

**Lesson Aim:** To recognize the passion God has to use His people to communicate Christ's story.



*connecting*

**Prayer:** Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

**Icebreaker:** What was one of your favorite activities over summer this year?

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, what were some things that stood out to you about Luke as a Gospel author? Why?
2. **READ Luke 1:1-4.** One of Luke's goals in this Gospel was to present a clear picture of WHO Jesus is and WHY He came. Why was this so important to the time and place in which Luke originally wrote?
3. If you were to ask five of your friends who don't go to church who Jesus is, how do you think they would answer and what would they base their answers on?



*growing*

4. How has your understanding of WHO Jesus is changed over your life?
5. What have been the biggest influences in shaping your understanding of Jesus?
6. Everyone who hears about Jesus has to make a decision about WHO they think He is. **READ Colossians 1:15-20**, where the Apostle Paul writes a very clear description of Jesus. What do you find encouraging, helpful or challenging about the key points Paul is making?



*sewing*

7. One key principle from this week's teaching is that "people who love God will use their resources & reputation to broadcast the Jesus story." How do the following verses help us understand what this means? **READ Matthew 5:13-16; Colossians 3:17; James 1:27.**
8. Can you think of any people who have done a good job of "broadcasting the Jesus story" to you? What do you appreciate about how they live or lived?
9. Can you think of anything that might be tripping you up or hindering your ability to share the Jesus story with others?



*reaching*

10. How can we help each other to overcome some of these hindrances and grow in our ability to share the Jesus story with others?

**Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.**

## INTRODUCTORY MATTERS

### ▶ AUTHOR: LUKE

- From Antioch (in Syria)
- Doctor (Colossians 4:14)
- Gentile (Colossians 4:10-14)
- Early follower of Jesus Christ
- The author of the Book of Acts (Acts 1:1-2a)
- Fellow missionary traveler of the Apostle Paul (Acts 16:8-10, 17; 17:1; 20:5; 27:2; Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:11)

### ▶ DATE - c. 60-63 A.D.

### ▶ AUDIENCE

- “Most excellent Theophilus” (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1)

PRINCIPLE #1: People who love God will use their resources & reputation to broadcast the Jesus story.

- Worldwide Gentile audience

### ▶ “PERSONALITY” OF LUKE’S GOSPEL

- Accurate & orderly
- Artistic
- Long
- Universal
- Beautiful
- Dignifying of women
- Human
- Dripping with the Holy Spirit

### ▶ GOAL OF THE AUTHOR

- Convince, convert & spiritually edify his audience

### ▶ INTRODUCTION – Luke 1:1-4

- *“things fulfilled among us”* (v.1)
- *“I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning”* (v.3)
- *“So that you may know the certainty...”* (v.4)

PRINCIPLE #2: Give God the very best that you can.

PRINCIPLE #3: The Jesus story is grounded in time-space history.