

Dear Bible Study Leader,

I am so excited about the privilege of beginning this study of the New Testament and of the life, ministry and miracles of our Lord and Savior with you. If you have been through the Old Testament with us as a group leader, you need to know that we are now more than halfway through our journey through the Bible. If you are just joining us now, welcome, to what I call “The best books in the Bible!”

We have surveyed the 39 books of the Old Testament and now come to the challenge of surveying the 27 books of the New Testament. In this course, we begin studying the four Gospels, which will challenge us to share God’s Good News. I have often said, “This is my favorite book” or “This is the best book or section of the Bible.” I say this frequently because they are special favorites when I am studying them. But now when we come to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, I can honestly, sincerely and emphatically say that we are now coming to the heart of the Bible. I can say this because the Bible is all about Jesus, and these little books are the biographies of Jesus’ life. His life was the greatest revelation of truth the world has ever been given (John1:18). Everything Jesus Christ was, everything He said, and everything He did was the greatest revelation God has ever given to this world!

I remind you that we are doing a practical devotional survey study of the New Testament. We will only have time to look at some of the key passages. My prayer is that these studies will help you and those you will be leading to **get into God’s Word and get God’s Word into you in a way that will make it possible for wonderful and miraculous things to happen in your hearts.**

It is so very important for us to study. Paul told his young disciple Timothy to “...study to show yourself approved unto God, a **workman** that will not be ashamed because he was rightly teaching the Word of God.” If we understand the Greek word Paul used for “study” in this passage we realize that it means “to exert yourself, to burn mental energy, to be a workman when you study.” I want to challenge you to read and then **study** all the New Testament as we survey this part of the Bible.

As we read and lead others through the Gospels and the rest of the New Testament we want to look for the devotional application of God’s Good News to our lives. As we study and teach others we want to consistently be asking and answering the questions:

- What does this say? (Observation)
- What does it mean? (Interpretation)
- What does this mean to me and to those I am leading? (Application)
- What does it mean to God? (Divine Perspective)
- Where else does the Bible teach this truth? (Correlation)

As we move through this study it is my prayer that you will grow to know Jesus like never before and that you will be able to introduce Him to others who desperately need to experience the love, grace, and power of His life in their lives.

God bless you and make you a blessing to others as you become a workman with no need to be ashamed at the judgment seat of Christ because you correctly taught the Word of God.

Dick Woodward  
Pastor and Author of the Mini Bible College

## LEADING THE BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Mini Bible College has prepared this devotionally practical survey of the foundational books of the Bible. Your role as leader is to guide your group through the study sessions and exercises, helping them to understand the truth, discover the eternal principles, and, most importantly, apply them to their lives. This is a survey study that will take about three months and is designed to be more than just a course. This study is part of a strategic plan to provide you with the tools to nurture and grow personally and to help your church grow both spiritually and numerically.

To help you, we have provided the following tools:

- This Leader's Guide
- Report forms
- Audio of the Luke–John series (Audio Lessons NT 19-30)
- A study booklet on Luke–John
- A set of workbooks for the students

### Before class

- Personally start inviting people to come to this spiritual banquet. “Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests” (Matthew 22:9-10).
- Prepare yourself in prayer for those who will attend. If possible, pray for them by name. Only God can change the hearts of people, and prayer is the most powerful tool. “Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up” (Luke 18:1).
- Ask for help. Do not try to do everything yourself. Invite one or two people to help with music, singing, greeting, and keeping records.
- Review the lesson and understand the lesson objective.
- Become familiar with the material; listen, read, and study each lesson and memorize the Bible verse before class time.
- Be sure all materials are ready for each class.
- Make sure the meeting area is adequate and comfortable for the class.

### During Class

**(Remember to try to keep the class time to one hour and a half.)**

- Greet everyone as they arrive. Remember how nice it is when you are welcomed? Extend God's welcome to all. Have someone serve as the greeter and introduce people to one another if they are not already acquainted.
- Open with a time of worship and prayer, asking God to help you and each one understand and apply God's Word to your lives.
- Recite the memory verse.
- Listen to the audio lesson.

- Work through the workbook, inviting discussion with a focus on application. We trust the questions will raise interesting discussion and understanding that will lead to application. If the group is large (more than 10), consider dividing it into smaller groups of three or four people to encourage discussion. Be sure to monitor the time and be careful that the conversation does not detract from the focus of the lesson and the study of God's Word.
- Thank all for coming and encourage attendance at the next class.
- Challenge the students to invite others to join the Bible study.
- Encourage the students to memorize the biblical passages of the lessons each week.

### **After Each Class**

- Gather up all materials.
- Restore the meeting room to the proper order. Leave things more orderly than you found them.
- Fill out and file report forms.
- If you are meeting in someone's home, be sure to thank them for their hospitality.

### **Special Instructions for Teaching Auditory Learners**

It is important to remember that those who cannot read and write learn and retain information differently than those of us who are literate. The auditory learners learn from listening and telling what they have heard. Illiteracy was not an obstacle in Jesus' day. It is good to remember and even tell those in your class that most of the disciples and the majority of the people who first shared and spread the Gospel could not read or write.

