

PRAYING THE GOSPEL OF LUKE IN OUR FAMILIES

1. OPENING PRAYER:

- In The name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. A. Amen!

- PRAYER FOR ST. LUKE

OH! GREAT SERVANT ST. LUKE
YOU WERE CHOSEN TO REVEAL
IN PREACHING AND WRITING
GOD'S LOVE FOR THE POOR.
MOVED BY THE HEAVENLY
SPIRIT OF LOVE,
YOU DETAILED THE LIFE OF JESUS,
SHOWING THE HUMANITY
AND DIVINITY OF JESUS
AND HIS GENUINE COMPASSION
FOR ALL HUMANS BEINGS

MAY THE HOLY SPIRIT,
INSTRUCTOR OF THE FAITHFUL,
HELP ME TO UNDERSTAND
THE WORDS OF JESUS CHRIST
AND HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION.
SO THAT I MAY BE ABLE
TO LIVE THEM FAITHFULLY
IN MY LIFE,
AMEM!

2. READ A CHAPTER OF THE GOSPEL:

Find the chapter as it follows in the next page.

3. CLOSING PRAYER:

Oh! God, our Lord, we thank You for Your Word of Life in the Gospel of Luke. We have heard Your Word in our hearts; fill our hearts, minds and wisdom, to live the lesson we have read today; And fill the love in our hearts, that we love Thy Word more and more. We ask for this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN!

LUKE'S GOSPEL (Chapter)	MONTH (day)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lk 1		<input type="checkbox"/>
Lk 2		<input type="checkbox"/>
Lk 3		<input type="checkbox"/>
Lk 4		<input type="checkbox"/>
Lk 5		<input type="checkbox"/>
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Lk 23		<input type="checkbox"/>
Lk 24		<input type="checkbox"/>

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A MISSIONARY?
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KNOW THE LUKE GOSPEL



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WHY TO READ, TO KNOW AND PRAY
THE WORD OF GOD IS
A MISSIONARY ACTIVITY?

Pope Benedict XV in his apostolic epistle "Maximum Illud — 1919", "About Missionary Activities" officially opened the new life page in the mission of the Church and its missionary work by requiring the Church to initiate a process of formation to support the local Churches with human resources and ministries of the gospel.

Pope Francis says, that the mission of the Catholic Church should be more active in carrying out such activities as: Implementing Biblical, Catechetical and Spiritual Missionary Formation; Leading all Christians to meet Christ Jesus through the Word of God, praying, reading, understanding and living. That's why in this brochure you will find a short way to read the Gospel of Luke, to understand and to pray as group, family or oneself.

St. Luke can rightly be called a Evangelist Missionary. Although all Gospel writers affirm the mission of Christ and the Church, Luke provides many details in his Gospel. For example, Luke notes that in Jesus' public ministry he selects 72 disciples and sends them on a mission. The mission of the Kingdom of God and the Church is for all baptized Christians; not only the 12 disciples of Jesus, neither the sisters, the brothers or priests. Therefore, mission is not the work of an individual or a person alone, but is an effort of the Church community. Each baptized person has been called by God to commit himself to the mission of the Church, to be a faithful witness of the good news, in his/her life, family, community and all corners of the globe.

KNOW THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

1 WHO IS THE EVANGELIST LUKE ?

In the Holy Roman Catholic Church, St. Luke or Evangelist Luke is known as the Writer of the Gospel and the book of Acts of the Apostles.

Saint Luke (Evangelist), was born in Antioch, which was located in the Syrian province during the Roman Empire. The Catholic Church celebrates its festival on October 18. He was one among the four Evangelists, who is considered by the Catholic Church as: patron of artists, healers, surgeons, students and butchers, because he was a physician, painter and teacher of various cultures. He was baptized by St. Paul, and can be considered his spiritual child, due to the fact that, he traveled several times with the Apostle Paul.



2 WHO WROTE THE GOSPEL OF LUKE ?

As for the Gospel writer we rely solely on ancient traditions as no author signed his name in this Gospel or any other. These traditions refer to Luke as the author of the third Gospel. Luke is mentioned as a physician of the city of Antioch (*Colossians 4:14*), and was also a friend of the apostle Paul (*2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24*), and a companion of Paul in his missionary journeys (*Acts of the Apostles 16:10-18; 20:5-15; 21:1-18; 27:1-28:16*).

3 WHEN AND WHERE WAS THE LUKE'S GOSPEL WRITTEN ?

Certainly, this Gospel was written after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD, the description of this fall is given in *Luke 21: 5-38*. Besides this, the Gospel of Luke is aware of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD. (*Lk 13:35; Lk 19: 43-44; Lk 23: 28-31*). The whole perspective of the Gospel portrays its characters, as the second or third generation of Christians, probably after the Gospel of Mark and Matthew were written. Therefore, Luke's Gospel is estimated to be written between 80 AD to 85 AD.

Where was the Gospel written? Given the broad international perspective in the Gospel and the standard Greek language used, in general, we can say that somewhere in the Greek realm may have been where the Gospel was written.

