



THE
GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO
LUKE

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PARTICIPANTS GUIDE	6
TEMPTATION	7
OPPOSITION	9
CERTAINTY.....	11
JESUS IS POWERFUL AND HE IS GOOD	13
LISTEN TO HIM AND BEHOLD HIM	15
THE SERMON HAS BEEN PREACHED, IT IS YET TO BE DONE	17

Participants Guide

Temptation

Read: Luke 4:1-13

Key Idea: We are tempted to love things more than God.

There are many ways to think about temptation. One idea is to think about temptation as the encouragement to love something more than God. When we succumb to such temptation, we also soon find our actions reflect our disordered love.

CONTEXT

What are two roles that Jesus plays in our salvation that requires him to be human?

- Philippians 2:6-8
- Hebrews 4:14-15

Why could Jesus not simply use his divinity to make his life easier?

- Hebrews 2:17-18

MEANING

What is common to all three temptations of Jesus in this passage?

What is the sin that the devil is trying to get Jesus to do in each instance of temptation?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Why is the temptation so timely?

How does Jesus go about overcoming temptation in this passage?

How is this passage an expression of God's love for us?

APPLICATION

How and when do you see temptation occurring in your own life?

What do you find yourself loving more than God?

Examples:

- Spouse/kids/pets/friends
- Work
- Recreation
- Money
- Self-achievement/status

What are some indicators or actions that you see in your own life that are evident of you loving something more than God?

What are some strategies you use to overcome temptation? What strategies do you think you can use more?

Sermon Resources:

- Painting: Christ in the desert, Ivan Kramskoi

Opposition

Read: Luke 4:14-30

Key Idea: We should expect opposition to the Gospel message.

Jesus commences his ministry at his hometown in Nazareth, Galilee, reading from a messianic prophecy and proclaiming its fulfilment in him. His own people are offended by his teaching, reject him and attempt to kill him.

CONTEXT

What are the two key events that immediately precede Jesus' return to his hometown of Nazareth?

Read Luke 4:14

We're told that Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit. How does this connect us with the context of the two preceding events?

Read Isaiah 61:1-2

What are the similarities and differences between Isaiah 61 and Jesus' quotation of it?

MEANING

Isaiah 61 is a messianic prophecy that speaks of the role of the Messiah. What are the key aspects of the Messiah's role according to Jesus?

How does Jesus fulfil these during his life and ministry? How are these still being fulfilled today?

In Luke 4:21 Jesus declares that the prophecy of Isaiah 61 is fulfilled. What does he mean by this?

When quoting Isaiah 61, Jesus ends his quotation at verse 2a and does not quote "and the day of vengeance of our God". Why did Jesus do this?

Compare Luke 4:22 with Mark 6:1-3

What additional insight does Mark give us into the people's response to Jesus?

What caused them to change from being amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips (Luke 4:22) to taking offense at him (Mark 6:3)?

Read Luke 4:23-27, 1 Kings 17:7-24, 2 Kings 5:1-15

How does Jesus use the examples of the widow of Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian to teach his people?

APPLICATION

How have you responded to rejection when you have shared the Gospel in the past?

What do you learn from Jesus' example in responding to rejection?

What encouragement do you receive from this passage regarding sharing the Gospel with your own family?

What will you take away from this passage that you will apply to your own life and faith?

Certainty

Read: Luke 1:1-4

Key Idea: In a world of uncertainty, we can be certain about the truth of Jesus

Do you ever have doubts from time to time about your faith in Christ?

In a world of fake news what can we be certain about in life?

CONTEXT

What does the New Testament tell us about Luke, the author of the gospel?

Read: Colossians 4:14, 2 Timothy 4:10

What are some of the distinctives of the 4 gospels in terms of the nature of the author, the audience they are writing to, the portrait of Jesus they paint and the genealogy of Jesus?

Why did other writings which claimed to be gospels such as the gospel of Thomas and Peter and Judas not included in the New Testament?

