including us. We should rejoice that God cares for us and respond to God's love with obedience.

## Main points in the Chapter 3

1. The Appearance of John the Baptist 1-3
2. The Urge for Repentance 4-14
3. His witnessing of Christ 15-20
4. The Lord's Baptism 21-22
5. The lineage attribution to the Lord Jesus 23-38

## Main points in the Chapter 4

1. The temptation in the wilderness 1-13
2. Jesus in Galilee 14-15
3. Jesus, the rejected by his own people 16-30
4. Jesus working with authority 31-37



5. The healing of St Peter's mother-in-law 38-41
6. His preaching in the synagogues of Galilee 42-44

### Goal we learn from chapter 3: [Practical repentance]

John the Baptist did not just ask people to repent but he gave them practical steps like if you have 2 tunics, give one away to those in need. Sometimes, we listen to a lesson about repentance, and we agree it makes sense, but we do not take any action as we do not have a plan. Let us explore what needs to change so that our repentance is effective.

### Goal we learn from chapter 4: [Invite the untouchable]

Every Sunday most of us sit in church, dressed in our best, having fellowship with others just like us, participating in programs focused on church members. Most of us come to church to be ministered to. Most of us would be surprised and discomforted if someone of another race, someone smelling of alcohol, someone dressed in rags, or someone with a bad reputation came into our church. When (or if) we invite someone to come to church with us, it is usually someone just like us--the "nice family that just moved into our neighborhood."

Youths think that church is the place where "nice" people come to be educated, comforted, and occasionally entertained. For them, spiritual life is centered on the church building and the church people they have known all their lives.

This session will focus the concern of Jesus Christ for the poor, the helpless, and the outcasts. Let us learn from Him how to accept others and invite the untouchable.



### Lesson overview:

Please go over main events of the chapter briefly as follows

### **Chapter 3:**

### 1. The Appearance of John the Baptist

St Luke records the exact historical time of those events by mentioning the Roman rulers at that time which helped researchers validate the true story of bible as it is not showing as a fairytale story, starting by “once upon a time, there was a man called John”

He also mentioned the corrupted priests Annas and Caiaphas which reminds us that the Jewish leaders were more interested in power politics than in serving God.

### 2. The Urge for Repentance

The word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness: John lived in the desert since his youth (Luke 1:80). But now, prompted by the word of God, John begins to fulfill his ultimate calling: to be a forerunner of the Messiah. God's timing is just as important as His call. God had a specific thing for John to do, and a specific timing for him to do it in.

John preached a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. The idea behind remission is not only forgiveness, but liberty and deliverance (as in to preach deliverance ... to set at liberty in Luke 4:18).

There was nothing strange in the ceremony of baptism itself. The strange thing was that Jews submitted to baptism. This was a common ritual for Gentiles who wanted to become Jews. For a Jew to submit to baptism was to say, "I'm as bad as a heathen Gentile." This was a true mark of humble repentance, a radical rededication to the Lord.

John is not unreasonable in demanding **good fruit**. True repentance will always have fruit-and the basic fruit of the Christian life is *love*

### 3. His witnessing of Christ

John made such an impact that people logically wondered if he were not the Messiah. Instead of cultivating his own popularity, he gave it all to Jesus. He pointed to **One mightier than I**.

### 4. The Lord's Baptism

Jesus was not in need for Baptist for repentance of sin as He had no sin but He did it to be an example to us and teach us to start our life with Him as Christians when we get baptized.

### 5. The lineage attribution to the Lord Jesus

St. Matthew, being a Jew, himself writes for his Jewish brethren, He showed Jesus Christ as 'David's Son', the Messiah, the expected king. He is also Abraham's son. As for St. Luke, he wrote to the Gentiles and thus portrayed Him as Father to all humanity.



