

The Good Doctor



A Men at Magnify series
in the Gospel of Luke

Week 1: Meet the Good Doctor

Preview

This week we begin our new Bible study on the Gospel of Luke by introducing our two main themes: (1) getting to know Jesus better through the stories told only in Luke, and (2) growing in our ability to read the Bible for ourselves through inductive Bible study.

Text: Luke 4:14–30

¹⁴And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

¹⁶And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²²And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?”

²³And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ' "Physician, heal yourself." What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.' " ²⁴And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. ²⁵But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, ²⁶ and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷ And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. ²⁹ And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. ³⁰But passing through their midst, he went away.

Meet the Good Doctor

Our first story in Luke begins right after Jesus is baptized by John and tempted by the Devil, two key events that kick off His public ministry. After being heralded by angels (2:13–15) and prophets (2:25–38) as a baby, the time has now come for Jesus Himself to proclaim the Good News.

Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would restore the sight of the blind as part of His ministry; He is a **Savior** and a **healer**. Jesus even identifies Himself with a physician in a proverb—and this is where it becomes clear that He is more than just a healer. As **God** in the flesh, He doesn't need healing or saving Himself. He has authority not just as a **prophet** but as **the Holy One**.

Bible Study: Inductive Method Refresh

"Inductive Bible Study" is a simple study method inspired by modern science. **Too often we come to the Bible with an agenda:** we already have expectations about what it will or won't say, or we're racing to find how it relates to our lives and how we can apply it. Inductive study forces you to slow down and really listen to the words of Scripture. When we learn to listen more carefully, we can understand and apply it more faithfully.

Three Steps of Inductive Bible Study

1. Observe - what do you see in the text itself?
2. Interpret - what does it mean?
3. Apply - how should we respond?

When we **observe**, we linger over the details just long enough to make sure we didn't miss anything important. Who is talking? To whom? About what? Is it a description, a story, a command, a question, or some other kind of speech? Are there any clues about why it matters? Clues about how something should be done? Try to stick to only what you can see in the text! For deeper study, we might consult other translations or look for related Bible passages that might shed light on the subject.

When we **interpret**, we work to understand what the text means. Not what it means "for you" but what it means for everyone. The meaning should *always* be grounded in observation—watch out for the temptation to bring in assumptions that the text doesn't support. *Our best clue is always context.* Remember that the Bible is not like a telephone that God merely speaks through; the words God chose are just what God is saying.

When we **apply**, we relate ourselves to the timeless truths we discovered in interpretation. Sometimes a passage has a clear *command* that we have to relate to our context. Other times, we find an *example* of how we should or should not live. Sometimes we simply notice clues about what God says is *good or evil*. Regardless, application includes accepting and believing what the Bible says is true. Trusting God is always the first and last step.

Observe, Interpret, Apply

Observe: What do you notice in our passage?

- Key questions:
 - What is Jesus's mission?
 - Who benefits from Jesus's ministry?
 - What are the different ways people responded to Jesus?
 - Where do we see the Word of God and the Spirit of God?
 - Why did the people turn against Jesus? What did they try to do?

Interpret: What does this passage mean?

- Key clues:
 - Jesus gives two descriptions of His ministry
 - The people respond in two different ways
 - Consider the similarities between this passage and Jesus's earthly ministry as a whole, ending at the Cross

Apply: How will you respond to what Jesus said about who He is?

For Further Study

Want to learn more? Check out some of these passages:

- [Isaiah 61](#) - the passage Jesus read in the synagogue
- [1 Kings 17](#) - Elijah and the widow; what did Elijah do for her? Was Sidon in Israel?
- [2 Kings 5](#) - Elisha and the leper; what did Elisha do for him? Where was Syria?
- [Matthew 9:10-13](#) - Jesus likens Himself to a physician again. What does this add to Luke's picture of Jesus as the Good Doctor?

Study Tool Spotlight

Blue Letter Bible is a website full of Bible study resources. You can read almost any translation you want, and even compare them. You can do word searches and trace connections back through the original languages with concordance tools. There are commentaries and devotionals. No matter where you are in your ability, Blue Letter Bible has tools that you can use to go deeper.

Prayer

Take prayer requests and pray for one another now and throughout the week. In addition, ask God to give you a hunger to know Jesus better—His character, His life, His commands, and His words. What is it that inspires you to worship Him most? Are there any obstacles that get in the way?

Next Week

Our next passage is Luke 7:11-17, so feel free to read ahead to prepare for discussion. You may also consider reading the parts of the text we're skipping over (4:31-7:10). It's all good, and it will help you with context. As you read, take special note of who Jesus is and what He is doing. You may want to start making a list that you can add to each week.