

# Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #06

Passage: Luke 3:21-38

Sermon Date: Oct 23, 2005

## Introduction:

At the risk of being irreverent, can we be honest about how we sometimes feel about parts of the bible?

“Okay, so ‘so-and-so’ was the son of ‘so-and-so’ who was the son of ‘so-and-so’. And this is important to me because ...? I can’t even pronounce most of these names! Why is this in the bible, anyway?”

Ever feel like this when reading some of the seemingly drier parts of scripture? Indeed, the New Testament begins with a whole chapter that seems like God got out the “family slideshow” again (“Ughh!” my heart says sometimes when I come to these sections). Have you read Genesis Chapter 5 lately? Or Numbers Chapter 1? Do you skim over the names or skip these parts entirely?

In this week’s study, we’ll look at one of these name-listing passages (more properly called “genealogies”), and have an opportunity to find much hidden treasure within what we might otherwise have skipped over.

## Bible Study:

1. Which parts of the bible have you found hardest to read? Why do you think you’ve felt this way?

*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. Read this week's bible passage and make observations about it. Also jot down any questions you have about it.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p><sup>21</sup>When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."</p> <p><sup>23</sup>Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph,</p> <p>the son of Heli, <sup>24</sup>the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melki, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph,</p> <p><sup>25</sup>the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos,</p> <p>the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, <sup>26</sup>the son of Maath,</p> <p>the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein,</p> <p>the son of Josech, the son of Joda,</p> <p><sup>27</sup>the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa,</p> <p>the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel,</p> <p>the son of Neri, <sup>28</sup>the son of Melki, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er,</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p><sup>29</sup>the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer,</p> <p>the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, <sup>30</sup>the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim,</p> <p><sup>31</sup>the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan,</p> <p>the son of David, <sup>32</sup>the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon,</p> <p><sup>33</sup>the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram,</p> <p>the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, <sup>34</sup>the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham,</p> <p>the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,</p> <p><sup>35</sup>the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, <sup>36</sup>the son of Cainan,</p> <p>the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem,</p> <p>the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,</p> <p><sup>37</sup>the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch,</p> <p>the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel,</p> <p>the son of Kenan, <sup>38</sup>the son of Enosh,</p> <p>the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.</p>	

3. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. 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? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

*When studying a gospel, look for parallel passages in the other gospels.  
For this study's passage, see Mt 1:1-17, 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, and John 1:29-34.*

4. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look 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

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

**Stretch Your Thinking:**

5. Compare Luke's genealogy with Matthew's (Matthew Chapter 1).
  - a. What similarities & differences do you see?

Similarities	Differences

- b. What interpretations can you make based on these similarities and differences? What do you think Luke is trying to communicate about Jesus by including the Luke 3:23-38 genealogy?

Hint: Which one shows signs of being written more to a Jewish audience and which looks written more to a Gentile (non-Jewish) audience? How might that help you interpret the rest of Luke's gospel?

**Study Skill: Repeated Words**

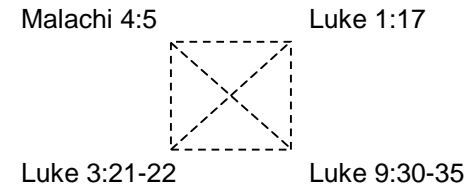
6. When words or themes are repeated in a passage, this typically means the author is emphasizing that idea. Therefore, one skill to keep in your inductive study "toolkit" is to look for words or themes which are repeated in scripture.

- a. What word or phrase is repeated most in Luke 3:21-38? (Hint: It appears 77 times!)

- b. How does this relate to Luke 1:35?
  - c. The first and last uses of the word "son" in this passage refer to Jesus being the Son of God. In-between those, the word "son" appears 75 times showing Jesus as the son of men. What is your current understanding of (or question about) how Jesus can at once be both the Son of God and the son of men?

**Dig Deep:**

7. Exercise your inductive study skills by examining the following cross-references.
  - a. Observe as many connections or similarities as you can find between these verses.



- b. What interpretations can you draw from these connections?