MEANING

Who was 'most excellent Theophilus' (v3)?

Why does Luke refer to him at the beginning of his gospel?

What are the sources for Luke's writing?

How can we be sure that Luke's gospel and the rest of the New Testament hasn't been added to or changed during the last 2000 years?

What do Muslims claim about the Bible?

What are the 5E's of evidence for belief in the truth of the gospel? How compelling is this evidence?

APPLICATION

In a world of uncertainty, we can be certain about the truth of Jesus Christ. Does your life demonstrate the certainty of the gospel?

In what ways do you need to align your life with the certainty of the truth?

Jesus is Powerful and He is Good

Key Idea: Jesus is unparalleled in his power and unparalleled in his goodness.

Opening Questions:

Have you ever been to see a doctor about your skin? Can you share this experience?

Read: Luke 5:12-16

CONTEXT

Skin complaints can be distressing. Imagine having a serious skin condition like the man in our story who had leprosy. What do you know about leprosy? What would this man's life have been like?

MEANING

Notice the leper says to Jesus "if you are willing", not "if you are able". Why do you think he asks this?

In Luke 7, Jesus heals a Centurion's servant from a great distance away with just a word, so Jesus doesn't need to touch the unclean leper to heal him, but he does. Why do you think that is?

What stands out to you about Jesus' healing of this leper?

Why does Jesus ask the healed man to go to the priest?

Read: Leviticus 14

In what sense is Jesus demonstrating that the Old Testament cleansing laws point to him and are fulfilled in him?

APPLICATION

Why can Christians say, 'I never have a problem bigger than Jesus'.

Why can Christians say, 'I never have a problem that Jesus doesn't care about.'

Read Luke 5:1-11. How does this passage relate to 5:12-16?

Jesus was willing to serve the broken and outcast. Are you? As individuals and the church how can we serve the broken and outcast?



Listen to Him and Behold Him

Key Idea: Those who behold Christ will be transformed into his likeness

Opening Questions: In what ways have you seen Jesus portrayed in artwork and in movies? In what ways are they and are they not good representations of the real Jesus?

Read: Luke 9:22-36

CONTEXT

Why do you think Jesus reveals his true identity at this time?

MEANING

What is the significance of Jesus' clothes shining as bright as lightning?

What is the significance of Moses and Elijah appearing with Jesus? Read Malachi 4:1-5

Why do you think did Luke the author make the comment: He (Peter) did not know what he was saying.

**What is the significance of the Father's words from heaven? What do they mean?
God the Father speaks 3 verses from the Old Testament:**

APPLICATION

What is the significance of Jesus' transfiguration for us today?

In what ways do you listen to the world more than Jesus? How does this play out in your life?

In the transfiguration, we not only get a view of Jesus's glory, we get a preview of our own transformation. Discuss.

As you behold Jesus you become like Him. Discuss. Beholding produces becoming.

The Sermon Has Been Preached, It is Yet to be Done

Key Idea: Those who profess belief in God's Word, must live in conformity with that belief.

Opening Questions: Are you the type of person who reads instructions carefully? Or are you the type of person who ignores instructions? Give an example.

"The sermon has been preached, but it has yet to be done." What does this mean?

Read: Luke 16:19-31

CONTEXT

Just before Jesus tells this story, what does he say in Luke 16:13? What is the Pharisees' response?

Who are the Pharisees?

MEANING

What picture does Jesus paint of the rich man?

What picture does Jesus paint of Lazarus?

What happens to Lazarus after he dies?

How does Abraham respond to the rich man's request for water?

What does the story tell us about what happens to believers and unbelievers immediately after they die?

When asked by the rich man to warn his brothers, how does Abraham reply?

What was God's issue with the rich man?

APPLICATION

What do we learn about eternity from this story?

How is it possible that we as sinners are able to go to heaven?

If you profess belief in God's Word, are you living in conformity with that belief? What does that look like in your life?