The background of the entire page is a photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a young child with curly hair is sitting on the ground, looking towards the camera. The ground is dry and rocky. In the middle ground, there are some small, dark bushes. In the background, the word 'LUKE' is written in large, white, serif capital letters. Below the word 'LUKE', the words 'JESUS FOR EVERYONE' are written in smaller, white, sans-serif capital letters. The sky is a hazy, light brown color.

Community
Group
study guide

LUKE
JESUS FOR EVERYONE

Pregame series
19th January 2020



Before every major sporting event there is the pregame show, which provides information for those who are both knowledgeable and inexperienced so that when kick off takes place they can more fully understand what is taking place and enjoy the game more.

In this series we are going to look at four stories which take place before Jesus kicks off His ministry, and Luke gives us these stories so when Jesus does start His ministry we have all the information we need to be on board with Him from the beginning.

However, unlike many sports pregame shows which simply have to fill time, Luke isn't interested in giving us stories for the sake of filling time, but he tells us about plays which take place which get us excited about who Jesus might be and cheering for Him when His ministry starts.



21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

23 Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, 24 the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, 25 the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, 26 the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, 27 the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, 28 the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elm-adam, the son of Er, 29 the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, 30 the son of

Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, 31 the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, 32 the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Sala, the son of Nahshon, 33 the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, 34 the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, 35 the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, 36 the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, 37 the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, 38 the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Luke 3:21–38 (ESV)

ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF JESUS

1ST CENTURY AD



Commentary

Luke's Gospel does not include some of the details leading up to Jesus' baptism that the other Gospels do. Jesus appears as John is baptising the crowds who have come out to him to receive His baptism or repentance. One question is why Jesus is being baptised? In Matthew's Gospel John protests at Jesus' request, telling Jesus he is the one who should be getting baptised by Jesus, but Jesus tells John, "*Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.*" Then he consented. (Matthew 3:15 ESV). Clearly Jesus was not getting being baptised with the baptism of repentance, as being the sinless, perfect, Son of God He had nothing to repent of. Perhaps, it is a way for Jesus to identify with those who have received the baptism of repentance and are waiting for the messiah to come and fill them.

Luke's real focus is in verse 22 and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Jesus, which Luke tell us happens when Jesus us praying after His baptism. Jesus is annointed for divine service and as such He fulfills Old Testament prophecy found such as that found in Psalm 2, especially verse 7.

7 *I will tell of the decree:*

*The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.*

8 *Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.*

9 *You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."*

10 *Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.*

11 *Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.*

12 *Kiss the Son,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.*

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

(Psalm 2:7–12ESV)

This psalm also brings to mind how Jesus also fulfills the Davidic kingship; He is the anointed one. The coming of the Spirit on Jesus is the empowerment He will need to fulfill His ministry, and the visible form of the Spirit is an announcement in itself to those who witness the coming of the Spirit upon Him like John. Just in case anyone misses the point and doesn't understand what is happening, there is the divine voice from heaven; "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

As Jesus is about to start His ministry, Luke takes the time to give us His genealogy which identifies Jesus with human beings from the very first man, but also identifies Him clearly as the Son of God. Adam had a unique sonship to God as the first man, but Jesus has a more unique Sonship to God as the eternal Son of God.

Luke starts out the genealogy by saying that people supposed that Jesus was the son of Joseph, but of course they are wrong and Luke's readers already know this.

Group Study

Open the group with prayer and discuss how you have used your application from last week's study in your life, and what you have learned from it.

Have you ever watched a game, and afterwards as you chatted about it with your friends, although you agree on the main aspects of match, you had different emphasis in your respective recollections?

How do you think that plays into the way the Gospel writers chose what to write about?

Where do you think Luke's emphasis lies?

Read Matthew 3:13-15, Mark 1:9-11, and John 1:32-34

Why do you think Jesus was baptised? What is the significance of His baptism for you?

When Jesus had been baptised, He prayed. How important is prayer in Jesus' life?

if prayer played such an important part in Jesus' life how crucial is it in yours?

