

01 – Introduction **Luke 1:1-4**

Step 1: Link (last year; basic Bible orientation)

Last year in Bible time we read the amazing story of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This year we are going to read another amazing story – the story of Jesus! The story of Abraham was in – which book? (*Genesis*) We will read the story of Jesus in the book of Luke. (*write on board*)

The books of Genesis and Luke are in two different parts of the Bible. The Bible is a very big book. Actually, the Bible is a collection of books. The Bible is a small library. There are 66 books in the Bible library. What are the two parts of the Bible called? (*the Old Testament and the New Testament*)

Let's find the first book in the Bible. What is the name of the first book? (*Genesis!*) Genesis is a book of history. Genesis is the first book of the Bible, and the first book of the Old Testament. Now, let find the last book. What is the name of the very last book in the Bible? (*Revelation*) Revelation is a book of prophecy. Revelation is the last book of the Bible and the last book of the New Testament.

Now let's find the last book of the Old Testament. What is its name? (*Malachi*) Open your Bibles between the two testaments. Is this half and half? (No. Let them tell you what it is; help with fractions in English if they need it) The Old Testament was completely finished before Jesus was born. It had been finished for 400 years. There are 400 years in between the Old Testament and the New Testament. (*right where the Bible is open now, between these two pages, 400 years*) The New Testament tells about Jesus and what it means to have faith in Him.

Now let's find Luke. Luke is in the New Testament. Is Luke the first book of the New Testament? (*No*) Luke is – which book? (*the 3rd book*)

Step 2: Background (who was Luke?)

So, who was Luke? Luke was not one of Jesus' 12 disciples. He was not an eyewitness of Jesus. Luke was not even Jewish. He was Greek, and he was a doctor. (*fyi: Col. 4:14*)

Step 3: Key Questions

- **How did Luke write his book?** (*v.3: he made a careful study first*)
- **Why did Luke write his book?** (*v.4: so that Theophilus would know the truth*)

Step 4: Read Luke 1:1-4

Step 5: Answer the questions

Step 6: Talk about it

Luke wrote his book by first doing a careful study. He was a doctor, and it is important for doctors to study medicine very carefully. If a doctor makes a mistake, the patient might die! As a doctor, Luke knew how to study carefully.

Luke wrote it for – who? (*Theophilus*) We don't know very much about Theophilus. Theophilus is a Greek name, so we think that he was a Greek Christian. His name is interesting because it means "loves God."

It seems that Theophilus had questions about his faith. He seemed to be wondering if it was Ok to be a Greek Christian. Was Jesus really for all the nations? He also seemed to be wondering about Jesus' death. Death on the cross was a death for a criminal. It was a very shameful death. Could someone who died on a cross really bring hope to people? So Luke wrote this long, long letter to him to try to help answer. Now Luke's book can be a blessing to us, too.

These two big questions are going to guide us as we read the book of Luke. Was Jesus really for all the nations? Could Jesus, who died a shameful death, really bring hope to people? (*have these two questions writ large on front and back of a laminated card, B5 size recommended*)

Do you have any questions or comments?

Teachers' Notes:

English-Japanese Glossary

Genesis – sou – se – ki

History – re – ki – shi

Malachi – ma – ra – ki

Revelation – mo – ku – shi – ro – ku

Greek

Theo = "god"

Philus = "love"

Remember: if you have asked a question, please wait until the students answer it. If no one seems able, try to determine why. Are they already used to you jumping in with the answer? I hope not, since this probably also means they're tuning out . . .