



DEVOTIONAL

NAME:

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INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF LUKE:

The New Testament begins with four books called Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each provides a different perspective on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The book of Luke was written by a doctor and historian. After he became a disciple, he chose to carefully investigate Jesus to discover the truth about Him. After traveling, examining resources, interviewing eyewitnesses, and researching the events, Luke wrote an orderly account so that people may believe the truth that Jesus is the Son of God and Savior of the world.

He explains this purpose at the beginning of his book: "With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." (Luke 1:3-4)

For this reason, Luke is a powerful book to study whether you've been reading the Bible for years or you've never opened it before today. Luke highlights the limitless love of Jesus, often expressed to the most unexpected recipients. Throughout the book, Jesus challenges his first disciples to live with total surrender and commitment to Him. Anyone who reads with an open heart will hear the same challenge for disciples today: being a disciple of Jesus means following Jesus, loving others, and making more disciples.

As you read, may you develop a new love and appreciation for Jesus. May you learn to express the unconditional, incomparable love of Jesus to others. May you accept his call to "follow me" and discover the adventure of being His disciple.

THE FIRST 15:

Can you believe that the Creator of the Universe wants to spend time with you? God loves you and wants you to know him. If we're honest, though, spending time with God is often the furthest thing from our minds. What if there was a simple way to change this?

Would you be willing to spend *the first 15 minutes* of everyday with God? It may sound intimidating, but this simple commitment could change everything about your day. Take the First 15 Challenge by committing to spend the first 15 minutes of each day with God, using this devotional guide.

It may take some discipline to get up a few minutes earlier or choose to do this before you turn on the TV or go online. But there is no more powerful earthly experience than enjoying a relationship with the Giver of Hope. The best way to grow in your relationship with God is to spend time with him.

It is believed that it takes 21 days to create a habit. By taking the First 15 Challenge and using this guide, you can create a daily rhythm of time with God. Stay committed to it and keep going. And, when you have opportunity, share with others what God is saying to you through your experience of reading and prayer.

HOW TO USE THE DEVOTIONAL GUIDE:

Reading the Bible can be intimidating. This booklet offers a simple approach that will help you get the most out of your time in God's Word. It is always a good idea to begin by asking God to help you be receptive to what He wants to say to you. This resource is set up for you to read one chapter from Luke each day and then use the following structure to guide your conversation with God. There is room on each page for you to write your responses.

Scripture: Write the Scripture reference for the passage you are studying.

Observation: Make one observation from the passage.

Application: Write how this applies to your life.

Prayer: Talk to God about what you have read.

Memory Verse: Each week has a memory verse that corresponds to Sunday's message. Spend the last couple minutes of your devotion reading, repeating, and remembering the memory verse. By memorizing Scripture, we are able to take God's Word with us wherever we go.

MAKING YOUR COMMITMENT:

The purpose of this resource is to help you spend time with God. Like anything that requires discipline, some days will be easier than others. There will be days when you can't wait to spend time with God. Other days, it will be a challenge. That doesn't mean that you love God any less. It just means that you are human. By making a commitment, you take emotion out of the equation and communicate to God that this is a priority to you even when it isn't easy. Your commitment will honor God and help you persevere.

Consistency is critical in order to make something important become a habit. Consistency and commitment is more important that which part of the day you choose. There will certainly be exceptions when you need to read the Bible and pray at a different time of day, but your **First 15** will be most beneficial if you make it a regular part of your daily routine.

The best time for me to spend with God each day is:

The best place for me to do this each day is:

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT:

"God, you are the one true God. It is amazing that you want to spend time with me. Thank you for loving me and wanting to be close to me. I want to be close to you, too. I confess that it will be a challenge for me to spend time with you each day, but I believe you are worth whatever sacrifice it takes. Today, I commit to making it a priority to spend time with you each day. I commit to reading the book of Luke and praying to you. Please give me the desire and discipline to keep this commitment. Please teach me how to read your Word, pray to you and hear your speak to me. Please help me grow as a disciple of Jesus. And give me one person to share your love with. Amen."

(signature)

OBSERVATION:

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

SERMON:

Scripture: _____

Date: _____

NOTES:

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OBSERVATION:

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 7 **OBSERVATION:**

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

OBSERVATION:

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

OBSERVATION:

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 10 **OBSERVATION:**

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

SERMON:_____

Scripture: _____

Date: _____

NOTES:

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OBSERVATION:

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

OBSERVATION:

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 13 OBSERVATION:

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

OBSERVATION:

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PRAYER:

OBSERVATION:

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

SERMON:

Scripture: _____

Date: _____

NOTES:

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OBSERVATION:

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 20 OBSERVATION:

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

SERMON:

Scripture: _____

Date: _____

NOTES:

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OBSERVATION:

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 22 **OBSERVATION:**

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 23 **OBSERVATION:**

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 24 **OBSERVATION:**

APPLICATION:

PRAYER:

NOW WHAT?

Congratulations! You finished reading the book of Luke and that's worth celebrating, even if it took a few extra days or you missed a couple chapters. Hopefully, your time of reading and prayer is helping you know God and grow as a disciple of Jesus.

Now that you are finished with Luke, you may be wondering what's next. It is easy to lose momentum in your daily rhythm if you don't quickly decide what to read and study next. Your relationship with God is too important to regress back into inconsistent time together.

First, you need to decide what part of the Bible you will read. Here are some suggestions to choose from:

- The Book of Acts is a sequel to Luke, written by the same author. Acts continues where the story of Luke concludes, telling how the disciples spread the message of Jesus and start the church.
- Romans is a letter written by Paul, a preacher and missionary, to Christians in Rome. This may be the clearest explanation of the Good News of Jesus and this book shows how we should respond.
- Genesis is the first book of the Bible and it tells of the beginning of God's plan to redeem the world from sin and its suffering.
- Proverbs was written by King Solomon, a man God blessed with great wisdom and understanding. This book is a collection of wisdom axioms from the wisest man in history, except for Jesus of course. The writings of Solomon still have profound insight for relationships, money, time management, parenting, friendship, overcoming sin, and more.

After you choose which book to read next, commit to reading one chapter a day using the SOAP approach. This practice is most beneficial if you use a journal. Buy a composition notebook or a pretty journal or whatever makes you excited to sit down and write in it. Keep spending your First 15 with God each day. When you finish your next book of the Bible, choose another and keep going!

Disclaimer: As you read and study the Bible, you probably won't understand everything. That is totally okay. Don't get discouraged. Just look for one observation from the scripture and apply it to your life. Then, talk to God about what you are reading. Keep it simple.

Finally, find someone that you can meet with regularly to help each other grow as disciples of Jesus. God created us to live in relationships with others. Intentional relationships help us learn to follow Jesus, love others, and make more disciples. Use this time together to share how God is talking to you and changing you through your experience of Bible reading and prayer. When this happens, you will grow and the other person will, too. You will experience the mission of Jesus first hand- making disciples of Jesus in relationships.