



Looking Back & Looking Forward 2026 (The Gospel of Luke)

Sunday, January 4, 2026



“I love this story [from 2 Kings 6]. I too bounce between the servant’s and Elisha’s perspectives on the trials of life. I want to see past the seen to the Spiritual Realm as God sees and rest in faith that God’s will is being done.”

“I felt the Lord telling me, ‘These are your people.’ I was kind of weirded out because I had never heard God’s voice before... I looked at my friend and said, ‘Did you hear that?’ She was like, “Umm, no.’ ... The little voice [of the Spirit] I was hearing all night is no longer little in my life.”



that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, Philippians 3:10 NKJV

Are you growing in really knowing Jesus?

2026 – *Knowing Jesus* (Luke)

2027 – *Sharing Jesus* (Acts)

visitgracechurch.com/knowingjesus

7 Encounters

- Scripture
- Prayer
- Mission
- Community
- Sacraments
- Suffering
- Service

Luke was a doctor who became a missionary & wrote Luke & Acts

Luke the beloved physician... Colossians 4:14 NKJV

Now after he had seen the vision, immediately **we** sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called **us** to preach the gospel to them. Acts 16:10 NKJV

Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, Luke 1:1 NKJV

just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, Luke 1:2 NKJV

it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, Luke 1:3 NKJV

that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed. Luke 1:4 NKJV

Who is Jesus?

- **Matthew** → King
- **Mark** → Servant
- **Luke** → Human **
- **John** → God

Jesus' humanity in Luke

- Birth
- Circumcision
- Childhood
- Genealogy back to Adam
- Tempted
- Hungry
- Weeping
- Sweating drops of blood
- Betrayed
- Blindfolded
- Forgiving
- Post-Resurrection meal

Jesus' love for women, outsiders, & the nations

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe. Philippians 3:1 NKJV

Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! Philippians 3:2 NKJV

For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, Philippians 3:3 NKJV

7 Reasons Paul Could Be Self-Confident

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Philippians 3:7 NKJV

Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ Philippians 3:8 NKJV

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, Philippians 3:10 NKJV

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, Philippians 3:13 NKJV

I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:14 NKJV

Would you like to grow in really knowing Jesus?

This Week's Gospel of Luke Reading Plan:

January 4 - Luke 4 + Luke 1:1-4

January 5 - Luke 5 + Luke 1:1-4

January 6 - Luke 6 + Luke 1:1-4

January 7 - Pray & Reflect

January 8 - Luke 7 + Luke 1:1-4

January 9 - Luke 8 + Luke 1:1-4

January 10 - Luke 9 + Luke 1:1-4

January 4

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NURSERY

JESUS HELPS SICK PEOPLE

THE PARALYZED MAN

In this series, we learn that Jesus helps sick people through the story of the paralyzed man. We learn that he has compassion for people who are sick, but can make us physically and spiritually whole

Memory Verse: Jesus Helps Us All. Matthew 11:28 (Adapted for Toddlers)

Heart of the Lesson: Jesus Helps Sick People

Parent Connect: This week, we learned how Jesus helped the sick man. Find a storybook bible or regular bible and read the following stories together. Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26, Matthew 9:1-8. Ask your toddler what happened in the stories? Who did Jesus help?

GKJR

EARLY LIFE OF JESUS

In this Series, we will go through the life of Jesus following his birth. We learn about His departure from Egypt, His return to Nazareth and His teaching at the temple as a kid. We also learn about Jesus' baptism and how He was tempted, how Jesus called his disciples and His first miracle!

Memory Verse: "Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people." Luke 2:52

Heart of the Lesson: Jesus was a kid too | Luke 2:39-52

Parent Connect: Today we learned how Jesus was a kid, too! Jesus began His ministry when He preached at the temple as a kid. Take time with your kids and look at photos when family members were younger. Go through albums, school pictures and more!

ELEMENTARY

SETTING THE STAGE

THE BOOK OF LUKE

This year we are walking through the book of Luke using various movie themes to group the stories into series. In our first series, we will set the stage with some facts about the gospel of Luke as well as the start of Jesus' ministry.

Memory Verse: Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people. Luke 2:52

Heart of the Lesson: Luke wrote to tell the true story of Jesus | Luke 1:1-4

Parent Connect:

- Read: Luke 1:1-4
- Talk: Luke wanted everyone to know the true story of Jesus. How do we learn what is true about Jesus today?
- Do: Discuss your family goals for 2026, including doing this Luke devotional together each week.