

The AD33 Commission Report

October 20, 2024 • Nat Porter

Luke is reporting on _____.

Luke is reporting on _____.

Luke is reporting with _____.

Luke is reporting with _____.

Luke 1:1-4

¹ Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, ² just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, ³ 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, ⁴ that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What do you know about the Gospel of Luke? What are you looking forward to as we go through this study in Luke?

Read & Discuss: Luke 1:1-4

1. Luke refers to "the things that have been accomplished among us" (v. 1). What do you think he might have been referring to? Do you think he expects his reader to know what these "things" are? Why or why not? What difference does it make that these events were "accomplished among us" (v. 1) rather than that they were events that just "happened"?
2. Luke says that many have already written similar accounts (v. 1). What benefits do multiple Gospel accounts bring to our understanding of Jesus? How would you respond to someone who challenged the validity of the Gospels on the grounds that details in these accounts might be slightly different?
3. In today's world, we're constantly bombarded with information from various sources. How do you go about vetting what sources of information are reliable or not? Can you give an example?
4. In verse 2, Luke mentions "eyewitnesses and ministers of the word" as his sources. What does it mean to be an eyewitness of "the word" or servant of "the word"? (*See also John 1:1-18.*) Why would relying on eyewitness accounts matter to the original readers, and why is it still important for us today?
5. What do you think it means that Luke "followed all things closely" (v. 3)? How does this compare to the way much of mainstream media is produced? What value do you see in his commitment to writing an "orderly account"?
6. What might "an orderly account" indicate about the genre or style of Luke's writing? How does knowing this shape your expectations as you begin to study this Gospel?
7. Based on verse 4, what do we know about the intended reader, Theophilus? Do you think he was a believer seeking reassurance, a skeptic, or someone else? Why?
8. What does verse 4 say is the purpose for which Luke wrote his gospel account? How can understanding this purpose guide the way we approach studying Luke?
9. Luke's goal is to provide certainty about Jesus. How does this goal relate to the modern search for truth and assurance? In what ways do you think studying this Gospel can strengthen your own faith?

Apply: What are some aspects of Jesus' life and teachings that you want to understand with greater certainty? How might you supplement our study of Luke to get the most out of it?

Pray: As we begin our study of Luke, consider what preconceived notions about Jesus or the Bible you might need to re-examine. Pray for a heart that is open to what God wants to reveal through the Gospel of Luke.