

DISCOVERING JESUS

An Introduction to the Savior

LESSON 1 RESPONSE BOOK

*Luke's Gospel:
"The God Who Surprises Us"*

This Bible Study Series Provided By:

Hope for Life

A Ministry of Herald of Truth

Discovering Jesus Student

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Lesson 1

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HERALD OF TRUTH
The Word for the World, Every Day.

General Directions:

Two separate types of responses are requested as you finish this lesson of your Bible course.

First, please write out your answers to PART 1 - THE SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS. Use your Bible and the information in this lesson to answer these questions.

Second, we invite you to give heart responses to God's Word in PART 2 - PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS. Note that on the first question (in Part 2) a sample answer has been given to guide you as you form your answers.

Be sure to fill out your name and address on the return address panel on the back of this booklet. Simply tape or staple the booklet closed, stamp, and mail.

7. Luke 1:46-54 records a beautiful hymn sung by Mary. It is sometimes called the 'Magnificat' (from the Latin word "magnificare - to magnify, to praise, to prize highly"). Mary sings, "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." (Luke 1:46-47).

a. Read Mary's prayer several times. Try offering this prayer to God as *your own* prayer.

b. What does this song reveal to you about Mary and her God?

8. How is this study going for you?

a. Is it easy? Difficult? Just about right?

b. Give us any suggestions you want.

c. Need spiritual advice or counsel? Let us know.

b. Look within yourself. How many of these qualities do you have?

c. Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matthew 5:3). What does this mean to you?

6. Jesus Christ came to change us. In Luke 3:8, John the Baptist said, "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."

a. Do you believe human beings can really change?

b. Do you believe that God has the power to change you?

c. Do you want to change? How?

PART 1
SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Luke wrote two books in the New Testament. The Gospel of Luke and what other book?

2. Why was Zechariah punished with the loss of speech during the months leading up to John's birth?

3. Who said, "For nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37)?

4. Who said, "I am the Lord's servant? May it be to me as you have said" (Luke 1:38)?

5. The Old Testament prophet Malachi promised that "Elijah" would return some day (Malachi 3:1, 4:4-6). Name at least one thing this "second Elijah" would do in the Messianic age.

6. What did Simeon do to the baby Jesus at the temple (Luke 2:28)?

7. What sad prophecy did Simeon utter about Mary's future (Luke 2:34-35)?

8. To prove that their change of hearts are sincere and genuine, John tells the people (and the tax collectors - people with notoriously bad reputations) to perform some specific duties. What are they?

9. Why did Herod dislike John so intensely (Luke 3:19-20)?

PART 2
PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Birth stories are very common in the Bible. Luke, of course, tells us of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Why does the Bible place such an emphasis on the birth of babies, especially to parents beyond childbearing years?

SAMPLE ANSWER: I think the Bible does this to show how powerful our God is. He does things that are beyond our human understanding. Only God could cause a baby to be conceived in an older woman.

2. How did these stories encourage you in the challenges you face each day?

3. A key word in Luke is "promise" or the "promises of God." Do you trust God to keep His promises? Why or why not? Reread Luke 1:1 - 3:30. What do you learn about how people in the Bible look at the promises of God?

5. Look at Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, Simeon, and Anna. Note the qualities they have in common.

a. Why do ordinary, common people seem to be the ones who hear God's message or meet God's messengers?
