

**Union United Methodist Church**  
 Spring FOCUS Bible School, 2025  
 FOCUS: Followers of Christ Understanding Scripture  
 Study: Gospel of LUKE

**Week 3: March 19, 2025**  
**Introduction, and Luke 4-6**  
 This Week’s Study: **Luke 4-6**

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**Week 3: Jesus’ Galilee Ministry: Nazareth, Chooses Disciples, Sermon on Mount**

Below is a table showing which chapters would be covered in each week of this 12-week study, followed by a general outline of the gospel of Luke

Week	From Luke Chapter	To Luke Chapter	Theme
1	1	2	Jesus’ Birth and Infancy
2	3	4	John the Baptist; Jesus’ Preparation for Ministry; Start of Ministry
<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Jesus’ Galilee Ministry: Nazareth, Chooses Disciples, Sermon on Mount</b>
4	9	10	Commissioning of Disciples, Feeding 5,000, Good Samaritan
5	11	12	Teaching on Prayer; Jonah as a sign; Various warnings (blasphemy, etc.)
6	13	14	Teachings on Kingdom of God; Lament over Jerusalem; Cost of discipleship; Eating with Pharisees
7	15	16	Parables of the Kingdom: lost sheep, lost coin, unjust steward; Rich man & Lazarus
8	17	18	Teachings on Kingdom of God; Healing of 10 lepers; Rich young ruler; Prayer – persistent widow; Parable: pharisee & tax collector
9	19	20	Zaccheus, Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem; Jesus & the Temple; Marriage & Resurrection, ...
10	21	22	Widow’s giving; Prediction of Jerusalem destruction; Signs of Jesus’ Return; Passover & the Last Supper; Who is the Greatest?
11	22	23	Passion: Garden of Gethsemane, Arrest, Trial, Crucifixion, Death & Burial
12	23	24	Resurrection, Appearances, Ascension of Jesus

## General Outline of the Gospel of Luke

- The beginning
  - Jesus's Birth, Infancy, and Preparation for Ministry: 1:1-4:12
    - Preface: 1:1-4
    - Jesus' Infancy: 1:5-2:52
    - Preparation for Ministry: 2:53-4:13
- Jesus' Ministry in Galilee: 4:14-9:50
  - Nazareth - Manifesto proclamation & Resistance: 4:16-30
  - Choosing of Disciples
  - The sermon on the mount: 5:17-6:49
- Jesus' Travelling Ministry: 9:51-19:27
- The Passion - Suffering & Death of Jesus: 19:28-23:56
- Resurrection of Jesus, Appearances, Ascension: Luke 24

### 1. Luke 4 to 8 Overview

#### 1) Luke 4:14-30: Jesus Begins Ministry in Nazareth, His Hometown

- **Jesus Starts His Ministry**

The ministry started after Jesus' baptism in the Jordan at about 30 years old, his being anointed by the Holy Spirit at his baptism, and his 40 days of fasting in the wilderness when he was tempted by the devil.

**"Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. 15He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone."** Luke 4:14-15 NRSV

It is important to realize that this is how every effective ministry should start - with the filling of the Holy Spirit. Jesus himself said so to his disciples:

**"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."** Acts 1:8 NRSV

And Paul tells us in **Ephesians 5:18**:

**"Do not get drunk on wine, ... Instead, be filled with the Spirit"**

- **The GOSPEL: Jesus is Anointed - The Gospel Manifesto**

Jesus declared who he is and his manifesto by reading to the congregation in his hometown (Nazareth) synagogue from Isaiah 61:

16When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

[Manifesto]

18**"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
19to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."**

20And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

This manifesto is the essence of the Gospel (Good News).

What is the gospel?

- Jesus is anointed with the Spirit of God
- This anointing enables him to:
  - Bring good news to the poor
    - all kinds of poverty - spiritual, mental, material, ...
  - Proclaim release to the captives
    - freedom from power of sin and bondage to habits, curses...
  - Recovery of sight to the blind
    - spiritual and physical blindness, ...
  - Free the oppressed - anything that oppresses, depresses, ...
  - Proclaim the year of the Lord's favor - freed from every debt...

- **Jesus' Ministry Not Received in Nazareth - his hometown**
  - ***They did not accept that Jesus is the Anointed One, the Messiah***  
They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" 23He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.' " 24And he said, "**Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown.**
  - ***They got incensed and wanted to kill him***  
29They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. 30But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.
  - In Mark 6 we see that Jesus could not do great miracles in Nazareth  
"Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." 5And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. 6And he was amazed at their unbelief." Mark 6:4-6 NRSV

Some Lessons:

- Miracles are not all up to God. They occur when our faith draws on God's power.
- Great miracles (deeds of power) in our life require our faith. With their unbelief, the people limited what Jesus could do.
- In our own home, hometown, church, etc. our gifts and anointing by God might not be appreciated.
- They couldn't kill Jesus even though they tried - is time had not come.

## 2) **Luke 4::21-24: Jesus' Ministry in Capernaum**

In contrast to Nazareth, Jesus was accepted in Capernaum (another place in Nazareth). So, there he did great miracles.

- *Jesus taught with authority in Capernaum*

“He went down to Capernaum, a city in Galilee, and was teaching them on the sabbath. 32They were astounded at his teaching, because he spoke with authority.” Luke 4:31-32 NRSV

Clearly, they did not attempt to throw him out.

- *Anointing at Work: Jesus frees a demon-possessed man*

This is a demonstration of the anointing working through Jesus.

The same anointing will free those who are held captive by demon-possession and oppression today.

“In the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, 34“Let us alone! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” 35But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” When the demon had thrown him down before them, he came out of him without having done him any harm.” 4:23-24 NRSV

- *Unlike Nazareth, other synagogues accepted/received Jesus*

“They were all amazed and kept saying to one another, “What kind of utterance is this? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and out they come!” 37And a report about him began to reach every place in the region.”

**Note: Jesus did not use any advertising.** His demonstration of the power of the anointing in him caused “a report about him began to reach every place in the region.”

The anointing would do the same today. If people experience power of the Holy Spirit in our services, more people will come to the Lord.

- *4:38-41 - Anointing at Work: Healings & Freedom for the Oppressed*  
This is a demonstration of the anointing working through Jesus.

- *Healing of Simon Peter's mother-in-law*

"After leaving the synagogue he entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked him about her. **39Then he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her.** Immediately she got up and began to serve them." 4:38 NRSV

**Important lessons for us:**

- Can fevers and diseases heal?
- Jesus "rebuked" the fever!!
- We should do the same in the name of Jesus. We have his delegated authority to do that.

- *Healing of Many - through Laying on of Hands*

40As the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them.

- *Demons Cast Out - After Being Rebuked by Jesus*

41Demons also came out of many, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But **he rebuked them** and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Messiah.

- *4:42-41 - Jesus Was Purpose Driven - We Must Be Too!*

"At daybreak he departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowds were looking for him; and when they reached him, they wanted to prevent him from leaving them. 43But he said to them, "**I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose.**" 44So he continued proclaiming the message in the synagogues of Judea."

Jesus, driven by **PURPOSE: to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom**

Note: Jesus started in Nazareth, then to other towns in Galilee, and now he's preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

- *Question: Is Divine healing for us today?*

Comparing all these effects of the power of the Spirit operating through Jesus in Luke with that in Matthew, we see this text in Matthew:

14When Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever; 15he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him. 16That evening **they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick.** 17This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, **"He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."** Matthew 18:14-17 NRSV

Jesus's ministry (then and now) is a fulfilment of what was prophesied in Isaiah 53 - which Matthew quotes here.

***We are called to follow the same strategy***

- Be filled with the Spirit of God
- In the power of the Spirit of God, be Jesus' witnesses
  - "in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

***Is Jesus Willing to Heal? Is it God's Will to Heal Us?***

12While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, **"Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean"**

13Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. **"Be clean!"** And immediately the leprosy left him." Luke 5:12-13 NIV

Look at how it puts it in the NRSV:

"When he saw Jesus, he bowed with his face to the ground and begged him, **"Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean."** 13Then

Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, **"I do choose. Be made clean."** Immediately the leprosy left him." Luke 5:12-13 NRSV

Remember:

- This is what Jesus is anointed to do - why he is called the Anointed One, the Messiah, the Christ (recall his manifesto in Luke 4).
- And He has authorized us to do the same in the name of Jesus

### 3) How Jesus Called His First Disciples - Our Model

- *Luke 5:1-11: Simon - with demonstration of anointing power*

3He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. 4When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." 5Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." 6When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.

9For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; 10and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; **from now on you will be catching people.**" 11When they had brought their boats to shore, **they left everything and followed him.**

#### Important Lesson:

We are called to be fishers of men.

This can only be done through the anointing power of Christ in us

This is what Jesus demonstrated to us.

- *Luke 5:27-32: Levi - with compassion and forgiveness*  
27After this **he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me."**  
28And he got up, left everything, and followed him.



29Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house; and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others sitting at the table with them. 30The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" 31Jesus answered, "**Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; 32I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance.**" Luke 5:27-32 NRSV

**Important Lesson:**

Don't wait till you are (or feel) perfect or able to yield to God's call. Just repent if you need to, and obey right away!

- ***In Prayer - Waiting on the Father***

"Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. 13And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: 14Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, 15and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, 16and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor." Luke 6:12-16 NRSV

**Important Lesson:**

Getting Divine guidance for important lessons in our lives **requires waiting on the Lord in prayer - for as long as it takes!**

#### 4) **How Jesus Maintained the Anointing and Power in His Life & Ministry**

- **By a Consistent Prayer Life**

"Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God." Luke 6:12 NRSV

- **Didn't Let the Fame Get to Him - Withdrew to Pray**

15But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. 16But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray. Luke 5:15-16 NRSV

- **Leaned on the Power of the Anointing**

He taught and exercised the power of the Holy Spirit. Must have taken faith to do so!

17One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting near by (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); **and the power of the Lord was with him to heal.** 18Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; 19but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. 20When he saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." Luke 5:17-20 NRSV

## 2. Daily Study Schedule & Questions

**Days 1 to 3: Study Luke 4 with the help of the notes above and last week's notes. Also read Acts 1 and 2.**

Suggested reflection themes:

- 1) What do you learn about the power of the anointing that was on Jesus
- 2) When the Holy Spirit's power rests on you can minister like Jesus did?
- 3) How can you live the kind of Spirit-filled life that Jesus lived.
- 4) Are we to pray for people and touch them just like Jesus did and expect them to experience the power of God and healing?

**Day 4-5: Study Luke 5 and 6 with the help of the notes in section 1 above.**

Suggested reflection themes:

- 1) How did Jesus live a spirit-filled life?
- 2) What role did prayer play in Jesus's life and ministry? Why did he need to pray regularly and constantly?
- 3) **What are some of the stories of Jesus' ministry that have touch you deeply? Why? Share your reasons with your group in next week's discussions.**