



Faith Lutheran Church + Grand Blanc, MI + www.faihgb.org

Bible Reading Journey

Key Study Points by Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann

Each day, using the notes on this page:

- Pray for Spirit-filled insight as you read God's Word.
- Look for Law and Gospel themes that point us to Jesus.
- Apply the readings to your life.
- Pray to Jesus, as the readings inspire you, for yourself, your family, your church and your world.

Historical Context: Mark wrote his Gospel account ~50-60AD. Luke, the physician, was not one of the twelve apostles, but knew them and traveled with Paul. He wrote his Gospel account ~55-60AD.

Law & Gospel Themes:

The long ending of Mark may not have been written by him with the rest of his account, but its message is consistent with the rest of Scripture and it gives us the same mandate, to go to all and proclaim the gospel, leading to Baptism and salvation by the work of the Holy Spirit. Luke, an educated physician, interviewed many witnesses and recorded an accurate

account for Theophilus, who could have been a single person or symbolic of anyone who is a "friend of God" (the meaning of the name). He particularly wanted to share the message of Christ in a way that could be used for the catechesis (instruction) of those becoming and growing as disciples of Jesus (SEE 1:4), esp. in the house church/home setting. Note his focus on the births and raising of John the Baptist and Jesus by godly parents.

Life Application Starters:

Even though it's not your job to make anyone believe (the Holy Spirit

does that), how faithful are you in proclaiming the Gospel to the "whole creation"? Why did God use four different men to record the Gospel account? Is your home a place where catechesis is taking place using Luke's words? How could this be improved? How early in life should catechesis begin?

Prayer Starters: For courage and strength to proclaim the Gospel in all the world to the whole creation. To learn from all the words recorded about Jesus. To do our part to catechize others. For every Christian home to be a primary place to teach the way of salvation in Jesus.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Mark 16:1-20

Tuesday: Luke 1:1-80

Wednesday: Luke 2:1-3:38

Thursday: Luke 4:1-5:39

Friday: Luke 6:1-49

Saturday: Luke 7:1-8:56

July's Memory Verses:

Luke 1:37, "For nothing will be impossible with God."

Luke 2:14, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased."

Luke 15:7, "...there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 11:25, "I am the resurrection and the life."

John 14:6, "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

Author of Mark: John Mark, who assisted the mission endeavors of Paul, Barnabas and Peter. **Date:** ~50-60 AD

Author of Luke: Luke, the physician, who knew and worked with Jesus' eyewitnesses. **Date:** ~55-60 AD

New Insights:

Questions to Pursue Further:

Insights from My Accountability Partners:

My Personal Prayers:

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Faithfully Living Every Relationship in God's Way...

...to Unite Everyone with Jesus for Eternity





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Historical Context: Luke, the physician, was not one of the twelve apostles, but knew them and traveled with Paul. He wrote his Gospel account ~55-60 AD.

Law & Gospel Themes:

Luke's focus on Christian catechesis (instruction) in the home reflects an emphasis throughout Scripture on such instruction happening in association with meals and feasts. Page 1718 in TLSB highlights many of these, such as Passover meals, wedding feasts (miracle at Cana), mass feedings by Jesus and the Last Supper. God made us to be fed regularly in body and spirit. The Lord's Supper is a clear picture of

this. Luke emphasizes that Jesus cared much for women, instructed them often and relied on them for support in his ministry. (SEE Page 1726 in TLSB.) Jesus' resurrection is essential to our salvation and should be taught clearly (9:22). The Gospel "light" in us is needed in a dark world of sin (11:33-36). God WILL provide all we need in body and spirit. (12:22-34). Along with home catechesis, weekly sabbath (Sunday) worship (receiving Jesus' Word and Supper) is essential.

Life Application Starters:

In addition to prayer, how can we raise up more

laborers for the Lord's harvest (SEE 10:2)? How should women be involved in receiving and sharing Christian catechesis? How are you a "Gospel light" to all the world? How can we use meals as a time for catechesis at home, in church and in the world? How does faithful/regular sabbath worship reinforce Christian catechesis?

Prayer Starters: For the Lord to raise up more laborers to enter His harvest, using us to support this effort. To shine the Gospel more clearly for all. To trust in God's desire to provide. For faithful sabbath worshippers.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Luke 9:1-62

Tuesday: Luke 10:1-42

Wednesday: Luke 11:1-12:59

Thursday: Luke 13:1-35

Friday: Luke 14:1-35

Saturday: Luke 15:1-16:31

July's Memory Verses:

Luke 1:37, "For nothing will be impossible with God."

