

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LUKE, PHYSICIAN AND HISTORIAN

International Sunday School Lesson For March 28, 1952.

Memory Selection: "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."—Acts 1: 8.

Lesson Text: Luke 1: 1-4; Acts 1: 1-3; 16: 6-10; Colossians 4: 14.

A man, whom Paul, the great apostle, referred to as "the beloved physician," is Luke, about whom we are to study this week. This man was the only Gentile among the authors of the New Testament books.

The name Luke (which means "light-giving"), appears three times in the New Testament—Colossians 4: 14, II Timothy 4: 11, and Philemon 24, in which he is referred to as "Lucas." While we do not know very much about his background, it is probable that he was born in Antioch in Syria, and was learned in the science of medicine. He was not born a Jew, but was probably a Greek. He was author of the gospel which bears his name and also of the Acts of the Apostles.

Luke begins his gospel with these words: "Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eye-witnesses, and ministers of the word; it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, that thou mightest know the certainty of those things wherein thou has been instructed."

We know, from the books of Acts, that he became a companion of Paul, either in Galatia or at Troas on Paul's second missionary tour. For several years, he was a close companion of Paul's—so intimate was their fellowship that he was able to reflect the innermost thoughts of this wonderful spirit. Although Luke does not mention his own name, he generally speaks of Paul's missionary party as "we" when he was present and "They" when he was not with them.

Luke went as far as Philippi with Paul and then we hear no more of him on Paul's second missionary journey. But, in Acts 20: 5, 6, we see the word "we" again and it presupposes that Luke once more joined Paul and went with him through Miletus, Tyre, and Caesarea to Jerusalem.

When Paul returned to Philippi some years later, Luke was there and he accompanied Paul in his travels until they reached Rome. When Paul wrote his letter to the Colossians, Luke was with him and was included in Paul's closing salutation: "Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you" (Col. 4: 14). Luke stayed with Paul in Rome until he was released from his first imprisonment and was with him again in Rome during his second imprisonment. He was a source of much comfort to Paul, remaining faithful to him when others forsook him.

Luke's profession as a doctor is apparent in his writings. It is Dr. Luke who gives the intimate details of the birth of Jesus, which he probably received firsthand from Mary, the mother of Jesus. Luke relates more of Jesus' miracles of healing and also similar experiences in the life of the apostles in later years.

As a historian, Luke has been found to be accurate in his historical details. With great skill, he studied the available historical sources and, for much of his data was an eyewitness to the actual event. In telling the story of Christianity, Luke recognized Jesus as the supreme maker of history and, in the gospel that bears his name, Luke presented Jesus as the universal Saviour of all mankind. He also recognized that the second major factor in the story of Christianity was the work of the Holy Spirit, inspiring and empowering witnesses, who spread the gospel messages to the ends of the earth. This story he told in the book of Acts.

Luke witnessed through his work as a physician and as a historian, making Christ known to the generations who came after him. We, too, can make him known through Christian witnessing in our daily work. The loyalty of Luke to Paul is an inspiring record of one man's devotion to another. Whatever was accomplished by the early Christians, Luke attributes to the power of God. "Ye shall receive power," after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1: 8). What kind of witness are you?

(These commentaries are based on the International Sunday School Lesson Outline, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education, and used by permission).

GO TO SOME CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY



Only a photographer can superimpose the Bible on the World! History tells us that the few theocrats who tried it failed. Not that the Bible is too small to cover the World. THE WORLD IS TOO SMALL TO ENCOMPASS THE BIBLE.

A great truth, you see, is always greater than those who awaken to it! That is why the Bible can change men's lives . . . can give them immortality. Men do not grip the Bible. The Bible grips men!

But don't make the mistake of waiting for the Bible to reach you. It has already surrounded you!

REACH FOR THE BIBLE. In your Home. In your Church.

Learn its Truth. Love its Author. Live its Life.

THE CHURCH FOR ALL . . . ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

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## Perquimans Church Services

- HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
C. W. Duling, Pastor  
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:06 o'clock.  
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.  
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.
- BETHLEHEM CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Joe Brickhouse, Pastor  
First Sunday  
11 A. M. and 8 P. M.
- BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Colon Jackson, Jr., Pastor  
Church services second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.  
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.  
Church service 7:45 P. M. second and fourth Sundays.
- PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES**  
H. M. Jamieson, Pastor  
First Sunday:  
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Oak Grove Church, 7:00 P. M.  
Second Sunday  
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.  
Woodland Church, 7:00 P. M.  
Third Sunday  
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.  
New Hope Church, 7:00 P. M.  
Fourth Sunday  
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.  
Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.  
Fifth Sunday  
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.  
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.
- ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH**  
R. M. Gradeless, Pastor  
Church School, 10:00 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.
- WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
James F. Burke, Pastor  
Church Services on second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.  
First and Third Sundays at 7:45 P. M.  
Sunday School 9:45 A. M.
- UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH**  
Elizabeth White, Pastor  
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.  
Church Services, 11 A. M.  
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.
- BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Bennie Crawford, Pastor  
Sunday School, 10 A. M.  
Preaching first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.  
Preaching second and fourth Sunday evening at 7:30.
- PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH**  
No Pastor At Present  
Sunday School, 10 A. M.  
Morning worship—11:00 A. M.
- WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Carl Bjork, Pastor  
Sunday School, 11 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.  
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.
- HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH**  
A. L. Chaplin, Pastor  
Church School, 9:45 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.  
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.  
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.  
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.
- BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM**  
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor  
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.  
Young People's Meeting, 6:30 P. M.  
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.  
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.
- HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
Rev. Charles F. Wulf, Rector.  
9:45 A. M., Church School, every Sunday.  
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 1st Sunday.  
8:30 A. M., Holy Communion, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.  
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday.  
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.  
10:00 A. M., Holy Communion, Fridays and Saints' Days.
- BEEBA CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Walker Perry, Pastor  
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.  
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.  
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. M.
- CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
A. H. Outlaw, Pastor  
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.  
Church Service 3 P. M. every first Sunday.  
Sunday School at 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Go