

# Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel . . . Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #01

Passage: Luke 1:57-80

Sermon Date: Sep 18, 2005

## Introduction:

John the Baptist plays a key role, foretold by the prophets, announcing the coming of the Messiah. He is the “voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” (Isa 40:3-4 and Luke 3:4). In Luke 1:57-80 we read Luke’s account of John’s dramatic birth and his father Zechariah’s jubilant prayer and song of praise and prophecy. This passage precedes, in an appropriately dramatic way, the story of the birth of the savior of the world!

This is the first in a series of bible studies which parallel the weekly sermon series at South Shore Baptist Church. In this first study, you’ll explore this week’s passage while also practicing some basic bible study skills. The study is designed to take about 60 to 90 minutes. Some may prefer to do it in two sittings.

## Prayer:

Before you start this or any study, ask God to help you. Take a minute right now to ask God to guide you through his Spirit toward his truth, and to enable you to understand it and live it.

*This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to [www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/](http://www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/)*

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2. Next, take some of your observations and begin to **interpret** them. While some scripture can be directly applied (e.g. “thou shall not kill”), there are many places where it takes a deeper probing of the text to extract helpful meaning & application.

Circle or highlight a few of your observations on the previous page that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these observations below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? About Jesus? About the Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?
SAMPLE: Elizabeth gave birth to a son. (1:57)	God's promises come true. He promised Zechariah a son in Luke 1:13, and even though his wife was old and barren, God was faithful!

*Use another sheet of paper if this space is too limiting for you.*

3. Finally, as James exhorts us, we need to **apply** the Word to our lives in order to understand it more fully, to retain it longer, and to grow more like Christ.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (James 1:22)

As you look to apply what you're seeing and learning to your own life, listen for God's 'still small voice' guiding you. Be on the lookout for ...

- **Sins** you need to avoid
- **Promises** you want to believe
- **Examples** you'd like to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **Commands** you'll try harder to obey
- **Knowledge** you'd like to share

Application How do I apply what it means?
I need to trust God more. For instance, He promised that he would finish the good work He began in me (Phil 1:6) but I often don't act as if this is true. Specifically, I need to trust that he will bless my ministry, and I should be strong and courageous when I see opportunities to serve Him.

*Is there somewhere else you should write these so you'll actually do them?*

Answer the following questions to probe a bit deeper into a few selected parts of this passage.

### The “Rising Sun” from Heaven is Coming!

4. When we are interpreting a passage, it’s helpful to look at relevant cross references. Re-read Luke 1:78 and then check out these cross references which also involve the phrase or concept of the “rising sun.” What do you observe related to the “rising sun” in each passage?

Isaiah 60:1-3

Mal 4:2-6

Romans 13:11-12

2 Peter 1:19

1 John 2:8

Rev 22:16

Having observed these passages, what do you think is the significance of the “rising sun”? What or whom does it represent? How does this symbolism relate to John the Baptist’s role and significance in history?

5. In Luke 1:67-80 Zechariah praises God for the great news – the salvation which he sees is at hand. Do you recall the four ‘Romans Road’ verses that are often used to articulate the Gospel? (they’re listed in the table on the next page – check ‘em out if you don’t know them). Now, imagine you’re shipwrecked on an island and, instead of the Romans verses, you have only one legible page of scripture – Luke 1:67-80. How many parts of the gospel could you explain using this text alone? Show how using the chart on the next page.

Gospel message element:	Related verse(s) from Luke 1:67-80
Man has sinned (Rom 3:23)	
Sin’s penalty is death (Rom 6:23)	
Christ paid the penalty (Rom 5:8)	
We must receive Christ (Rom 10:9)	

#### Application Challenge:

Practice explaining the Gospel to someone using Luke 1:67-80.

#### “The Lord’s hand was with him.”

6. Re-read & interpret Luke 1:66. What do you think “the Lord’s hand was with him” means? (Note Luke 1:15-17)

7. To further interpret Luke 1:66, check out these passages:

Psalm 37:23-24

Isaiah 41:13

John 10:28-29

What do you conclude about God’s character & style? What does this mean in terms of how God treats us, and what we can count on him for?

