

Investigating

God's Word...

Year Three

Luke

Sunday School Curriculum

Summer Quarter

Lesson Sequence

Summer Quarter

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter.

The central goal of the ***Investigating God's Word...*** curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

Week One	Luke 1
Week Two	Luke 2-3
Week Three	Luke 4:1-5:16
Week Four	Luke 5:17-6:46
Week Five	Luke 7:1-8:25
Week Six	Luke 8:26-9:62
Week Seven	Luke 10-11
Week Eight	Luke 12-13
Week Nine	Luke 14-16
Week Ten	Luke 17:1-19:10
Week Eleven	Luke 19:11-21:37
Week Twelve	Luke 22:1-23:25
Week Thirteen	Luke 23:26-24:53



Suggested Schedule

Welcome <i>Proverbs 2:6-7</i>	2-3 min.
Drill Time <i>Books of the Bible</i>	5 min.
W.O.W! <i>Impossible</i>	5 min.
Historical Context <i>Timeline</i>	2-3 min.
Bible Investigation <i>Luke 1</i>	20-30 min.
Lesson-At-Home <i>Luke 1:37</i>	2-3 min.

Lesson One

Luke 1

Overview

The Gospel of Luke opens with a couple of visitations by the angel Gabriel. First, Gabriel visits Zechariah the priest, promising that a son will be born to his wife Elizabeth in her old age. Zechariah finds this news to be too good to be true, and is promptly silenced for the entirety of Elizabeth's pregnancy. The angel tells Zechariah that John will turn the hearts of the people back to God and prepare the way for the coming Savior.

Gabriel next visits Mary, a virgin. Mary is greatly troubled, just like Zechariah was. She too was amazed by the promise of a son, since she was an unmarried woman. Gabriel makes it clear that Mary will be the mother of Jesus due to the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit. Mary commits herself to the Lord.

The rest of Luke 1 includes songs of praise by Mary and Zechariah. Mary breaks into her Magnificat while visiting with Elizabeth—who also believed that Mary was giving birth to the Savior. After John the Baptist is born, Zechariah has his tongue released and bursts into song. Mary, Elizabeth and Zechariah now believe that God's promised Messiah is on the way!

Preparation

Read and meditate on Luke 1 this week. **This lesson is longer than usual, so adjust your time accordingly.**

Teaching Encouragement

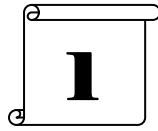
Just as it was impossible for a virgin to give birth to the Son of God, it is impossible for any of us to have a relationship with God. Your children need to begin to understand the impossible situation they have been born into. They have been born in the impossible state of total sinfulness. They have entered this world separated from God. They have no power to forgive their own sins or find their own path to heaven. Can you demonstrate to them how impossible this life is? If they can see all of this impossibility, then they may see that nothing is impossible with God. The same God that sent His angel to tell Mary about the Incarnation is the same God who chooses to save His people from their sins. Nothing is impossible with God!

The **Welcome** serves as both an opportunity to greet the children as well as an effort to help them get focused on God's Word.

Each week, you will begin with a passage out of the Psalms or Proverbs as an exhortation to study God's Word.

Drill Time gives the children the opportunity to recall and rehearse what they have been taught in the past—at home, school and/or church.

This element allows the **Investigating God's Word...** curriculum to cover much more Biblical "ground," since time is not expended repeating the same Bible stories over and over again from year to year.



Welcome

Greet the students. Welcome visitors. To prepare the students for class today, read Proverbs 2:6-7.

⁶For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. ⁷He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless.

Say: *Who gives us wisdom, knowledge and understanding? [The LORD!] He has given us His Word to help us grow in wisdom and knowledge. And, His Word is our protection and victory in battle. Let's study God's Word today!*



Drill Time

Let's move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. Are you ready?

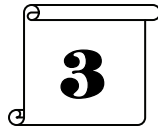
Today's questions: *How many books are there in the Bible? How many books are there in the Old Testament? How many books are in the New Testament? What are the first five books of the Bible? What are the first four books of the New Testament? What is the name of the last book of the Bible?*

Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.

Answers:

1. 66.
2. 39.
3. 27.
4. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.
5. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.
6. Revelation.

Say: *The Bible was written by many different men over lots and lots of years. Yet it is all the WORD of GOD since the Holy Spirit inspired these men to write every word. Because the Bible is God's Word, we can totally trust it. Isn't that incredible?*



W.O.W!

