**Luke**

1. *Introduction*:

Luke is mentioned only three times in the New Testament. Paul refers to him as *the beloved doctor* (Colossians 4:14) and one of his *co-workers* (Philemon 24). Just before Paul’s execution by the emperor Nero, Luke is mentioned for the last time in the Bible. Paul says, “...only Luke is with me.” (2 Timothy 4:11). Luke generally is thought to have been a Gentile.

2. *Background*:

The Gospel of Luke was written about AD 58. This was about eight years after Matthew, and about ten years before Mark wrote his gospel. He was not one of the twelve apostles, but he determined to use the techniques of an investigative reporter in preparing his record of the Lord’s life. He seems to have received from Mary, the mother of Jesus, the story of His birth. As a missionary companion of Paul’s, Luke traveled widely. No doubt he had access on numerous occasions to those who were intimate associates of Jesus during His earthy ministry. With the Holy Spirit’s guidance he recorded faithfully.

3. *Purpose*:

That Luke’s intended audience was the Greek people, is indicated by five characteristics of this Gospel. First, Luke wrote in polished Greek. That would appeal to Greek readers. Second, in this Gospel he shows the Greek interest in precise dates and marks in time. Third, this Gospel takes note of contemporary rulers not mentioned in the other Gospels. Fourth, Luke traces Jesus’ ancestry back, not just to Abraham, but to Adam. The genealogy testifies that He belongs as much to the Gentiles as to Jews. Finally, Luke makes comparatively infrequent use of the Old Testament.

4. *Brief Outline*:

Chapter 1 Introduction to the gospel

2 Birth and early years of Jesus

3:1-4:13 Opening events of Christ’s ministry.

4:14-9:50 The ministry of Jesus in Galilee

9:51-19:28 His teaching ministry in Perea

19:29-23:56 The last week and the crucifixion

24 The resurrection and later appearances

5. *Of Special Interest*:

--Luke offers the most comprehensive account of Jesus’ life.

--Luke was the only non-Jewish of Scripture.

--He was the first medical missionary.

6. *December Reading Guide*

Week of Nov 28-Dec 4 Luke 1-6

Week of Dec 5-11 Luke 7-12

Week of Dec 12-18 Luke 13-18

Week of Dec 19-25 Luke 19-24