

Luke's Account

Exploring the Life of Jesus

High-Beginner Level ESL

Tone Hess



Luke wrote an accurate and fascinating account of the life of Jesus based on the report of eyewitnesses. It is recorded in the historical setting of the Roman empire.

**Experience Jesus for yourself as you read these exciting stories.
Put yourself in the stories and see how they relate to your own life.**

The lessons may be used in the ESL classroom as part of an ESL lesson.

Each lesson will take approximately 20 minutes.

The lessons will expose the students to the life of Jesus. If a student shows interest in knowing more, they can be invited to a separate Bible study.

The Bible verses are paraphrased in simple sentences that the students can understand. Pictures help them understand the passage.

The teacher can read the text in the New International Reader's Version (NIRV) if the students are high-level beginners. Then the students will read the paraphrased sentences.

The students will be prompted to look at the pictures and try to retell the story in their own words. The discussion questions ask the students to share their own experiences based on the text.

Pictures: Free Bible Images. Canva licensed images

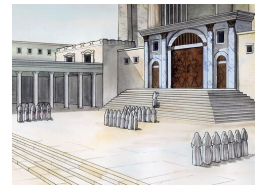
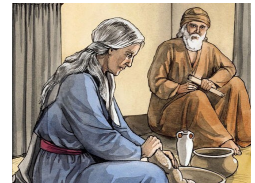
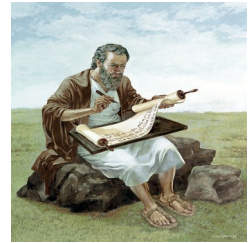
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Lesson 1

Bible Passage Luke 1:1-10 (paraphrased)

Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. Many people saw and heard Jesus.
2. Luke talked to the people who had seen and heard Jesus and wrote it in a book.
3. He wrote the book to a man, named Theo.
4. What he wrote in his book is true.
5. First, Luke wrote about a married couple.
6. Their names were Zechariah and Elizabeth.
7. They were old and didn't have any children.
8. They loved God and followed his rules.
9. One day Zechariah served God in the temple.
10. Many people stood outside and prayed.



Look at the pictures and talk about what you see.

Answer the following questions together as a group.

1. Luke lived 2000 years ago. How do people write books now?
2. Zechariah and Elizabeth didn't have children. Do you have children? What are their names? How old are they?
3. Zechariah and Elizabeth followed God's rules. Do you have rules that you follow?
4. Do you sometimes pray? What do you pray about?

Lesson 2

Bible Passage Luke 1:11-23 (paraphrased)

Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. Zechariah was in the temple.
2. An angel from God came and stood next to him.
3. Zechariah was afraid.
4. The angel said:
"Don't be afraid. "
"God has heard your prayer. You will have a son."
"His name will be John."
"He will help the people be ready for the Savior that is soon coming."
5. Zechariah didn't believe he and Elizabeth could have a son because they were old.
6. The angel said:
"You will not speak until the child is born."
7. Zechariah went out to the people. He couldn't speak.
8. Elizabeth became pregnant. She thanked God.



Look at the pictures and talk about what you see.

Answer the following questions together as a group.

1. Zechariah was afraid. How would you feel if you saw an angel?
2. Is there something you find hard to believe?
3. Elizabeth was very happy and thanked God.
What is something you can thank God for?

Lesson 3

Bible Passage Luke 1:26-38 (paraphrased)

Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. Six months later, God sent an angel to a young woman named Mary.

2. Mary was a virgin. She was engaged to Joseph.

3. The angel said:

"Don't be afraid."

"You will have a son. His name will be Jesus."

"He will be great."

"He will be the son of God."

"He will be king forever."

4. Mary said:

"How can I have a son when I am not married?"

5. The angel said:

"God's power will make it happen."

"The baby will be God's son."

"Nothing is too hard for God."

6. Mary said:

"I am God's servant."



Look at the pictures and talk about what you see.

Answer the following questions together as a group.

1. The angel gave good news to Mary. Tell about good news that you have received.
2. The angel said Jesus would be great. What do you think that means?
3. How was Mary's response to the angel different from Zechariah's response?
4. How do you think you would respond if an angel talked to you?

Lesson 4

Bible Passage Luke 1:39-56 (paraphrased)

Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. Mary went to visit Elizabeth.
2. When Mary came, Elizabeth's baby jumped inside her.
3. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said:
"The mother of my Lord has visited me."
"You are blessed because you believed what God said."
4. Mary said:
"I praise God."
"God has done great things for me."
"God is good to those who listen to him and obey him."
"God helps those who are humble and ask him for help."
"God doesn't like those who are proud."
"God made a promise to Abraham about sending the Savior."
5. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months. Then she went home.