4 FOR WHOM WAS THE GOSPEL OF LUKE WRITTEN ?

The Gospel begins to address the name Theophilus - (*Lk 1: 1-3*). "Theophilus" means the beloved of God. This name can mean an individual so-called, as well as any person or believer loved by God, and that last interpretation is supported by many biblists today. In addition, scholars of the scriptures say that reading the Gospel of Luke we can find the true recipients of the Gospel. Therefore, Luke's Gospel was written for many people and nations, specially Greeks, or those who spoke the vernacular Greek. In spite of this, the Christian Small Communities spread throughout the Roman Empire, even to Paul's communities. For example, all communities that can be identified in Luke's Gospel are the following:

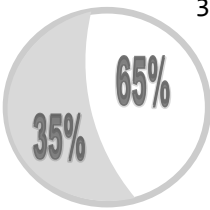
Communities of the **Cities** (*Lk 2:1; Lk 3:1-2; Lk 7:11-13; Lk 10:13-15; Lk 19:1-2*), quite different from the communities of Palestinian villages. Communities that included the **Poor** or **Needy** (*Lk 1:52-53; Lk 4:18; Lk 6:20-23; Lk 7:22*), **Rich** (*Lk 6:24-26; Lk 12:16-21; Lk 16:19-31*), **Women** (*Lk 1:26-55; Lk 2:41-52; Lk 7:36-48; Lk 8:1-3; Lk 10:38-42; Lk 13:10-13, K.D.*), and **Multitudes** or **Crowds** (*Lk 6:17-19; Lk 7:24; 8:4.40; 12:54; Lk 9:11-16.18-21.37; Lk 13:17*).

5 WHAT IS THE EXCLUSIVITY OR SINGULARITIES OF LUKE'S GOSPEL ?

The Gospel of Luke itself is more unique than any other Gospel in the New Testament. For example, let's take a look at every aspect that appears only in his Gospel, as follows:

- All the narratives of chapter 1 (*Lk 1:5-80*)
- Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (*Lk 2:22-24*)
- The Mission of the Seventy-two (*Lk 10:1-12*)
- The Parable of the Good Samaritan (*Lk 10:25-37*)
- The Parable of the Prodigal Son (*Lk 15:11-32*)
- The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (*Lk 18:9-13*)
- The story of Zacchaeus, the Tax Collector (*Lk 19:1-10*)
- The Disciples of Emmaus (*Lk 24:13-35*)

These Bible texts are found only in Luke's Gospel. It means that only 35% of the contents are from the Gospel itself and the other 65% can be found in the other two Gospels, Mark and Matthew. The contents of the three Gospels: Mark, Matthew and Luke are called the Gospels of Synoptics, which means similar perspective.



6 WHY THE BULL IS A SYMBOL OF LUKE'S GOSPEL ?

Luke's Gospel begins to tell the story of Zechariah, who was a priest at the temple in Jerusalem; His Liturgical service according to (*1 Chr 23:30-32*) consisted in burning incense and slaughtering animals offered as a sacrifice - especially a bull - (*Lk 1:5-8*). Because of this reason the symbol of the Gospel of Luke is the bull, symbolizing the offering performed by Zechariah in the Temple.

Why does a cow signify a sacrifice? Because the cow was the most valued animal for the sacrifice in the Jewish culture and especially in Jesus' time. Another reason is that, Luke considers Jesus to be the real sacrifice for the whole world, that is, Jesus is the Savior of the world and the Way of salvation for all (*Lk 2:30-32; 24:47*).



7 WHY IS LUKE'S GOSPEL CALLED THE GOSPEL OF THE WAY OR THE GOSPEL OF MERCY ?

An important element in Luke's Gospel is the travels that Jesus makes from Galilee to Jerusalem. It is a spectacular walk that begins in Galilee, progressing slowly, on this road to Jerusalem up to the city of Jerusalem (*Lk 9: 51-19: 27*); and also the journey to Emmaus (*Lk 24: 13-35*). So, almost half of the Gospel talks about Jesus traveling on the road, from Galilee to Jerusalem, and also on the road to Emmaus - That is why, Luke's Gospel is called the "Gospel of the Way" by many Bible scholars. Bible scholars also say that Luke's Gospel can be called the Gospel of Mercy. Because many passages in the Gospels focus on mercy, forgiveness, and compassion. That's why, the entire *chapter 15* is the heart and key to this Gospel. Again, another reason in Luke's Gospel alone, is the story of the Prodigal Son (*Lk 15: 11-32*) and the Good Samaritan (*Lk 10: 15-37*), on the topic of mercy and compassion.

8 IN LUKE'S GOSPEL WHO IS JESUS OF NAZARETH AND WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW HIM UP ?

Jesus is the "Savior of the world" (*Lk 2: 30-32; Lk 24:47*), "The Savior of the poor, the oppressed and the outcasts" (*Lk 4: 18-19; Lk 6: 17-26*), "Lord" (*Lk 1:43; Lk 5: 8*), "Revelation of Father's mercy" (*Lk 15: 1-32*), "God's prophet" (*Lk 24:19*), One of many acts and many prayers (*Lk 6:12; Lk 11: 1-13*). To be a disciple is to walk with Jesus of Nazareth (*Lk 9: 57-62*), to be compassionate (*Lk 10: 29-37*), beware of any kind of greed and hard heart (*Lk 12: 33-34*), to be a servant of the Lord (*Lk 12: 35-49*), in the end, to do as Jesus said, follow me. (*Lk 14: 25-33*).