

Bible Exploration Workbooks

Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus

Workbook One: Luke 1 – 9

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Exploring the Identity of Jesus

Janet V. Payne

Welcome and Introduction

Prologue: “Getting to Know the Bible”

- 1** God Has Spoken (Luke 1:1-4 and Genesis 1-3)
“The First Humans”

- 2** God Has Spoken Again (Luke 3: 1-22)
“The Christmas Story”

- 3** Son of Adam (Luke 3: 23 to 4: 1-13)
“God’s Laws”

- 4** Spirit of the Lord (Luke 4: 14-44)

- 5** Rabbi (Luke 5: 1-32)
“Following Jesus: A Personal Story”

- 6** Lord, Lord (Luke 6:20-36)

- 7** The One? (Luke 7: 11-23)

- 8** Teacher (Luke 8: 4-18)

- 9** Rescuer (Luke 8: 22-39)

- 10** Messiah (Luke 9:10--27)
“Messiah: Introduction to the Oratorio”

Epilogue: “The Turning Point” (Luke 9:28-36)

Welcome!

This workbook is for you if:

- ❖ You like to find out for yourself what is true.
- ❖ You want a fresh look at the Bible, perhaps reading it for the first time.
- ❖ You want the language in the workbook to be understandable and clear, but the level of thought to be challenging.
- ❖ You want to feel comfortable to agree or disagree.
- ❖ You may want to work in a group,
meet with a friend,
or study on your own.

Note to Leaders:

Anyone can direct a small reading group or work with a friend. You can study the workbook together or study on your own and meet for discussion.

Preparation

- Study the text in the Bible and pray before you open the workbook.
- Study all the activities in the workbook as additional preparation, and read the notes on the discussion questions in the back of the workbook.
- If your friends speak English as a second language, ask them to read the passage in their own language before you meet.

Group Work

- Check the footnotes for group work instructions.
- Combine two, three, or four people for smaller group interaction.
- One method of reporting is to ask each person to share what he or she learned with someone from a different pair or group. It is not always necessary to report what happens in smaller groups.

The Lesson

- There is a question or activity at the beginning of each lesson, often in the footnotes. These are optional community-building activities.
- Give them time to LOOK OVER the text on their own before you read together. It is not necessary to report what they find in this section.
- Choose the LIVE discussion question that is challenging yet comfortable for all. The “Consider” section is a summary and challenge. Read it to the group and ask them to think about it. You might want to discuss it with individuals outside of group time.

Introduction to the Workbook

The activities in the workbook will help you understand the text for yourself.

LOOK OVER the Text

Before you read, look for specific words or the general organization of the text. This will help you understand what you are going to read.

The Biblical text is in a box. There is space in the box to mark the text and to make notes. Footnotes add background information or vocabulary help.

LABEL the Text

Look back, observe, and mark the text or fill in a chart. Pay attention to basic information: who, what, when, or where. All the answers for this section are in the text itself.

LINK to the Text

Learn about the historical or cultural background of the text, or make connections to other parts of the Bible.

LEARN from the Text

Discover the deeper meaning of the text as you discuss a few questions. You will look for the author's meaning and give your own opinions.

LIVE What you Learn

Discuss one of these questions:

How do you put into practice what you have learned? If you are working in a group, you can decide which question to discuss. The discussion is personal yet comfortable for all.

Consider this:

This section will summarize the message in the text and encourage you to consider whether it is true. This is not a discussion; it is something to think about.

The Final Word

The Bible verse in this section is related to the lesson in some way.