Luke 2:14, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased."

Luke 15:7, "...there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 11:25, "I am the resurrection and the life."

John 14:6, "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

Author of Luke: Luke, the physician, who knew and worked with Jesus' eyewitnesses. **Date:** ~55-60 AD

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Historical Context: Luke, the physician, wrote his Gospel account ~55-60 AD. John, one of the twelve Apostles, wrote his gospel account ~90 AD.

Law & Gospel Themes:

Luke helps us better understand what happens to our body and soul when we die, such as pointing out Jesus' words to a thief and to His Father in 23:42-46. Our body decays, but our soul lives on with Jesus until both are united in perfection on Judgment Day. SEE Luke 16:19-31 & TLSB Page 1750. Whole households, even infants, can believe and be saved (18:15+). To remember Jesus in His Supper is an act of faith in His power to save

us (22:19). SEE TLSB Page 1764 for great catechesis on Sunday, our "sabbath," when we receive Jesus in Word and Sacrament. Right away in John 1:1-14, he responds to the heretic Cerinthus who, in his day, denied Jesus' divinity. John highlights the divine and human natures of Jesus throughout (note his many "I am" references). He also teaches "deeper" concepts about Jesus than any previous Gospel as he shares many of Jesus' sayings and signs.

Life Application Starters:

What comfort do you have in Luke's teachings about life after death? What will

we be like after Judgement Day? What does it mean to "remember" Jesus in the Lord's Supper? How can it be that Jesus is both fully God and fully man at the same time? Why is this truth important? How does John 1 beautifully tie together the Old and New Testaments? How does this support your faith?

Prayer Starters: That we will not fear death, but anticipate eternal life in spirit and then body too. To lead entire families, including babies, to the gift of salvation in Christ. For faith in the power of Jesus' Supper. To believe in Jesus as our fully "God and man" Savior from death and hell.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Luke 17:1-18:43

Tuesday: Luke 19:1-20:47

Wednesday: Luke 21:1-22:71

Thursday: Luke 23:1-24:53

Friday: John 1:1-2:25

Saturday: John 3:1-36

July's Memory Verses:

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Author of Luke: Luke, the physician, who knew and worked with Jesus' eyewitnesses. **Date:** ~55-60 AD

Author of John: John, one of the twelve Apostles; the only one who was not martyred. **Date:** ~90 AD

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Historical Context: John, one of the twelve Apostles, wrote his Gospel account ~90 AD.

Law & Gospel Themes:

In addition to Jesus' teaching about His divinity, John records many profound truths about Jesus through His sayings and signs. Jesus provides us "living water" with His Gospel words (4:10). Jesus is our "bread of life" in His Word and Supper (6:35). In 8:58, Jesus uses the phrase only noted by John, "Truly, truly" ("Amen, Amen" in Greek) to teach the profound truth that He is timeless God as He refers to Himself as "I am." Another "I am" statement by Jesus in 14:6 conveys the challenging

"scandal of particularity" (SEE TLSB P. 1810). This is the hard and unique teaching that ONLY Jesus (NO other god or man) can save us from our sin. Yet, it actually comforts us to know He gives certainty of salvation to ALL who receive Him. John also teaches that suffering is sometimes permitted by God for His higher, good purposes (9:3 and 11:15). The indwelling power of the Holy Spirit is a special focus of John, such as in 14:17 (SEE TLSB P. 1815).

Life Application Starters: Which of Jesus' profound statements ("figures of speech") in John are most

challenging for you and why (SEE TLSB P. 1775 "*Enigmatic Sayings*"). Where, alone, do we hear pure, holy truth and what are examples of it from John? Why is it important to know Jesus as "I am"? How is the "scandal of particularity" both scary and comforting? How can suffering ever be good?

Prayer Starters: To receive Jesus as our "living water" and "bread of life." That we will believe and share the holy truth from John. That we can guide sinners from doubt or anger to comfort in the teaching of Jesus as our only Savior. For trust in God's goodness through our suffering.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: John 4:1-54

Tuesday: John 5:1-6:71

Wednesday: John 7:1-8:59

Thursday: John 9:1-10:42

Friday: John 11:1-12:50

Saturday: John 13:1-14:31

July's Memory Verses:

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