
READING THROUGH THE GOSPELS:

Luke

CALVARY WOMEN

A NOTE FROM CHRISTY SPADER, MINISTER OF WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Welcome to our Calvary Women Gospel Reading Plan!

As fall approaches, we're excited to invite all Calvary women to join us in something special: a 4-month journey through the Gospels designed just for you. Written by different Calvary women, in each monthly booklet, you'll find a roadmap through one of the Gospels, touching on key themes, memory verses, and thought-provoking challenges. Plus, we've got an awesome playlist of weekly audio devotionals by that month's author.

If you are anything like me, with the start of the fall, I have a new wave of spiritual ambition. I buy a book. I make a plan. I start strong, but as life happens, my grand faith goals link arms with guilt and shame when what I hoped to be true of my spiritual rhythms has suffered a steep decline.

While I want God's love to be the ultimate driving force behind my spiritual practices, I've learned that God, in his grace, provides other motivators to help me. I've seen that some extra support can make a world of difference. And that's where our faith community steps in. So, this fall, we're inviting every woman at Calvary to join us in exploring the Gospels together.

Our mission is simple: through this booklet we want women to **Know** the love of God, **Grow** in our love of God, and **Show** the love of God. When it comes to **Knowing the Love of God**, each week we'll dive into a theme to keep your eyes out for as you read the text, a spot where we see the character of God on display. To **Grow in the Love of God**, there's a reading plan waiting for you. Each month our approach will vary. We might read the Gospel chronologically, thematically, or simply chapter-by-chapter and every week you'll get to hear from some women at Calvary dive a bit deeper through short audio devotionals on our Calvary Women Spotify/Apple Music playlist. There's more too! It's not just about personal growth; it's about **Showing the Love of God** too. The booklet will wrap up with a simple action and prayer prompt to put those insights into practice.

No matter who you are, or your capacity to be involved in other Women's Ministry offerings, this booklet is for YOU. There is power in God's Word and there is power in reading it alongside a community of faith. We want to be women of the Word together. Let's make this reading plan not just a thing we do, but a way we live – connected, empowered, and radiating God's love.

So, open this booklet and let's dive into the Gospel of Luke this month, together!

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

And Mary said,

*“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations
will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of
their hearts;
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”*

INTRODUCTION TO MARK

By Nicole Carter

Same story, different voices. Matthew opens with a genealogy, Mark launches with action, and Luke kicks off with two birth announcements. The gospels tell the same good news of Jesus' life, death and resurrection in different ways, and each has its unique perspective. These differences emphasize truths about our Lord and Savior. As we dive into Luke this month, let your radar scan for Luke's big themes – that not only is Jesus the awaited Messiah of Israel, but that God's sovereign plan extends the invitation to God's kingdom to *all* through Him. We'll see stories of Jesus reaching out to society's outcasts while many in power reject and dismiss him. Those who no one expected to be invited – sinners, lepers, and yes! women – get the best seats at the table. Luke, a physician and companion to the apostle Paul, carefully documented his research around 60 A.D. in an “orderly account” that draws us into each encounter. As you read on, notice how those who meet Jesus react. I'm praying this time in Luke deepens our love and understanding of Christ. Please pray with me before reading:

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your Word. Through your Spirit, help us to see You, Jesus, ourselves and others as You see us. Give us greater understanding into Your love for us. Show us who Jesus is. Show us who we are. Awaken our souls and inspire our hearts as we read this gospel. We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

WEEK 1

A Coming King

*Our mission is to **Know** the love of God,
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KNOW

Luke begins with a greeting to Theophilus, a man of high standing. He explains he's written this record to give evidence that what the "most excellent" Theophilus heard about Jesus is true. The birth announcements at the start of Luke's account mark the end of centuries of silence from God's prophets. Israel hadn't heard from a prophet since Malachi nearly 400 years earlier. Finally, after that long wait, an angel delivers news of a new prophet and a coming king. This week's Scripture shows us a series of parallel stories, announcements and responses to God's kingdom. God's promises to Israel are being fulfilled and not in the way Elizabeth, Zechariah, Mary or anyone may have expected. As you read this week, reflect on your response to the coming of God's kingdom.

WEEK 1 READING PLAN

Nov. 1: Luke 1:1-4

Nov. 2: Luke 1:5-24

Nov. 3: Luke 1:26-38

Nov. 4: Luke 1:39-56

Nov. 5: Luke 1: 57-80

Nov. 6: Luke 2: 1-38

Nov. 7: Luke 2: 39-52

GROW

To listen to an audio devotional for Luke Week 1 check out: calvarymemorial.com/women or search for the “Calvary Women” playlist by Calvary Memorial Church on Spotify or Apple Music.

SHOW

Challenge: It’s easy for us to take the gift of Jesus for granted. Do you have joy and grasp the gravity of God fulfilling His promise to save His people? Take some time to journal (or write a few notes) about the significance of God showing up as a baby to save us all.

Pray: Pause to thank God that He keeps His promises. Thank Him for His sovereignty over us all and for the unexpected ways He works for our good. Ask Him to help us be faithful in waiting.