Look at the pictures and talk about what you see.

Answer the following questions together as a group.

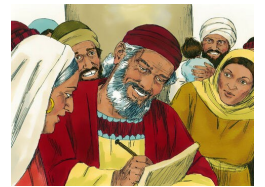
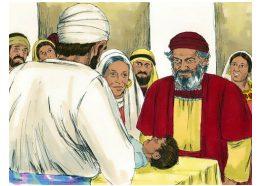
1. Elizabeth was so happy to see Mary. Have you ever been very happy to see someone?
2. Mary was blessed. In what ways do you feel God has blessed you?
3. Mary said that God does good things for the humble. What does it mean to be humble, and what does it mean to be proud?
4. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months. What do you think they did together and what did they talk about?

Lesson 5

Bible Passage Luke 1:57-70, 76-80 (paraphrased)

Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. Elizabeth gave birth to a son.
2. Her neighbors and relatives were happy with her.
3. When the baby was eight days old, they had a celebration.
4. The people wanted to name the baby "Zechariah" after his father.
5. Zechariah wrote "His name is John".
6. Zechariah could speak again.
7. Everyone talked about what had happened.
8. God was with John in a special way.
9. Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and said:
"God has sent a Savior from the line of King David."
"You, my child, will be a prophet of God and prepare people for the Lord".
"You will tell people how to find salvation and be forgiven".
10. John grew up. He lived in the wilderness until he started speaking publicly.



Look at the pictures and talk about what you see.

Answer the following questions together as a group.

1. Do you have a ceremony in your culture where you give a name to a new baby?
2. How do people choose names for their babies?
3. What are some things Zechariah said about his son?
4. What are some wishes you have for your children or for your own life?

Lesson 6

Bible Passage Luke 2:1-12 (paraphrased)

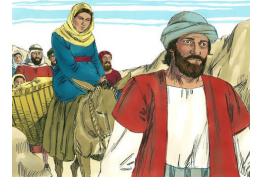
Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. The emperor in the Roman empire decided to do a census.
2. Joseph and Mary had to travel from their hometown of Nazareth to Bethlehem to register for the census.
3. While they were in Bethlehem, it was time for Mary to give birth.
4. There were no rooms available, so they stayed in a stable.
5. Mary gave birth to her son and put him in a manger.
6. An angel came to shepherds in the fields outside of Bethlehem.
7. The angel said:

"I bring good news that will make everyone happy."

"Today the Messiah, the Lord, has been born in Bethlehem."

"You will find a baby lying in a manger."



manger



census

counting the people in the country

Look at the pictures and talk about what you see.

Answer the following questions together as a group.

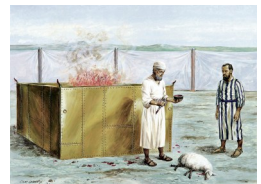
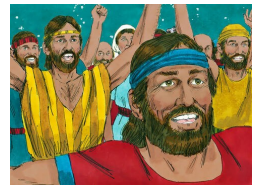
1. Have you ever taken part in a census? How is a census done today?
2. How do you think it was for Mary to travel just before her baby was to be born?
3. How do you think Joseph and Mary felt when they couldn't find a place to stay? How would you have felt?
4. What was the message the angel brought to the shepherds?

Lesson 7

Bible Passage Luke 2:13-24 (paraphrased)

Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. The sky was filled with angels praising God.
2. After the angels went back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other: "Let us go and see what the Lord told us about."
3. They went to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph. They saw the baby lying in a manger.
4. The shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said about the child.
5. The shepherds were praising God.
6. Eight days later, the baby was given the name Jesus.
7. Some days later, Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.
8. Mary and Joseph followed the law and offered a sacrifice to God at the temple.



Look at the pictures and talk about what you see.

Answer the following questions together as a group.

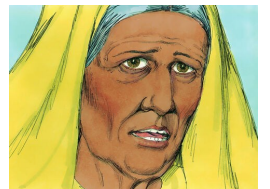
1. The sky was filled with angels worshipping God. Do you wish you would have been there to see and hear it?
2. Do you think you would have been surprised to find this special baby, that the angels talked about, lying in a box that animals eat from?
3. The law of Moses required the people to follow certain rules after a baby was born. Does your culture have any such rules?

