

**Jesus Series**  
**Lesson 1: Introduction and Preface - Luke 1-4**

Group Study

Luke 1	Meet John the Baptist	
Luke 2	Birth of Jesus	
	Jesus to the Temple	8 <u>days</u> old and 12 <u>years</u> old
Luke 3	John the Baptist	<i>Prepare the way of the Lord . . .</i>
		Baptism of repentance
	Baptism of Jesus	<i>The heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended . . . "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased"</i>
Luke 4	Temptations of Jesus	<i>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit . . . was led by the Spirit into the wilderness . . .</i>

The Holy Spirit has already been spoken of in Luke's Gospel:

John the Baptist  
Elizabeth  
Mary the mother of Jesus  
Zechariah  
Simeon

*And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee . . .*

Jesus in Nazareth Synagogue

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
<sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

**4:43** ***I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God . . . for I am sent for this purpose.***

Consider the following as you discuss the lesson together:

**Read Hebrews 12:1-2.**

What kind of athletic imagery did the writer of Hebrews use here?

What is the motivation for *looking to Jesus* ?

Is this instruction a command, an invitation, a suggestion or something else?

As you think about John the Baptist's message of repentance:

What is repentance?

What the connection between John's call to repentance and the arrival of Jesus with Jesus' stated purpose: *I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God.* (Luke 4:43)

Why do you suppose Jesus was led into the wilderness for forty days of temptation just prior to starting His ministry?

What did Jesus accomplish? What did Jesus prove?

Consider again Jesus' reading of the prophet Isaiah at the synagogue in Nazareth. (Luke 4:18-19)

What was the meaning of Jesus' declaration: *Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing* ?

In reading that text and making that declaration, what was Jesus saying about what he came to do?

Even more clearly, Jesus announced his purpose in Luke 4:43: *I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God . . . for I was sent for this purpose.*

In your own words, what is the kingdom of God?

So, again **in your own words**, what has Jesus revealed is His purpose in being sent by the Father?