WEEK 2

Jesus Begins His Ministry

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KNOW

In this second week of Luke, we see the author's detailed descriptions of the start of Jesus' ministry. Opposition appears before He even begins. Patterns begin to emerge. Jesus does something miraculous, people respond. The religious powerhouses, the Pharisees, respond by challenging Jesus rather than with repentance. With each miracle, Jesus reveals more of Himself. He heals, He drives out demons, and, most galling to the religious leaders, He forgives sins. Who is this Jesus? He reveals it when He reads the scroll of Isaiah. He's the fulfillment of the prophesy. He says He's come for the sick and sinners of this world, and His announcement in the Beatitudes shows He brings a "great reversal." Notice how Jesus turns things upside down and notice all the outsiders in the spotlight in these chapters. Read and marvel as they're enveloped into the kingdom of God.

WEEK 2 READING PLAN

Nov. 8: Luke 3

Nov. 9: Luke 4

Day 10: Luke 5

Day 11: Luke 6

Day 12: Luke 7

Day 13: Luke 8

Day 14: Luke 9:1-50

GROW

To listen to an audio devotional for Luke Week 2 check out: calvarymemorial.com/women or search for the “Calvary Women” playlist by Calvary Memorial Church on Spotify or Apple Music.

SHOW

Challenge: Sit at Jesus’ feet. Prioritize time with Him this week. Trust that He will help you in the busy holiday season ahead as you set your “to-do” list aside to spend time with Him.

Pray: Ask God to show you areas where you have things the wrong way around. Pray that He’ll show you areas where you’re thinking through the world’s view rather than His. Ask for His forgiveness in the times you do this.

WEEK 3

On the Way to Jerusalem

*Our mission is to **Know** the love of God,
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KNOW

This week we join Jesus on his way to Jerusalem. It's a chance to soak up his wisdom and see more of His revealed character. Jesus teaches us to focus on Him rather than the trappings of this world, and He calls his followers to repentance, transformation and generosity. We'll see the steady drip, drip, drip of the Pharisees' growing annoyance and rage. Jesus calls them out. His words are filled with warnings, and He repeatedly calls them hypocrites. While they deride Jesus for healing on the Sabbath, He shows how they are missing the point. Meanwhile, He turns his attention to the lost. He reveals his mission through lost sheep, a lost coin and a lost son. While the Pharisees gripe, the blind see who Jesus is.

WEEK 3 READING PLAN

Nov. 15: Luke 9:51-10:42

Nov. 16: Luke 11

Nov. 17: Luke 12

Nov. 18: Luke 13-14

Nov. 19: Luke 15-16

Nov. 20: Luke 17-18:30

Nov. 21: Luke 18:31-19:27

GROW

To listen to an audio devotional for Luke Week 3 check out: calvarymemorial.com/women or search for the “Calvary Women” playlist by Calvary Memorial Church on Spotify or Apple Music.

SHOW

Challenge: It’s so easy to spot hypocrisy in others. It’s much trickier in our own hearts. Ask God to reveal spots where your heart may be divided or in outright rebellion. Steel yourself for any answer. Rejoice in any answer. It’s the beginning of light shining in a dark place where God can bring life-changing transformation.

Pray: Sit with the idea that Jesus pursues us and delights when we turn to him. Thank Him for bringing repentance to your heart.

WEEK 4

The End and The Beginning

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KNOW

This week's readings start with a triumphal entry and end with a triumphal exit. We can get whiplash from the rollercoaster of events that happen in this section of Luke. As we careen toward the cross, we see a quick switch from praise and worship to betrayal, mockery and murder. Darkness falls but not for long. Just when things seem their bleakest, Jesus rises from the dead. We'll read the joy and amazement Jesus' followers feel when He is at last revealed. Finally, we read Luke's giant exclamation mark highlighting that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises, and all the Scripture is about Him. He's the Messiah. This is just the beginning of God's new kingdom and a new beginning for us all.

* This was the beginning of Luke's writing too. He continues the story in Acts!

WEEK 4 READING PLAN

Nov. 22: Luke 19: 28-48

Nov. 23: Luke 20- Luke 21:4

Nov. 24: Luke 21:5-38

Nov. 25: Luke 22: 1-38

Nov. 26: Luke 22: 39-66

Nov. 27: Luke 23

Nov. 28: Luke 24: 1-12

Nov. 29: Luke 24: 13-50

GROW

To listen to an audio devotional for Luke Week 4 check out: calvarymemorial.com/women or search for the “Calvary Women” playlist by Calvary Memorial Church on Spotify or Apple Music.

SHOW

Challenge: We see Jesus ascend to heaven in our last few verses. He is ALIVE. He didn't turn into a spirit and mistily drift away. Reflect on the fact that you have a real, living Savior who sacrificed Himself for you and is now interceding on your behalf. Ponder what that means. Does your life reflect these truths?

Pray: Pray that we and others would see Jesus for who He truly is. Pray He receives the praise and honor He deserves in our lives and in our world.