Lesson 8

Bible Passage Luke 2:25-38 (paraphrased)

Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. Mary and Joseph went to the temple to present baby Jesus to God.
2. There was a man named Simeon that lived in Jerusalem.
3. He was waiting for Messiah, the Savior.
4. God had told him that he would see the Messiah before he died.
5. God's Spirit led Simeon to Joseph and Mary that day.
6. Simeon took the baby in his arms. He praised God and said:
"I have seen your salvation that is for all people."
"Jesus will help all the nations and Israel to come to God."
"Many people will be against him."
"Mary will be very sad."
7. Anna was a prophet. She was also in the temple.
8. She was a widow and she lived in the temple and worshipped God.
9. She came over to Mary and Joseph when Simeon was talking about Jesus.
10. Anna praised God and talked about Jesus to many people who were waiting for the Messiah.



Look at the pictures and talk about what you see.

Answer the following questions together as a group.

1. Simeon had waited for the Messiah his whole life. What is something you have been waiting for?
2. What do you think Mary felt when Simeon talked about Jesus? How do you feel when someone talks about your children?
3. Anna was a widow. How did she spend her time? What are some struggles that widows have?

Lesson 9

Bible Passage Luke 2:39-52 (paraphrased)

Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. Mary and Joseph went back to their hometown, Nazareth.
2. Jesus grew up healthy and strong. He was wise and God was happy with him.
3. Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover festival.
4. When Jesus was twelve years old they went to Jerusalem as usual.
5. On the way home, Mary and Joseph couldn't find Jesus.
6. They went back to Jerusalem and looked for him for three days.
7. Finally, they found him in the temple. He was talking to the religious leaders. Everyone was surprised by his wisdom and understanding of the Scriptures.
8. Mary and Joseph asked why he had done this to them.
9. Jesus answered: "Why did you need to search for me? Didn't you know that I need to be in my Father's house?"
10. Jesus went back to Nazareth with his parents and he obeyed them.
11. Jesus grew in wisdom. God was happy with him, and people liked him.



Look at the pictures and talk about what you see.

Answer the following questions together as a group.

1. Jesus' parents went to celebrate the Passover festival. What are some celebrations that you have in your culture?
2. How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when they couldn't find Jesus? Have you experience anything similar?
3. Do you think Jesus did the right thing or the wrong thing when he stayed in the temple?

Lesson 10

Bible Passage Luke 3:1– 11(paraphrased)

Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. At the time that certain rulers reigned in the Roman empire, God sent a message to John, the son of Zechariah.
2. John lived in the wilderness when God spoke to him.
3. John went around speaking God's message to the people.
4. John told the people:
"Be baptized."
"Repent of your sin."
"Turn to God and be forgiven."
5. People came to John to be baptized.
6. John said that when they get baptized, they need to start doing what is right.
7. If they don't do what is right, God will punish them.
8. The people asked: "What should we do?"
9. John told them to give to the poor and share with those who need help.



sin	what people do, say or think that is against God's perfect standard
repent	admit your sin, turn away from it and turn to God
baptize	dip a person under water to show that they have left the old life and started a new life

Talk about the pictures. Discuss the questions below.

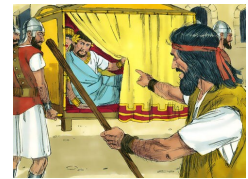
1. Why do you think John lived in the wilderness? Do you like to be by yourself?
2. Do you think everyone liked John? Why or why not?
3. What do you sometimes need to say to your children or others even when you know they don't like it?

Lesson 11

Bible Passage Luke 3:12-23a (paraphrased)

Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. Corrupt tax collectors came to be baptized. They asked, "What should we do?"
2. John said, "Don't steal money from people."
3. Soldiers came to be baptized and asked, "What should we do?"
4. John said, "Don't take money from people and don't say that people have done wrong when it is not true."
5. John said,
"I am not the Messiah."
"The Messiah is coming. He is greater than me"
"The Messiah will punish those who do wrong and don't repent."
6. John told the ruler, Herod, that it was wrong for him to marry his brother's wife.
7. Later, Herod put John in prison.
8. Jesus came to John to be baptized.
9. The Holy Spirit came down on Jesus like a dove.
10. A voice from heaven said "You are my Son. I love you and you make me happy."
11. Jesus was thirty years old when he started his public ministry.



Look at the pictures and talk about what you see.

Answer the following questions together as a group.

1. What are some ways that someone might steal money in our culture?
2. John said that those who do wrong will be punished. How are people being punished in America? Do you think it is right to punish those who do wrong?
3. Why do you think Jesus got baptized? Had he done anything wrong?

