

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

Lesson Plan: Introduction to Luke

Learning Goals: Students should understand the audience, provenance, circumstances, and basic features of the Gospel of Luke.

Question: What does it mean to be saved?

Prayer.

Ask question on board and discuss (5 minutes)

Themes for the gospel of Luke:

1. Salvation
Luke uses the word “salvation” more than any other gospel
2. Interest in the Gentiles
 - a. He relates Jesus’ genealogy to Adam (not Abraham)
 - b. It is the only gospel to set a historical context by mentioning secular rulers
 - c. It shows that Jesus was innocent under Roman law, specifically
3. An interest in Jerusalem
Luke begins his gospel in Jerusalem in the temple and concludes the gospel with the disciples returning to the temple in Jerusalem
4. An interest in People
 - a. Luke focuses on individuals
(for example: Elizabeth, Zechariah, Zaccheus, Simeon, Annanias)
 - b. Luke focuses on social outcasts
(for example: Good Samaritan, Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners)
 - c. Luke focuses on the importance of women
(for example: he is the only one to mention the sinful woman at the dinner party, the woman washing Jesus’ feet, that women financially supported the disciples, etc.)
5. Prominence of Prayer
Jesus is shown to be praying or teaching on prayer throughout his ministry and at crucial points in his life
6. Prominence of the Holy Spirit
Luke includes the presence and work of the Holy Spirit more than any other writer
7. Prominence of Hospitality
In Luke’s gospel, Jesus seems to be constantly sitting down to eat and share table fellowship (especially with those that don’t deserve it, according to Jewish law and tradition)

Date:

Early to mid 60s CE. We know this because there is a favorable attitude toward the Roman Government (this relationship would deteriorate after the destruction of the temple by the Romans in 70 CE). We also know this because of the relationship between Luke and the book of Acts (the 2 were meant to be 2 volumes of the same work) which ends with Paul’s imprisonment in Rome (around the early 60s CE).

Provenance and Audience:

Luke wrote from Rome for a Greco-Roman audience (Gentiles)

Purpose:

Luke 1:3-4: “it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.”

Authorship:

What do we know about Luke?

1. He was a Gentile. In fact, he was the only Gentile to write a book in the NT.
 2. Came from Philippi?
 3. He was Greek and quoted from the Septuagint translation of the OT
 4. He adopts a Hellenistic practice in dedicating his book to a patron (Theophilus)
 5. Being a doctor (see Colossians 4:14), he was highly educated. It is easy to see this in his writing because it is so rich with vocabulary and demonstrates his writing skill.
 6. He was knowledgeable about other cultures because he had traveled extensively. He understood the structure of Roman government very well.
 7. His spiritual hero and mentor was Paul. It is under Paul's apostolic authority that he writes Luke and Acts.
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Lesson Summary /Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Luke
- Know distinctive features