



# THE GOOD NEWS

## IN FOUR MOVEMENTS

INTRO: Last week we looked at the first verses of Matthew, or Jesus' genealogy dating back to Abraham. Several unexpected names are included, like Tamar and Ruth, highlighting that Jesus invites all kinds of people into his story of redemption, including you and me. As we explore Luke this week, he shifts the historical focus to the "present day" when his Gospel was written (about 80–90 CE). The church has now become a movement and the event of Jesus is receding farther and farther into the past. As a second or third-generation Christian, Luke gets this and compiles every story, whether it was already written down or merely spoken, into one account. After all, the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection has the power to radically change lives, whether you're a Jew or a Gentile. There's not a second to waste. Every detail counts.

1. If you could have lunch with Luke, what question would you ask him about Jesus' life?

READ Luke 1:1–4

1. What words or phrases stand out to you? How would you describe the tone of Luke's introduction?
2. Luke dedicates his narrative to Theophilus, which is a Greek word meaning "friend of God." What's significant about this dedication? Why does Luke specifically address believers?
3. Look at verse 4. What is Luke's motivation to write down another account of Jesus' life?

SERMON QUESTIONS:

1. Describe a time when a conversation you had or an event you witnessed changed your life.
2. Luke's Gospel focuses more on Jesus' acts of healing and journey to Jerusalem to be crucified and less on his teachings. How does this shape your understanding of Christ and what it means to follow him?
3. One of Luke's goals is to show how "God's faithful fulfillment of scriptural promises to Israel gives birth to a church that includes both Jews and Gentiles." How does this kind of reconciliation speak to us today?

OUTRO: What good news does Luke's one-sentence introduction give us? Look at Verse 2: divine events took place in the first century that were then "handed on to us by those who ... were eyewitnesses and servants of the word." Jesus' life-saving acts didn't take place in outer space or apart from humanity, but right in our midst, in town squares, rundown homes, and broken human hearts. Luke gives us a story we can find ourselves in, assuring us that the work of God is far from over. We, too, can receive Jesus' love and mercy right where we are, even when we're full of questions and doubts like many of his early followers were!

PRAY TOGETHER.

(Pray that your faith might be refreshed this week by experiencing God in unexpected ways.)