## Chapter 4:

- ❖ Jesus was tempted like us after fasting for 40 days in the desert at the beginning of His ministry
- ❖ In the first, the devil plays on Jesus' hunger. He taunts the Savior, challenging Him to use His power to provide for His own needs.
- ❖ Next the devil appealed to a desire for power. "Authority and splendor" would be the eventual outcome of Jesus' ministry.
- ❖ In the third temptation, the devil was challenging Jesus at this very point--tempting Him to use His power for self-promotion. Throughout His ministry, Jesus performed incredible miracles. But never once did He do so to "show off." His miracles were always to help someone.
- ❖ After conquering the devil in the wilderness, Jesus returned to Galilee "in the power of the Spirit" (4:14), where His teaching began to gain Him a reputation. In His hometown of Nazareth, He was a celebrity, a "local boy made good." On the Sabbath, Jesus was invited to read and comment on the scripture. He chose as His text Isaiah 61:1-2, a passage in which the Old Testament prophet lists five goals for God's mission on earth:
  - to preach good news to the poor
  - to proclaim freedom for prisoners
  - to proclaim recovery of sight for the blind
  - to release the oppressed
  - to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor



### Lesson delivery:

#### For chapter 3 goal:

What would John the Baptist say to you? How would the message of "you can turn from the wrong you're doing!" touch your life?

A young pastor in a logging town noticed that the wood cutters would brand their stamp on the end of each log as they put it in the river to float down to the mill. That way, the mill would credit them for the log. One day, down at the river, he noticed that some men from his church were sawing the ends off of some logs so the stamp would be gone, and they could claim the logs as their own. That Sunday, the pastor preached a sermon on "Thou Shalt Not Steal," but he noticed the same men did the same thing the

following week. The next Sunday, he titled his sermon "Thou Shalt Not Saw the End Off Thy Neighbor's Log"-and was promptly run out of town. This innocent pastor was doing what John the Baptist had done, warning people of their sins to repent. Some of us might respond and repent while others ignore and close their ears like the wood cutters.

### For chapter 4 goal:

#### ENGAGE THE WORD "Westside Church Youth Council"

Begin the session by asking your youths to read the story of the fictional Westside Church Youth Council below. The purpose of this story is simply to engage their thinking, not to prove any point (yet!).

The Westside Church Youth Council was having its annual retreat at Cooper's Lodge. Along with volleyball games, hikes in the woods, wiener roasts, and water fights, they were trying to make plans for the Youth Department for the year. At one session Chuck, the youth president, suggested, "Before we can plan specific activities, we need to have some goals. What is it we want to accomplish this year?"

- "Oh, I know," Peggy immediately jumped in. "I think we should make it a goal to raise money so that our youth choir can go on a trip next summer."
- "I'd like to see us have more Bible studies," Randy suggested. "There's nothing I like better than discussing the Bible with other Christian youths."
- "Well, you know what I want," Todd laughed, as the others nodded. "More parties."
- "What about you, Stephanie?" Chuck asked. "You haven't said anything so far."
- "Well, I was thinking that we should make it a goal to invite more new people to our group," Stephanie quietly replied.
- "Like whom?" Peggy wanted to know.
- "Well, like Beth Ann, that girl in our algebra class," Stephanie said.
- "Oh, I don't know about Beth Ann. I'm not sure she'd fit in with our group," Todd said with a worried look. "She's . . . uh . . . you know—slow. And she dresses so weirdly. Besides, her dad runs that liquor store on 12th Street. I don't think she's the kind we should be inviting."
- "What about Sean, the kid who plays trumpet in the band?" Stephanie suggested.
- "Uh, I'll have to question that one," Randy said. "I like Sean, but he would probably be more at home in a church where there are more people like him."
- "You mean people of their race?" Stephanie spoke perhaps a little sharply. "I remember when that couple visited our church last fall. Everyone was polite to them, but they never came back. I've always wondered why. Now I think I know."
- "Well, you've eliminated Beth Ann and Sean. Maybe they wouldn't feel comfortable in our youth group. Maybe the answer isn't inviting people to visit us. Maybe we should visit other people. How about setting a goal to spend some time at the rescue mission downtown?"
- "Oh, nix that one," Todd answered immediately. "We did that once, remember? I couldn't wait to get out of there. That place gives me the creeps."
- "Well, campers, our time's up," Chuck interrupted. "Our schedule says that we're supposed to be down at the boat dock in five minutes. Last one there is the first one dumped in the lake!"

