



## Small Group Discussion Guide- Week 1 (Luke 1-2), Day 7

Welcome again to our journey together through the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts this summer! Remember <http://christchurchsl.org/la70> is the learning resources center for pastor's videos, discussion guides, reading plans, and the link to the closed Facebook Group. Also, if you would like a pastor's insight to a question you have about your readings, please email them to [LA70@christchurchsl.org](mailto:LA70@christchurchsl.org) so that a reply may be emailed to you and posted to the Facebook Group.

This discussion guide is provided as tool for small group discussions that center on the readings for week 1 (Luke 1-2) or for personal reflections for our independent readers. For the best small group discussion it will be helpful to have done the following prior to each meeting:

- 1- Watched the Pastor's video about the readings for the week
- 2- Completed the daily readings for the week
- 3- Noted at least 2-3 questions or insights from the readings to bring to the meeting to share with the group

### Possible Meeting Format for 1 Hour Small Group Meeting:

1. Brief Opening Prayer (1-2 minutes)
2. Discussion of Predetermined Questions & New Questions & Insights from the Group (45 minutes).
  - a. Leader's discretion to be used on question and time management
  - b. You are intentionally provided with more questions than you need
  - c. If people have brought insights or questions from their readings during the week, they are encouraged to share them as the group moves through the verses in order.
3. Summarize Life Application Points From Conversation (5 minutes)
4. Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer (5 minutes)
5. Reminders for the Coming Week & Resources (2 minutes)

### **Predetermined Questions & New Questions & Insights from the Group:**

1. In the Day 0 Pastor's video, Pastor Temple provided an overview of Luke and Acts as well as a more focused view of what to be aware of or be looking for in your readings for days 1-7 (Luke chapters 1-2). In 1:4, Luke offers his hope for his reader(s).
  - a. What do you interpret this to mean?
  - b. Why would it be necessary?
  - c. If questions or doubts about faith enter into your mind sometimes, how do you respond?



2. How long had it been before a prophetic message had come to Israel prior to 1:13-17? Why would these first words be about John the Baptist rather than Jesus Christ?
3. The fates of John and Jesus appear to be interwoven in the purposes of God for Israel. What are the commonalities and differences of the unusual circumstances surrounding their births from the parents' point of view?
4. How are Mary and Elizabeth in particular, positive examples of faith?
5. Christ Church recently celebrated Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit as described in Acts chapter 2 as a gift and source of power and direction for the early church. In the first chapter of Luke, the Holy Spirit is mentioned four times prior to the birth of the Messiah. What can we gather about the person and role of the Holy Spirit from Luke chapter 1?
6. What are some of the direct or indirect titles given for Mary's child in chapter 1 that offers insight to His identity or role?
7. \*What other insights or questions do you have from chapter 1?
8. Chapter two opens with historical events, places and names of leaders that describe the contextual factors around the birth of Jesus Christ (2:1-7).
  - a. What can we gather in our readings so far about how Luke viewed or valued keeping historical information?
  - b. How does a historical religion like Judaism or Christianity differ from a philosophy or religion that is not rooted in historical events such as Confucianism or the new age movement?
9. What does the humble circumstances of the birth of Jesus and of those who first received the angelic birth announcement of the Savior, Messiah and Lord (2:11) communicate about this new ruler and time?
10. How does the faith steps of the shepherds point the way for others seeking to know God?
11. Presentation of Jewish males in the temple and annual pilgrimages to the temple for the Passover were common Jewish family practices at the time. In this case, what about these two events indicated that this was no ordinary child (2:22-52)?
12. \*What other insights or questions do you have from chapter 2?

\*If you did not bring any questions or insights ahead of time, the following questions may help you develop some in the moment. (Discussion questions from Immerse: The Reading Bible by Tyndale)

- What stood out to you this week?
- Was there anything confusing or troubling?
- Did anything make you feel differently about God?



### Summary of Life Application Points from the Conversation:

1. How might what we have learned today change how we live?
2. In light of this conversation today and the readings for week 11, what do you believe the Lord is calling you to move towards in your thinking or actions or relationships?

### Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer:

1. What recent life events are worth giving thanks to God for or lifting up as a prayer request before the group?
2. The facilitator closes the meeting in prayer

### Reminders for Next Time & Support Resources:

1. Please bring 2-3 questions or new insights from your readings to our meeting next time on Day 7.
2. If you would like input from a pastor on particular questions about the readings, please email them at [LA70@christchurchsl.org](mailto:LA70@christchurchsl.org) and they will get back to you via email and/or post on the closed LA70 Facebook Group.
3. You can access all resources including the Reading Plan, Online Daily Readings, Pastor's Videos, Discussion Guides and a link to the Facebook Group on the church webpage <http://christchurchsl.org/LA70>.
4. You can directly access the daily scriptures on your smart phone or computer or tablet from the LA70 webpage through the hyperlinks, see <https://christchurchsl.org/la70-reading-plan/>
5. For the leader- if you would like additional background information about the verses each week in addition to information provided in the Pastor's Videos of what to look for in your readings, The Bible Project is another good source. They have a 9 part video series on Luke-Acts, see <https://bibleproject.com/explore/category/luke-acts-series/>