The **W.O.W!** is the **Word of the Week**.

This element is included to help the children build their theological and Biblical vocabularies. These words are vital to the Christian's understanding of God and His World.

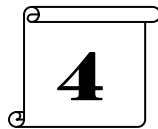
Our *W.O.W!* (*Word of the Week*) this week is **IMPOSSIBLE**. This is a familiar word. Who can tell me what it means? **Allow answers.**

If something is IMPOSSIBLE it is incapable of occurring. Things that are IMPOSSIBLE do not happen!

For example, it is IMPOSSIBLE for human beings to sprout wings and fly, isn't it? It's IMPOSSIBLE to perfectly predict what will happen in the future, since no human knows the future. It's also IMPOSSIBLE for humans to create something out of absolutely nothing. What are some other things that are IMPOSSIBLE?

Some things in life just feel IMPOSSIBLE when they really are possible. Sometimes a test in school may feel IMPOSSIBLE. Maybe a chore you have to do feels IMPOSSIBLE. There's a big difference between things that are truly IMPOSSIBLE and things which are just really hard.

Look for our Word of the Week in our reading today. Things will happen that are truly IMPOSSIBLE!



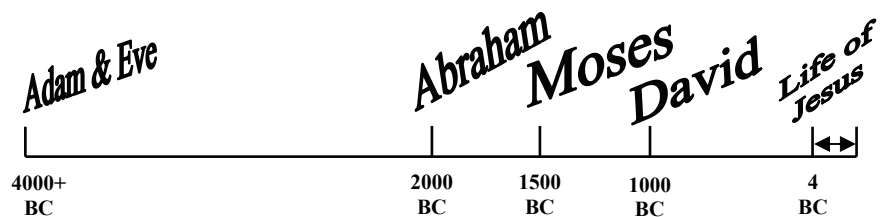
Historical Context

Each week, the Bible Lesson will be placed in **historical context** by use of a timeline.

It is essential that the children learn how the story of redemptive history fits together. Bible stories must not be viewed as detached scenes—they are to be shown as a part of a much bigger picture. The timeline is a useful tool toward that end.

As you begin your study of the Gospel of Luke today, draw this timeline on the board. Always remember that the students need to understand God's Word in its historical context.

A Gospel of Luke Timeline





Bible Investigation

The **Bible Investigation** time is the heart and soul of the lesson. It plunges the student directly into God's Word, not simply a paraphrase of a Bible story.

All Scripture text included in the curriculum is from the New International Version (NIV).

The Bible reading is taken in short sections, separated by times of **discussion**, **questions**, and **application points**.

This format allows ample opportunities to stop, think about and discuss what is being read.

Have the students turn in their Bibles to the Gospel of Luke.

Introduction: *This quarter, we will investigate the Gospel of Luke, the third Gospel in the New Testament. Who wrote the Gospel of Luke? [Luke!] Luke was a physician and a missionary friend of the Apostle Paul. He was chosen by God to write all about the life of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Let's begin reading together. Read Luke 1:1-4.

¹ Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³ Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Discussion: *Who is Dr. Luke writing to? [Theophilus.] Why is he writing to Theophilus? [To present him with an orderly account of the life of Christ.] Luke was not an original disciple of Christ, so he had to rely on those who were eyewitnesses.*

Let's see how Luke starts his gospel. Read verses 5-7.

⁵ In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. ⁷ But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

Discussion: *We are introduced here to Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth. Were they followers of God? [Yes.] Yet they were old and they did not have any children. Do you know of other people who were given children in their old age—when it seemed IMPOSSIBLE? [Yes. Abraham and Sarah.]*

Let's see what happens next. Read verses 8-17.

⁸ Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense

came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. ¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. ¹⁶ Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Discussion: *Who appeared to Zechariah the priest as he served the LORD? [An angel.] And what did the angel tell Zechariah? [That his wife Elizabeth would bear a son named John.] Zechariah and Elizabeth had been praying for a child, and the angel says that they will have a son. Did you hear what the angel said about what John will do? He will be a Nazirite, dedicated to God, and the one who will prepare the way for Jesus. He will turn many people back to God. What an amazing son he will be!*

Listen to how Zechariah responds. Read verses 18-20.

¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” ¹⁹ The angel answered, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰ And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time.”

