



BOB'S WORD OF THE WEEK: LUKE



BEST NAMES

Theophilus, is the "friend of God" to whom Luke's author addresses this gospel.

Quirinius, Governor of Syria, and always ready to stump first-time Christmas Eve service readers with a tricky name!

COOLEST CHARACTER

Martha, yes Martha, and not **Mary!** Here's someone that knows how to host a party, and who isn't afraid to advocate for herself. I think responsibility is cool!

FAVORITE STORY

Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, and Prodigal Son. Together, these three stories encapsulate the love, joy, and reconciling spirit of God. It's the very way we'd want the systems of this world to be turned up-side-down.



"GOD IS NOT A CELESTIAL PRISON WARDEN JANGLING THE KEYS ON A BUNCH OF LIFERS--HE'S A SHEPHERD SEEKING FOR SHEEP, A WOMAN SEARCHING FOR COINS, A FATHER WAITING FOR HIS SON."
CLARENCE JORDAN




UNIQUE TO LUKE

- **The Good Samaritan**
 - Jesus offers a universal definition of neighbor
- **Elizabeth and Mary --**
 - Cousins; Miraculous birth stories; Consistent faith
- **A Sequel**
 - Acts tells the story of the early Church



TIMELINE

The Gospel According to Luke was composed more than 5 decades after the death of Jesus. This community was as far removed from the life of Jesus as we would be from 1968 in 2024.

34 CE	56 YEARS	90 CE
Death of Jesus		Composition of Luke
		
1968 CE	56 YEARS	2024 CE
Led Zepelin's Live Debut Mexico City Olympics Oliver! Best Picture		Present Day, Raleigh, NC



TROUBLESOME STORIES

Of the four Gospels, Luke is the most attentive to including marginalized voices, but that's not a high bar to clear. We do not get extensive details about women like Anna, or Elizabeth, or Mary, and we do not get multiple stories about their lives. Their influence is profound, their witness lasting. But blink, and you may miss them. Give us more, please!

THEMES (SOME, NOT ALL!)

Jesus as Messiah is central to God's redemptive purpose for the world; Inclusion in God's kin-dom/community is universal -- it is not contingent upon demographics

IF LUKE WERE A BAND, IT WOULD BE NAMED...

HMM...NOT SO MUCH A BAND NAME, BUT STILL A MUSICAL THEME. LET'S GO WITH LINUS FROM PEANUTS. HE PLAYS A MEAN PIANO, AND IT'S HARD TO FIND ANYONE WHO SHARES A SYNOPSIS OF LUKE 2 AS WELL AS HE DOES.

