



"THROUGH LUKE'S LENS"

SPEAKER: Bo Stern Brady

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Discussion Questions

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:

Luke 1:1-4, Col. 4:14, Philemon 1:23-24, 2 Tim. 4:11

We all look through a variety of lenses to see things well. We sometimes need glasses or corrective lens surgery to maintain that clarity as we age. The Bible, specifically Luke's Gospel, is one of our "lenses."

However, our culture distrusts many of those lenses, like the news or what our governments tell us. So, we pull the circle tighter and tighter, but things like deep fake images and videos teach us we can't even trust our perceptions. What, then, do we do? How do we even *see* Jesus?

LEAN IN: *These are ice breakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What do you trust these days? Who or what can you trust and why?
2. When was the last time you were fooled, for fun or not, and what was that like?
3. Did you see the deep fake image of the Pope, or have you seen others? How did you react? What do you think of things like deep fake images and videos?
4. What's one thing about this message stood out to you?
5. How did you put the past week's teaching into practice since our group last met?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What does Luke say about the stories circulating about Jesus?
2. Where does he say those accounts come from, and how are they transmitted?
3. How does Luke describe his involvement, and why do you think it's important how he does so?
4. What does he do with this information, and how does he describe his account? Why might his approach be critical when stories about Jesus are proliferating beyond those who were first-hand witnesses?
5. What does Luke say about his motivation?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What do you think most people believe about the historical reliability of the Bible or the Gospels, and why?
2. How are most people's attitudes formed about the Bible's reliability? How does the character of the church leaders factor into that?
3. Do you think intellectual arguments about the Gospel's historical reliability are more important than the character of the Christians who make them, and why or why not? Should both always be good, and if so, why?

4. Certainty is a core theme in Luke's Gospel and within the message. Where do people lack certainty in their lives? Where do people look for certainty in their lives?
5. A recent poll showed that the average American values money and its acquisition above patriotism and religious faith. What does that tell you about "certainty" and how it impacts values in the 21st Century?

LOOK IN: *These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. How do you relate to Luke's pursuit of certainty?
2. Where do you need reassurance that your faith rests on something certain?
3. Have you had times of doubt, and how have you handled them?
4. In his introduction, Luke writes of a community that bears witness to the reality of Jesus, the Messiah. How important is your faith community to the liveliness of your faith? Do you ever try and go it alone, and if so, how does that work for you?
5. If you could sit down and talk with Luke, what's the one question you would ask him?

LIVE IT OUT: *These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one prompt and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Pick a friend and commit to reading the Gospel of Luke together once a week for the next month. At the end of that time, share a meal and discuss how the experience impacted your faith.
2. Gather a group of friends or your family, and commit to doing the Bible Project's reading plan of Luke together, beginning with this series's first week or so.