Lesson 12

Bible Passage Luke 4:1-13 (paraphrased)

Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. The Holy Spirit led Jesus to the desert.
2. Jesus ate nothing for 40 days.
3. The devil tempted Jesus and tried to get him to do something wrong.
4. The devil said: "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."
5. Jesus said, "No, the Scriptures say that people don't live only by bread."
6. Then the devil said, "I will give you all the kingdoms in the world if you worship me."
7. Jesus said, "The Scriptures say that you should worship only God."
8. Then the devil took Jesus to stand on the roof of the temple. He said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! God will protect you."
9. Jesus answered, "The Scriptures say that you should not test God."
10. When the devil had finished testing Jesus, he left him.
11. He would come back and test him another time.



Look at the pictures and talk about what you see.

Answer the following questions together as a group.

1. Have you ever fasted? How do you feel when you get very hungry?
2. Some people are tempted to eat too much or drive too fast. What are some other temptations that many people have?
3. What did Jesus do when he was tempted?

Lesson 13

Bible Passage Luke 4:14-22 (paraphrased)

Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. Jesus went back to Galilee. He was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. Many people heard about him. He taught people in their gathering place.
3. He came to his hometown, Nazareth. He went to the gathering place and read the Scriptures. He read from the prophet Isaiah:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me.

He has chosen me

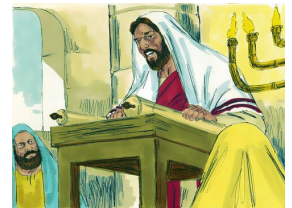
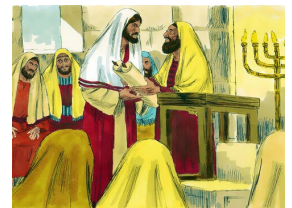
to tell the good news to poor people.

He has sent me to give freedom for prisoners.

He has sent me so that the blind will see again.

He wants me to set free those who are treated badly."

4. Jesus said, " This Scripture is talking about me."
5. The people were surprised. They said, "He is Joseph's son. He is a normal person."



Look at the pictures and talk about what you see.

Answer the following questions together as a group.

1. Jesus went back to his hometown. After moving away, have you gone back to your hometown? How was it?
2. Jesus said he would help people who have problems. What problems do some people have?
3. Do you think Jesus can help people with their problems?

Lesson 14

Bible Passage Luke 4:23-30 (paraphrased)

Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. The people in Jesus' hometown wanted him to do a miracle.
2. Jesus didn't want to do a miracle there. He said, "No prophet is accepted in his hometown."
3. Jesus said,
"There were many widows in Israel when the prophet Elijah lived.
God didn't send Elijah to any of the widows in Israel.
God sent Elijah to a widow in another country named Sidon.
There were many people with a skin disease in Israel when the prophet Elisha lived. God didn't send Elisha to heal them.
God sent Elisha to heal a man in Syria."
4. The Israelites thought they were better than people from other countries.
5. Jesus meant that God helps those who believe in him and ask him for help. He doesn't just help people from Israel.
6. When the people in Jesus' hometown heard this, they were very angry. They didn't believe in him.
7. The people took Jesus to the edge of a cliff. They wanted to kill him.
8. Jesus walked away.



Look at the pictures and talk about what you see.

Answer the following questions together as a group.

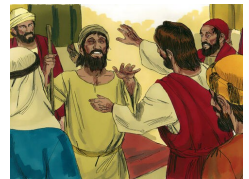
1. Jesus said that he loves people from every country. Have you ever felt that people don't like you because you are from another country?
2. The people got very angry. What are some things that make you angry?
3. What do some people do when they are angry?

Lesson 15

Bible Passage Luke 4:31-44 (paraphrased)

Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. Jesus went to a town named Capernaum.
2. He taught the people.
3. A man was possessed by an evil spirit. The evil spirit said to Jesus: "You are God. Go away!"
4. Jesus said, "Be quiet! Come out of the man!"
5. The evil spirit came out of the man. The people were very surprised. Many people heard about what Jesus had done.
6. Jesus went to the home of Simon Peter. His mother-in-law was very sick.
7. Jesus healed her. She got up and cooked food for them.
8. In the evening, people from the town brought sick people to Jesus. Jesus healed everyone.
9. Many people were possessed by evil spirits. Jesus commanded them to come out of the people.
10. Early in the morning, Jesus went to be by himself.
11. People looked for Jesus. They said, "Don't leave us."
12. Jesus said, "I need to teach the Good News to other towns too."
13. Jesus travelled around and taught people.



Look at the pictures and talk about what you see.

Answer the following questions together as a group.

