



The Good Book Club Bible Study

Week 1: Introduction to Luke-Acts and Luke 1:46-56

Participant Notes

Bread and Butter

- This Bible study will be a journey through the life of Christ and the movement of the early church.
- What do you know about Luke and Acts? What do you expect to learn or be challenged by in this study?
- Saint Luke is ascribed authorship of Luke-Acts. Some scholars believe he was a Greek-speaking Jew, while others contend he was a Gentile. Luke has an amazing gift for relating the stories of Jesus and the disciples.
- In Luke-Acts, we are given the broadest, most complete story of God in Christ—literally from womb to tomb and beyond to the birth of the Church.
- Briefly review and skim discussion handouts.

Meat and Potatoes

- Luke and Acts is a multi-volume work, intended to be read together (Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-2).
- Luke-Acts is a story of salvation history – what God began in the Old Testament God continued to do in Christ and then through the early church.
- Luke has a perspective (helpfully he sets out his agenda for us in Luke 4:16-21 and Acts 1:6-8).
- Luke's strategy in chapters 1-2 is to link clearly Israel's story to the story of Jesus.
- He tells stories that sound like Old Testament stories—stories of barren women, temple priests, and miraculous visitations.
- He tells stories using the language that *sounds* like the Old Testament. He writes in a style that mimics the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible.
- Luke is a master storyteller with exceptional command of Greek and deeply aware of the Hebrew Bible (in its Greek translation) and its traditions. He uses multiple strategies early on to connect the Christ event to Israel's story. He also wants to draw attention to particular themes present Israel's story and emphasize those in his story about Jesus.

Something Sweet

- Spend some time in your group reading the *Magnificat* together. What themes do you notice? Are there portions of this prayer you might consider adding to your own prayers this week?