

Gleanings of Grace

Luke 1

Lesson 3

Luke 1 is a chapter about announcements and the reactions of those to whom the announcements were made. It is about two men whose births were prophesied many years before. It is about the proclamations of two men called and anointed by God. John the Baptist proclaimed about Jesus: *Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world* (John 1:29). Jesus proclaimed about Himself: *for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost* (Luke 19:10). May this lesson provoke in you a deeper appreciation of the plan of God *to seek and to save*.

OBSERVATION: Read Luke 1

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. There are several people present in this story. As you mark each one, remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them.

Key Words: *Jesus, God, Holy Spirit, Zacharias, the angel Gabriel, Elizabeth, Mary, and John*
3. The term of conclusion *therefore* is used in verse 35. Mark the word. Record the conclusion and what it was based upon.
4. The contrasting word *but* is used 7 times in Luke 1. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

5. The stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus contain several characters. Reflect upon each one and share something that spoke to you about them.

God, the Father

Jesus

The Holy Spirit

The angel Gabriel

Zacharias

Elizabeth

John the Baptist

Mary

Background:

1. The births of both John the Baptist and Jesus were prophesied in the Old Testament. Look up the following verses and record what they prophesy about:

John the Baptist:

Isaiah 40:3

Malachi 3:1

- a. Note the confirmation of these prophesies in Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:1-3, John 1:23

Jesus:

Isaiah 7:14

Micah 5:2

- a. Note the confirmation of these prophesies in Luke 1:27, Luke 2:4,5

2. There are other prophecies about these two births. What is the significance of fulfilled prophecy to you?

Read Luke 1:1-25 – Announcement of the Birth of John the Baptist

1. Luke, a physician, was a frequent traveling companion of the apostle Paul. Read the first four verses of Luke 1 and record what Luke wrote about the reliability of this gospel.
2. We are first introduced to the future father and mother of John the Baptist in verse 5. What can we know about them according to verses 5-9?
 - a. What comfort can it bring to know that a *righteous* couple was not granted children?
3. Using verses 11-14, record as you would if you were present in the room with Zacharias, what happened next.
4. What did the angel Gabriel reveal to Zacharias about his son? Luke 1:15-17
5. Considering the ages of he and his wife, Zacharias questioned the words of *the angel*. What was the result of this questioning?
6. Although Zacharias questioned, his wife Elizabeth *conceived* as the angel had declared. Record her expression of joy from verse 25.
 - a. Share a thought as you recall a time when God *looked upon* you.

Read Luke 1:26-37 - Announcement of the Birth of Jesus

1. *In the sixth month* of Elizabeth's pregnancy, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a virgin living in the city of Nazareth. What did he say to her? Verse 28
2. Mary's initial reaction was that *she was troubled*. After consoling her, Gabriel told her that she would *conceive and bring forth a Son*. According to Luke 1:31-33, what did *the angel* reveal to Mary about this *Son*?
3. Since a normal conception would be impossible for a *virgin*, how did Gabriel say that this *Son* would be conceived? Verse 35
4. Read Matthew 1:18-25. Mary's espoused husband, Joseph, upon hearing the news, *was minded to put her away*. *While he thought about these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream*. What did he tell Joseph? Verses 20-23.
 - a. What was Joseph's response? Verses 24,25
5. What confirmation did Gabriel offer to Mary in Luke 1:36?
 - a. In what ways can seeing God fulfill a promise to someone else strengthen our faith? (Share a personal example if you would like to)
6. Record the words of Luke 1:37.
 - a. Bask in the assuring words of the following verses:
Genesis 18:14
Numbers 11:23
Jeremiah 32:17
 - 1.) How does this truth help you in the times of your life when your faith is challenged?
7. Before the angel *departed*, what declaration did Mary make? Verse 38
 - a. Why is it important for us to make similar declarations during challenging times?

Read Luke 1:39-56 - The Song of Mary

1. Mary, prompted by the angel's news about *her relative*, went to *the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth*. What did *the babe in her womb* do? Verses 41,44
 - a. What prompted this action?
 - 1.) Recall the words of Gabriel to Zacharias in the last sentence of verse 15.
2. Luke 1:46 begins with the words *And Mary said*, followed by a song that is nothing short of magnificent as she *magnified the Lord* and *rejoiced in God* her *Savior*. Meditate upon the truths of her song and list a few of the statements that Mary acknowledged about God.

- a. What is your favorite?

- 1.) Why?

Read Luke 1:57-66 - The Birth of John the Baptist

1. *Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son* (Luke 1:57). On the eighth day, when John was circumcised, what confusion erupted?
 - a. What was Zacharias' response?
 - 1.) *Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God* (Luke 1:64). What do you think were some of Zacharias' thoughts during the time between Gabriel's announcement to him and the naming of his son?

Read Luke 1:67-80 – The Prophecy of Zacharias

1. *Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit.* The praise spoken of in Luke 1:64 included the prophecy of Luke 1:68-79. Using verses 68-75, what are some things Zacharias said that God had done and would do?
 - a. Using verses 76-79, what did Zacharias declare about his son?

2. Read John 1:29-34. What did John the Baptist declare about God's Son, *the One among the people whom...would come after him, whose sandal strap he was not worthy to loose?*

REVIEW: Read Luke 1

1. Share one thing from this lesson that touched your heart.

2. What did you learn about obedience as you studied this lesson?

*and being fully convinced that what He had promised
He was also able to perform.
- Romans 4:21*

Observation Worksheet

Luke 1

In as much as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, ² just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, ³ it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed. ⁵ There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years. ⁸ So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. ¹⁵ For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸ And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years." ¹⁹ And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. ²⁰ But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time." ²¹ And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. ²² But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless. ²³ And so it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. ²⁴ Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, ²⁵ "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take

away my reproach among people." ²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" ²⁹ But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" ³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. ³⁹ Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord." ⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. ⁴⁸ For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. ⁴⁹ For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. ⁵⁰ And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, ⁵⁵ as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever." ⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house. ⁵⁷ Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. ⁵⁸ When her

neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. ⁶⁰ His mother answered and said, "No; he shall be called John." ⁶¹ But they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name." ⁶² So they made signs to his father--what he would have him called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, "His name is John." So they all marveled. ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God. ⁶⁵ Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶ And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, "What kind of child will this be?" And the hand of the Lord was with him. ⁶⁷ Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: ⁶⁸ "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, ⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, ⁷⁰ as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began, ⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, ⁷² to perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath which He swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴ to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. ⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, ⁷⁸ through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." ⁸⁰ So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel