

# Synod Conversation with Luke

## Reading Schedule – Part 1

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Chapter 1	December 2-8 December 9-15	(Luke 1:1-38) (Luke 1:39-80)
Chapter 2	December 16-22 December 23-29	(Luke 2:1-21) (Luke 2:22-52)
Chapter 3	December 30-January 5 January 6-12	(Luke 3:1-20) (Luke 3:21-38)
Chapter 4	January 13-19 January 20-26	(Luke 4:1-13) (Luke 4:14-44)
Chapter 5	January 27-February 2 February 3-9	(Luke 5:1-26) (Luke 5:27-39)

### Sample Questions that could be used every week:

- What caught your eye or your ear?
- Did you notice or hear anything new?
- Are there any words or phrases in this text that are very familiar to you?
- Were you reminded of a hymn by these words?
- Did anything here make you feel joyful or sad or angry or confused? Why?
- How does this text shape your life?

## Weekly Questions for Adult, Youth, & Child Readers:

### Week 1 - December 2-8 (Luke 1:1-38)

- **Adults:** What does the author of the Gospel of Luke say is the Gospel's primary purpose? (See v. 4) What truth do you hope to learn about reading through Luke this year?
- **Adults:** Mary said, "Let it be with me according to your word." (v. 38) God's creative words in Genesis 1:3 are, "Let there be light." What do these phrases have in common? How are they different? Does each phrase call into being the thing it names?
- **Youth:** Mary was probably your age or younger, how would you feel in Mary's place?
- **Children:** What did the angel say to Mary to comfort her?

### Week 2 - December 9-15 (Luke 1:39-80)

- **Adults:** As you read v. 56 and the surrounding narrative, do you imagine that Mary stayed with Elizabeth until she had given birth to John, or do you think Mary returned home before that took place? Luke doesn't tell us, but only hints at possible answers. Why might he have been vague about this when he is so clear about other details?
- **Adults:** Mary's song (1:46-55) and Zechariah's song (1:67-79) are similar, but one sings "for me" while the other sings "for us." Does that difference matter? If so, what difference does it make?
- **Youth:** Mary sing The Magnificat. What in your life do you praise the Lord for and how do you magnify that praise?
- **Children:** How was John the Baptist related to Jesus?

### Week 3 - December 16-22 (Luke 2:1-21)

- **Adults:** Besides the practical value of using a manger to hold a newborn baby in relative safety, what imagery does the baby Jesus lying in a place where food is usually found evoke for you? (See Luke 22:19-20) Can you find any Christmas hymns that speak of this image?
- **Adults:** Are "glory to God" and "peace on earth" (v. 14) different ways of saying the same thing? Do you see any examples of either in your daily life or in the world around you? What are they?
- **Youth:** We hear the words "Glory to God in the highest" where else do you hear these words today and why?
- **Children:** Where did Mary and Joseph stay in Bethlehem and why?

Week 4 - December 23-29 (Luke 2:22-52)

- **Adults:** Does the sacrifice of the two birds (v. 24) mean that Mary and Joseph could not afford a lamb? (See Leviticus 12:7b-8) Might poor people be able to travel to Jerusalem every year as Mary and Joseph did? (v. 41)
- **Adults:** Does the story of Mary and Joseph losing Jesus for three days before finding him in Jerusalem have anything in common with the Road to Emmaus story? (See Luke 24:13-35) If so, what? Be watching, as you read through Luke, for “reflections” that tie the end of the Gospel and the beginning of the Gospel together.
- **Youth:** Why did it take so long for Jesus parents to know he was missing and what does that tell us about how we should read the Bible?
- **Children:** How old was Jesus when he stayed behind in the temple?

Week 5 - December 30-January 5 (Luke 3:1-20)

- **Adults:** Do you think that the soldiers who asked John what they should do (v. 14) were Roman soldiers? Were Gentiles baptized by John?
- **Adults:** John the Baptist’s job, according to Zechariah’s song (Luke 1:79), was to “guide our feet into the way of peace.” Did John seem to accomplish that through his preaching and baptizing? Why do you think so?
- **Youth:** Why did Isaiah’s words apply to the people of John’s day and how do they still apply to us today?
- **Children:** Which prophet’s words did John use?

Week 6 - January 6-12 (Luke 3:21-38)

- **Adults:** What was it about Jesus that pleased God so much, (v. 22) do you think? Was it something Jesus had done, or just because of who he was? What about you? Is God pleased with you? Why or why not?
- **Adults:** They supposed Jesus was the son of Joseph (v. 23), when really he was the son of God. In the very specific genealogy that he includes here (vv. 23-38), does Luke mean to tell us that Joseph also, through a long line of descent, was the son of God? Was David? Was Adam? Are you God’s child?
- **Youth:** If you were baptized as an infant or young child, what promises were made for you at your baptism, what promises did you affirm for yourself at your confirmation? If you were baptized as a youth, what promises did you make?
- **Children:** Jesus was baptized! With the help of your parents try and name as many as you can that were at your baptism along with the date of your baptism. If you haven’t been baptized, talk to an adult who takes you to church about baptism.

Week 7 - January 13-19 (Luke 4:1-13)

- **Adults:** When Jesus said, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test,” (v. 12) was he voicing his own resolve not to do so, or might he have been instructing the devil not to do so?
- **Adults:** Starting now, as you read through Luke, keep looking for anything that appears to be “an opportune time,” (v. 13) when you think you can see the devil resuming the work of temptation that was suspended here.
- **Youth:** What temptations come between you and God today?
- **Children:** Who tempted Jesus in the wilderness?

Week 8 - January 20-26 (Luke 4:14-44)

- **Adults:** Luke tells us that Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit twice in this chapter (vv. 1 and 14), and each time Jesus immediately faces a significant challenge. Does that surprise you? Does your life of discipleship seem to follow this pattern as well?
- **Adults:** When you hold 4:18-19 together with 4:43, what do you hear? What was the purpose for which Jesus was sent? Are these things to be taken literally or metaphorically? Why do you think so?
- **Youth:** What 3 signs did Jesus share in these verses and what do they have in common?
- **Children:** What happened after Jesus spoke in his hometown?

Week 9 - January 27-February 2 (Luke 5:1-26)

- **Adults:** Verses 25-26 speak of people glorifying God. What do you think this means? What do you think brings God glory?
- **Adults:** In v. 23, Jesus asks, “Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and walk?’” What do you think is easier? Why?
- **Youth:** We are all called to follow Jesus, how are you being called?
- **Children:** Who left everything behind to follow Jesus?

Week 10 - February 3-9 (Luke 5:27-39)

- **Adults:** This chapter is filled with leaving. How many places do you find people leaving behind other people or places or things that are dear to them in this chapter? (You might consider vv. 11, 16, 28, and 35.)
- **Adults:** Verses 36-39 demonstrate how “new” and “old” live in tension with each other. Does Jesus mean to identify himself with the “new” or with the “old” do you think? What makes you think that?
- **Youth:** Without using your phone or the internet talk with some and find out what a bridegroom is and why Jesus referred to himself as it?
- **Children:** Levi Hosted a meal for Jesus who else did Jesus eat with?