

The Gathering Community Group Guide

True Story // Part 1 // Turning knobs, finding truth

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Luke 1:1-4

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

OUR FALL QUARTER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS ENDS THIS WEEK. OUR WINTER QUARTER BEGINS IN JANUARY.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

As we enter the Advent season and a time of preparing our hearts for the celebration of the coming of Jesus to seek and save the lost, the Gospel of Luke is the perfect book to start studying. This week – in part 1 – we'll get to know two men and the mission that sparked the writing of the 3rd book in the New Testament. Along the way, we'll answer three challenging questions about ourselves.

1. **Meet Luke:** Many people call him Dr. Luke because Luke was a physician. He was also a Gentile (which means he didn't grow up with the same understanding of the Jewish cultures and traditions) and wrote almost 25% of the New Testament (Luke and Acts). What's amazing is that he never mentions himself as the author and is only named 3 times in the Bible. Luke was humble, and challenges us to ask the question, "How humble are we?"
2. **Meet Theophilus:** Theophilus was a Gentile, too, and was more than likely a state official, which meant he had some money. He was also curious about whether all of the things that he'd heard about Jesus were true, and so he commissioned Luke to take whatever time he needed in order to investigate the claims. In other words, he was generous and had a mindset to fund kingdom things. He challenges us to ask the question, "How are we investing our resources?"
3. **Meet the mission:** So Luke did what he was sent out to do, and the result of his work is 2 books: Luke and Acts. But the bigger result is that we now hold in our hands scripture which was recorded by God so that we – just like Theophilus – can know with certainty what we've been taught: that Jesus is the Messiah and has secured our salvation with his death and resurrection. True Story.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What takeaway – if any – did you have from the message this week?
- What are some "tall tales" that you've heard? Why do you think we are so prone to exaggerate and stretch the truth?
- What were some of the characteristics about Luke and Theophilus that encouraged you? Challenged you?
- How did you answer the questions Paul asked in the message about humility and generosity? In what ways are you using what is at your disposal to further the kingdom like Theophilus did?
- In many ways, the Gospel of Luke is the legacy of Luke, and we have it because Luke and Theophilus lived their lives with that legacy in mind. What do the following verses say about the power of legacies? (Psalm 78:4; Deuteronomy 6:5-7; 2 Timothy 2:2)
- Close out this week – and this quarter of Community Groups – praying for each other. Pray specifically that we would be truth seekers over this holiday season and throughout our study in the Gospel of Luke.