

Get more out of the message



LUKE

Luke 3:23-38

How can we become the Christ-centered church our world so desperately needs? Join us in Luke's Gospel, the most expansive biography of Jesus in the Bible. With the beloved physician as our guide, we hope to experience Jesus so we can participate with the new reality God is bringing into our world.

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The Big Idea

What does the Bible mean when it tells us Jesus is the son of God? It means He wants you to belong to HIM.

Good to Know

- Luke 3 contains one of many genealogies in the Bible—dozens or even hundreds, depending on how you count.
- Genealogies might seem boring to modern readers, but they form a major genre of Scripture, offering a rich and meaningful portrait of the unfolding story of God's people.
- **Why should Christians care about biblical genealogies?** Beyond their historical value, these genealogies give us a stunning glimpse into our spiritual heritage.
- Just like a tool like Ancestry.com helps trace our biological roots, biblical genealogies unveil the stories and people who have shaped the family of God.
- While there used to be debate about their authenticity, decades of careful scholarship have confirmed the reliability and accuracy of biblical genealogies.
- Through faith in Jesus, we're given "the right to be called children of God" (John 1:12-13). If you belong to Christ, you are "Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:28-29).
- Matthew's genealogy moves in ascending order (father to son), while Luke's flows in descending order (son to father).
- Luke's genealogy is the longest uninterrupted lineage in the Bible, going straight down the "trunk" of the tree without branching off.
- Some differences between Matthew and Luke's genealogies have caused questions about historical accuracy, but these so-called contradictions have been resolved through careful scholarship. Both genealogies are accurate and trustworthy.
- Luke likely compiled his genealogy using Old Testament records and extra-biblical temple archives.
- Luke 3:23 mentions that Jesus was "about thirty years old," meaning He was legally eligible for the offices of both priest and king.

- Matthew shows Jesus' connection to Abraham, highlighting His role as the Jewish Messiah.
- Luke's genealogy connects Jesus to Adam, emphasizing His universal mission—He came to redeem all of humanity.

Group Guide

Following the series with your group?

- Start with some [icebreaker questions](#).
- Read the passage together before you dive in.
- Share any insights from the message. Use the questions below to get your conversation started.

Conversation Starters

1. Can you name your grandparents? What about your great-grandparents? How far back into your family tree can you go?
2. Be honest: how often do you skip genealogies during your Bible reading?
3. Take a look at Jesus' family tree in Luke 3:23-38. How many names do you recognize?
4. Why did Jesus' family origins matter so much to Luke's first-century audience? Why do they still matter to us today?
5. Emperors like Augustus, Tiberius and Nero all claimed the title Divi Filius ("Son of God"). How is Jesus' claim to be the Son of God fundamentally different?
6. Read Romans 8:15-17 and Ephesians 1:5. Reflect on what it means to be adopted into the family of God.
7. Where in your life do you find yourself striving for identity, significance or belonging? How does the truth that you've been adopted into God's family as His beloved child enable you to rest securely in Jesus?

Prayer Prompts

Lord, we live in a world restlessly searching for identity and a place to belong. Help us to rest securely in Jesus, the "New Adam," who has redeemed humanity and brought us into your family. Amen.

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