Discussion: *Did Zechariah believe what the angel Gabriel was telling him? [No.] He thought it was IMPOSSIBLE for an old couple to have a baby. What was the consequence of Zechariah’s unbelief? [He would be mute until his baby was born.]*

Application: *Your unbelief will bring consequences too. God expects His people to believe His promises. When we do not believe what His Word says, we are dishonoring God. Trust that all God’s promises will be kept!*

Let’s keep reading. Read verses 21-25.

²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. ²² When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision

This grey sidebar found on all pages is for the teacher to write notes as he or she prepares the lesson.

Other teaching tips or important exegetical information may also appear on the sidebar.

in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.²³ When his time of service was completed, he returned home.²⁴ After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.²⁵ “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

Discussion: *Has God given Zechariah and Elizabeth a child? [Yes.] God always keeps His promises!*

Now, Gabriel visits someone else. Read verses 26-33.

²⁶ In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Discussion: *Now who did the angel appear to? [Mary.] What did the angel say will happen to Mary? [She will give birth to a son named Jesus.] So we have another promised son—first John, then Jesus. What is different about Jesus? [He is the Son of God!] John will prepare the way for Jesus. Jesus is the promised Son of God and son of David who will rule forever. Will Mary believe what the angel said?*

Let’s see. Read verses 34-38.

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month.³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God.”³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

Discussion: *Mary wasn’t even married. How could she give birth to baby Jesus? [The Holy Spirit will overshadow Mary.] Jesus will be born as fully God and fully man in a miraculous way. We call this the miracle of the INCARNATION—God taking on a human body. Mary knew that this was IMPOSSIBLE. What did*

the angel say about it? [Nothing is IMPOSSIBLE with God.] Mary trusted God that He would make this happen. And, did you hear that Elizabeth is her close relative?

*Let's read more about that. **Read verses 39-45.***

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

Discussion: *Did Elizabeth believe that Mary would be the mother of Jesus? [Yes.] Elizabeth knew by her baby's response in her own womb that Mary was greatly blessed. Because Elizabeth was filled with the Spirit, she believed God's promises!*

*Now, listen to what Mary says. **Read verses 46-55.***

⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers."

Discussion: *This is known as the "Song of Mary" or the "Magnificat." It is a song of praise for the birth of Jesus. Does it sound like Mary knows what Jesus will do one day? [Yes.] Mary has put her faith in God to save His people from their sins.*

*Let's read more. **Read verses 56-66.***

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home. ⁵⁷ When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. ⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, ⁶⁰ but his mother spoke up

and said, “No! He is to be called John.”⁶¹ They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”⁶² Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child.⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.”⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God.⁶⁵ The neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things.⁶⁶ Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

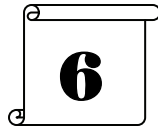
Discussion: *Just like the angel said, Zechariah stayed mute until the baby was born. He made sure the baby received the name the LORD gave him. John would be a special person for the LORD!*

Now listen to what Zechariah says. Read verses 67-80.

⁶⁷ His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:⁶⁸ “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),⁷¹ salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—⁷² to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,⁷³ the oath he swore to our father Abraham:⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel.

Discussion: *Did Zechariah now believe what the angel said? [Yes!] He believed that his son John would prepare the way for Jesus. He also believed that Jesus would save His people from their sins. This is just the beginning of the ministry of John!*

Conclusion: *Do you believe that God can do the IMPOSSIBLE? It is IMPOSSIBLE for you to save yourself from your sins. Yet by doing the IMPOSSIBLE and sending Jesus to be born as a man, God will do the IMPOSSIBLE and make a way of salvation. Mary, Elizabeth, and Zechariah believed God could do the IMPOSSIBLE. I pray that you see how God is powerful to save you!*



Lesson-At-Home

The **Lesson-At-Home** section is the closing time each week. Bookmarks are given to the students that include the Scripture memory verse and a lesson review. The lesson review contains words and phrases that can spark memories as well as conversation with parents.

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Luke 1:37) together.

Luke 1:37 (NIV)

³⁷ “For nothing is impossible with God.”

Say: *This is the shortest verse you will ever memorize, but one of the greatest in all of Scripture. Think about it: Nothing is IMPOSSIBLE with God. That doesn't mean that God will give us wings so that we can fly. It means that only God can save people from their sins. Only God can send a Savior as a baby who is both man and God. Nothing is IMPOSSIBLE with God!*

Review the verse a couple of times.

Direct the students' attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today's lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.