

APPLY

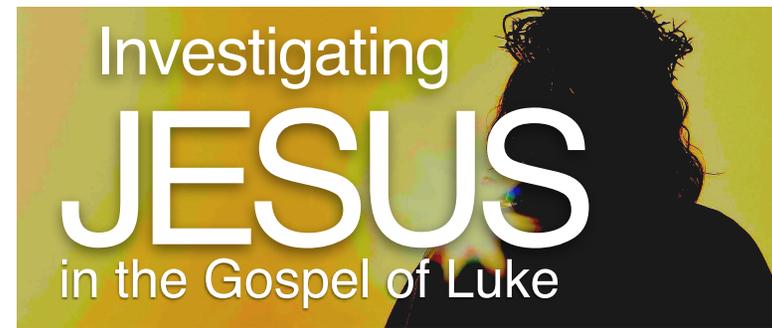
- If someone were to ask you what your reasons for believing in Jesus are, what would you say? What would you start with? What is at the top of your list?
- If someone seeking asked how you could be certain about what the Bible says about Jesus, what would you say?
- How do the concepts of 'certainty' and 'faith' go together regarding belief in Jesus?
- Do you sometimes feel like the Gospel is "too good to be true?" Explain your answer. What aspects challenge your thinking about what the scriptures say about Jesus.
- What part of the incarnation mentally challenges you the most?

DISCUSSION CLOSE/HOMEWORK

- Your homework this week, should you choose to accept it, is to take some time and write out an orderly account of your relationship with Jesus that you could give to an unbeliever to read. Some things to include:
 - How did you meet Jesus
 - How has He changed your life?
 - What has He taught you?
 - What have you learned about Him?
 - Why do you believe?

GROUP PRAYER FOCUS

- Spend some time asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to understand all He wants you to in this study.
- Spend some time praying for those who may have some financial, physical, or emotional needs in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Spend some time praying for students and teachers.



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Week 1: Jesus, Too Good To Be True?

Key Text: Luke 1:1-4

OPEN

In the Gospel of Luke, we encounter Jesus' arrival as the fulfilment of God's plan for a broken world; Jesus' power to save demonstrated in deliverances, healings, and people's lives being restored; God's heart for the lost in Jesus' compassion and words about the marginalized; and the ever-present empowering work of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' life and ministry. Luke ends with two disciples encountering the resurrected Christ as their hearts burned within them before seeing Jesus ascend back to the Father. But is all of this too good to be true? That is the implied question Luke sets out to answer as he begins his gospel, which is the longest of the New Testament.

REFLECT

- Luke is traditionally considered this gospel's author:
 - Who was Luke? What characteristics of Luke do we see in the first four verses of his gospel based on what we know about him from scripture?
 - Who is the recipient of this gospel and what could we guess about him?
- Luke opens with a concern for having certainty about Jesus. Is it possible to have historical 'certainty' about Jesus?
- What type of evidences does Luke identify in his investigation in these opening verses?