After the reading, ask your students to respond to the story. Be prepared to ask questions to start the discussion:

- Does this youth council sound pretty typical?
- Which member do you most relate to?
- What do you think of the attitudes expressed?
- How would you have responded to some of the issues if you had been part of the council?

At this point in the lesson, it is important for you to listen to your youth without correcting or commenting on their responses.

### **EXAMINE THE WORD**

Ask your students to look again at the Westside Church Youth Council story from earlier in the lesson.

1. How well do the goals of Peggy, Randy, Todd, and Chuck match with the goals Jesus identified early in His ministry?
2. How well do the goals Stephanie suggested match Jesus' goals?
3. What is wrong with the objections of Todd and Randy to the things Stephanie suggested?
4. Based on the scripture we have studied, what is wrong with these objections?

### **EXPERIENCE THE WORD**

Outside In:

*This activity begins with a series of questions designed to cause your youths to reflect on the ministry both of your youth group and of your youths as individuals. Read these questions aloud, but do not ask your youth to respond aloud. But do give them time to reflect on each question. As they do so, pray that the Holy Spirit will be working in their hearts.*

Respond to the following questions:

1. How many of the activities of our youth group are geared to "insiders," youths who are regular church attendees?
2. When was the last time our group made a serious attempt to bring new youths into our activities?
3. How much of our group's ministry occurs within the walls of our church or the homes of our church members?
4. Are there youths you know at school who would be uncomfortable in your youth group? Why?
5. Are there youths you know at school who would make you uncomfortable if they started attending your church? Why?
6. When was the last time you reached out and touched an "untouchable" at your school?

The last three questions concern the four groups identified in the passage from Isaiah that Jesus read in the Nazareth synagogue. "Poor" refers not only to those who don't have the basic necessities of life (food, water, housing, safety), but can also refer to those who are emotionally poor – without hope, politically poor – without a voice, spiritually poor – do not know Jesus, etc. "Prisoners" means more than

just people in jail. It can also mean people who are prisoners of addictions, or of dysfunctional families, or of abusive relationships. The "blind" can refer to spiritual blindness, and it can also refer to any type of physical or mental handicap. The "oppressed" would include all those whom society puts down and keeps down.

7. When was the last time our group or you as an individual focused your attention on the poor, the prisoners, the blind, the oppressed?
8. Who in your own school and community falls into these four categories?
9. What can you do to follow Jesus' example in ministering to these individuals?

After this time of reflection, have students discuss how they might put the theme of this lesson into practice. As we mentioned from goal 1 that when we realize something needs to change, we should act and make it happen not just agree it is wrong. Consider these options:

1. Encourage them to make specific plans to reach out to the "outcasts" and "oppressed" at school. They know who these people are. Reaching out may simply mean a kind word. Or it may mean an invitation to go along on an outing.
2. Students might make plans to take the ministry of your youth group outside the walls of the church. Your group can get involved in ministering at missions, orphanages, nursing homes, hospices, etc.
3. Or youths can determine ways to make your youth group more open to people of different races, different socioeconomic groups, or different abilities.
4. Often, we see newcomers to church or those who rarely attend classes, yet we act as if they do not exist. We need to take action and welcome them and encourage them to come more often. It would be great to ask for their telephone number and check on them if they do not come next time. You can't imagine how much difference you are making in their lives when you do that.

Jesus chose to spend most of His time among the common people, including the poor, the sick, and the outcasts of society. He intervened in these people's lives, touching, and healing them.

These contacts took place in ordinary locations, not in particularly religious surroundings. The common theme to these passages is Jesus' love for the poor and oppressed and His activity on their behalf.

### **Take home Prayer**

Dear Lord, let me realize how kind you were to the untouchables and outsiders, spending most of your time with them. I could hear John the Baptist inviting me for the practical repentance so that when I see what I am doing was not correct, take action right now. Let me extend my circle of friends to include those who have no one to include and be kind to those who feel uncomfortable when they come to my church. Let me be proactive and teach those around me how to be like you dear Lord.

#### ***Memory Verse:***

***4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor"***