1. What were some amazing things Jesus did?
2. Many sick people came to Jesus to be healed. What do you do when you are sick?
3. Jesus went to be by himself. What do you think he did? Do you sometimes want to be by yourself? What do you like to do when you are by yourself?

Lesson 16

Bible Passage Luke 5:1-11 (paraphrased)

Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. Jesus was teaching by the sea.
2. Many people came to listen to him.
3. He borrowed Simon's boat. He sat in the boat and taught the people.
4. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon,
"Go out to the deep water and let down your nets to catch fish."
Simon said, "We have fished all night. We didn't get any fish. But we will do what you said. We will go out and fish again."
5. They got so much fish that the nets started to tear.
6. Simon's partners were in another boat. They came to help Simon.
Both boats were filled with fish.
7. Peter fell to his knees. He said to Jesus, "Lord, leave me. I am too much of a sinner to be around you."
8. Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. Now you will not catch fish any more. You will start fishing for people."
9. Simon and his partners, James and John, left everything and followed Jesus.



Look at the pictures and talk about what you see.

Answer the following questions together as a group.

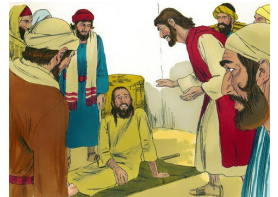
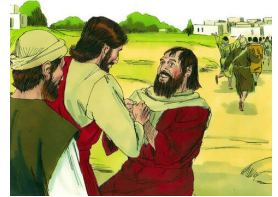
1. Some of Jesus' followers were fishermen. Would you like to do fishing as your job?
2. Jesus did a miracle with the fish. Do you think miracles can happen now?
3. When Simon saw what Jesus did, he left everything and followed him. What are some big decisions you have made in your life?

Lesson 17

Bible Passage Luke 5:12-26 (paraphrased)

Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. A man with a very bad skin disease came to Jesus. He bowed down and said, " Lord, if you are willing, you can heal me."
2. Jesus touched him, and the man was healed.
3. Many people heard about what Jesus did and came to hear him teach and to be healed.
4. One day Jesus was teaching. Some men carried a man that could not walk to Jesus.
5. They could not get in the house because there were so many people.
6. They went up on the roof, made a hole and lowered the man down to Jesus.
7. Jesus said to the man, "Your sins are forgiven."
8. The religious leaders said, "Only God can forgive sin. Who does Jesus think he is?"
9. Jesus knew what they were thinking. He said, I will prove to you that I am God's son and that I can forgive sins."
10. Jesus said to the man who couldn't walk, "Stand up and go home."
11. The man jumped up and walked home praising God.
12. Everyone was very surprised and they praised God.



Look at the pictures and talk about what you see.

Answer the following questions together as a group.

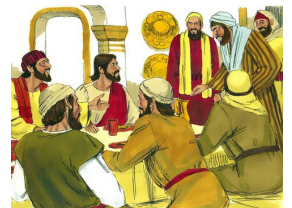
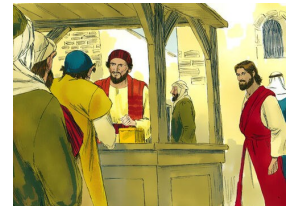
1. The man who couldn't walk had some really good friends that carried him to Jesus. What kind of things do friends do for each other?
2. People with a skin disease were not allowed to be with other people. Did Jesus tell him to go away?
3. How does it feel to be from a different country and speak a different language?

Lesson 18

Bible Passage Luke 5:27-39 (paraphrased)

Read the sentences together in small groups and talk about the words you don't understand.

1. Jesus saw a tax collector named Levi. Jesus said, "Follow me."
2. (Tax collectors were Israelites that worked for the Roman government. They took a lot of money from the people in Israel. People didn't like them.)
3. Levi invited Jesus to a party at his home. He also invited his friends and other tax collectors.
4. The religious leaders said, "Why does Jesus eat with such bad people?"
5. Jesus said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. I have come for those who know they are sinners and need a Savior. The people that think they have never done anything wrong, don't think they need me."
6. One day some people asked Jesus why his followers didn't fast.
7. Jesus said, "People don't fast when they are at a wedding. My followers don't fast when I am with them. When I am not with them any more, they will fast."



Look at the pictures and talk about what you see.

Answer the following questions together as a group.

1. These days we don't have tax collectors, but we need to pay taxes to the IRS. Why do we pay taxes?
2. People thought the tax collectors were bad people. What did Jesus think about them?
3. Do you sometimes fast? What are the reasons why some people fast?