In many ways, auditory learners have a greater capacity to learn what they hear than we who must write something down to remember it. Take the time, therefore, to allow your students to hear the Scripture and the lessons, pausing the message and even going back to listen again to a portion if it was not understood, and then allow them to respond to questions. When auditory learners can "story back"—tell in their own words what they have heard and learned—it indicates that they have properly grasped the principle. Therefore, use the study questions to guide the study time as they will help in the learning process. Ask the questions out loud and encourage all to participate. This will lead them into a deeper understanding of God's Word and a stronger relationship with His Son, Jesus the Christ.

# The Manifesto of the Messiah

## Chapter 1

### Audio Lesson: New Testament #19



Objective: To introduce the author, the purposes, and the major themes of the Gospel of Luke.



*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

—Luke 4:18-19 (Isaiah 61:1-2)

We have now studied the Gospel of Matthew and will move on through the other Gospels, but we will not be specifically studying the book of Mark because everything that is found in Mark is also found in the other three Gospels. Now we begin studying the Gospel of Luke, a well-educated man, a doctor who often traveled with the apostle Paul and learned about the life of Jesus from many eyewitnesses. He was not one of the 12 apostles and probably wasn’t even Jewish. He was Greek and addressed his Gospel to Theophilus—which means “lover of God”—a man who was also Greek. Luke was a gifted writer and wrote a very orderly and accurate history.

Luke is the favorite Gospel of many because its portrayal of the Messiah emphasizes Jesus’ humanity as the God-Man. It shows His compassion and how He identified Himself with us. All the way through Luke’s Gospel, we see the human touch of Jesus.

Luke’s Gospel is unique. Many of Jesus’ best-known parables, like the stories of the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan, are found only in Luke. Luke tells us more about the birth and early life of Jesus than any other Gospel writer. Luke gives us a description and a mental picture of Jesus Christ that contributes so very much to the record of the Son of God and the Son of Man as He truly was, and as He really is today. And Luke gives us Christ’s manifesto—the clear statement of His mission, the key to the ministry of the Messiah.



1. True or **false**? Luke was one of the 12 disciples.
2. **True** or false? Luke not only wrote the gospel of Luke, he also wrote the book of Acts.
3. True or **false**? Luke was not very well educated, and his writings show that he was not a very accurate historian.
4. True or **false**? Jesus said in His “manifesto” that He came to preach good news to the poor, to set captives free, and to give sight to the blind, but He never really demonstrated these things.

*Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.*

5. Match the following gospels with each one’s special emphasis on Jesus.

a. Matthew (3)	1. Jesus as a servant
b. Mark (1)	2. Jesus as God
c. Luke (4)	3. Jesus as King
d. John (2)	4. Jesus as human
6. What other aspects of Jesus’ ministry does Luke emphasize? (*choose all that apply*)
  - a. Judgment
  - b. Healing**
  - c. Social concerns**
  - d. Long sermons
  - e. The Holy Spirit**
7. What was the Spirit upon Jesus to do?
  - a. To heal, preach, and set people free**
  - b. To improve people’s income and their standard of living
  - c. To set political prisoners free
  - d. To start a revolution
8. How did Jesus respond to a man whose friends lowered him through a roof to see Jesus?
  - a. He rebuked them for damaging the roof.
  - b. He told them they would have to wait their turn.
  - c. He forgave the man’s sins and then healed him.**
  - d. He told the man to repent first, and then he would consider healing him.
9. Why did Jesus heal the man who was lowered through the roof?
  - a. To show he really cared and wanted to cure everyone
  - b. To prove to the friends they had done the right thing
  - c. Actually, He just made it look like a miracle; the man was not paralyzed.
  - d. To prove He was God and had the authority to forgive sin**



What aspects of Jesus' ministry—His healing, preaching, and setting people free—do you think you most need to experience right now? Is there anything from which you need to be set free and place before God? Is there any area of your life that needs to be healed? Is there any aspect of God's will and His ways about which you need to learn more? If so, what?

---

---

---

Now, is there anyone for whom you need to be a friend and bring them lovingly to Jesus? Who?

---

---



Thank God for sending Jesus to show compassion to His people and to free them from the bondage of sin, disease, and darkness. Ask Him to help you understand Him better through this study of Luke and John. Also ask Jesus to meet your needs according to His will and to help you meet the needs of others in His name.



## Going Deeper

1. After Jesus declared His manifesto (Luke 4:18), how did He prove that manifesto in Luke chapter 5? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

2. In what ways did He practice His manifesto, and who were the poor to whom He preached the Good News? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

3. In what ways did He challenge others to participate with Him in the implementation of His manifesto? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

4. How does the context in which Jesus gave His discourse about the lost things in chapter 15 demonstrate His challenging of people to participate with Him in the implementation of His manifesto? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

5. How is the Parable of the Unjust Steward (Luke 16) a positive illustration of someone accepting His invitation to participate with Him in the implementation of His manifesto? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

6. How is the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus a negative illustration of that same truth? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

7. In what ways does Luke demonstrate the humanity of Jesus, the fact that He was a Man as well as God? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---