The coming of the Holy Spirit on Jesus and the voice from heaven was a sign of His commissioning. Read the following passage and discuss how Jesus does that.

The LORD's Chosen Servant

*42 Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.*

*2 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;*

*3 a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.*

*4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.*

Isaiah 42:1–4 (ESV)

The Holy Spirit was pivotal in Jesus' coming to this word (involved in His conception), He the power in Jesus' ministry starting here with His commissioning, and He was key in Jesus' resurrection.

Think about how the same Spirit is in you if you have repented and received Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. How does that make you feel? How much attention to Him? What might change in your life if you paid Him more attention?

Personal study time

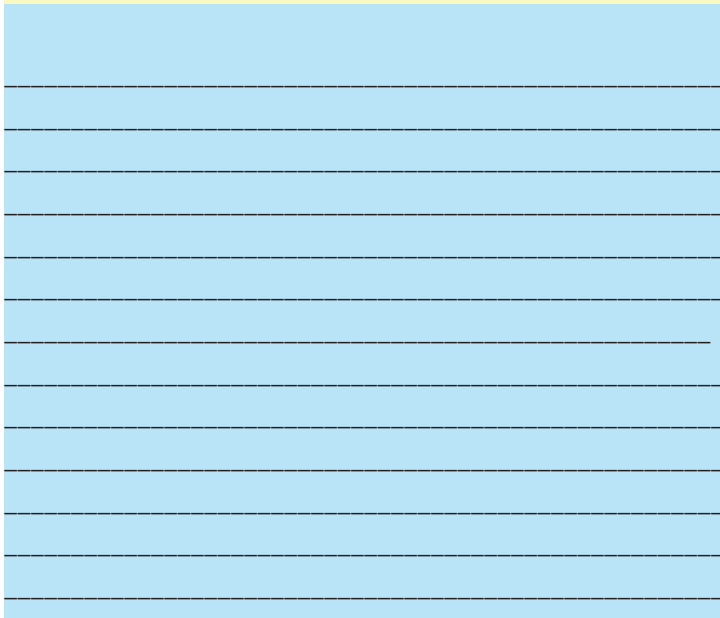
Why do people place so much importance on genealogies? How well do you know your family tree? In what way are you a reflection of everyone who has come before you?

As you think of your genealogy, who is the predecessor you are most proud of being in it, and who is the one you are least proud of being in it.

Do you think anyone of your ancestors could have visualised how you would be today?

Read through Jesus' genealogy, do you think anyone of them could have realised what God had in mind for their lives in His great tapestry of weaving together the salvations story?

Read Jesus' genealogy and reflect and on the connection of: **Jesus the Son of Adam**



Jesus the Son of David

A series of horizontal dashed lines on a light blue background, intended for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page.

Jesus the Son of God.

A large blue rectangular area with horizontal dashed lines, serving as a writing space. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page, providing a guide for text entry.

KIDS CORNER



Who is in your family?

1. Have you ever really wanted to be close to someone?

Family members resemble each other in a lot of ways. Maybe your eyes look just like your mom's, or you get your sense of humor from your dad. Our families influence who we are, and who our parents are determines much of our makeup. This was also true for Jesus, only in a much bigger way. When God declared from heaven that Jesus was His son, it revealed that Jesus' unique attributes didn't come from an earthly family, they came from his Heavenly Father. Jesus was not an ordinary person. His heritage was the King of the universe, which meant that He had royal blood running through His veins and divine nature just like His Father's.

But why was God's special, powerful, glorious son in that

river with all those ordinary people? Why would the Prince of heaven associate Himself with a lineage of simple, unremarkable humans? God wants everyone to be in His family! He cherishes each and every person he creates, and He wants us all to be His sons and daughters. Can you believe that God wants to look at us like He looks at His son, Jesus? Isn't it crazy that, even though we're flawed and ordinary, He still wants to know each one of us as His beloved child? Jesus came into this world to make our adoption into His family possible. Isn't that amazing?

2. How much does God want you to be in His family?

