

## Immerse Messiah week 1\_“Savior for All”\_2019-09-29

Let’s start with an ALL-PLAY question: When something important happens in your life, how do you record it?

Think about someone important in your life—what makes them great?

Imagine if someone you cared about didn’t know that important person...and you were never going to have the chance to tell them in person, how could you make sure they understood how important that person was, not just to you, but to the rest of the world?

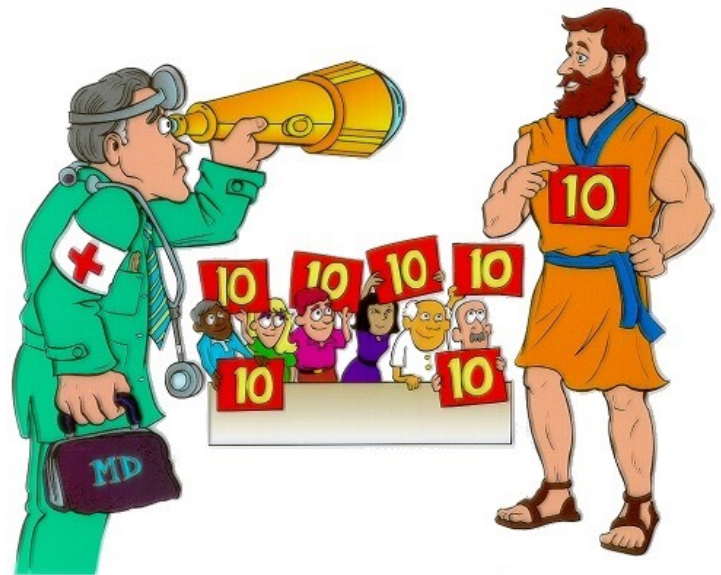
That’s kind of what this writer Luke does...He tells us WHY he is writing this account of Jesus and he tells us HOW he is going to do it.

Luke 1:3-4 NLT

Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.

Acts 1:1-2 NLT

In his second book, Luke said, “In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit.



Luke painted a picture with words of who Jesus really is, and he included specific stories of what Jesus did and how people responded, so that anyone who reads his book can know how to recognize and receive him.

How does he paint a picture of who Jesus really is?

First, he includes a story about how and when Jesus came into the world.

An angel announces his coming:

Luke 1:26-28 NLT

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, 27 to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. 28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!”

A huge army of angels announces his birth:

Luke 2:10-11, 13-14 NLT

The angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ...Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”

Then 2 people who are close to God confirm Jesus' identity. (Luke 2: Anna and Simeon)



Then Luke gives us Jesus' family tree all the way back to Adam, the very first human, because Luke wants us to know Jesus is not just the long-awaited savior for the Jewish people, but for all people.

The writer then makes this shift to include specific stories and the kinds of people who recognize and receive Jesus, so that anyone who reads his book can be prepared.

Luke does this by including 3 main types of stories: Luke includes stories of Jesus teaching, Jesus healing and Jesus praying.



We are reading through Immerse to know God's story, see ourselves in God's story, and to share God's story.

Because we have three more books about Jesus that we will look at later, we're not going to focus on Jesus teaching and Jesus healing, and instead focus our time today on Jesus' praying.

Luke referenced prayer more than any other book in the Bible, except the book of Psalms. Three parables on prayer that are only found in Luke. Luke includes at least 8 distinct times when Jesus prayed.

We are going to look at 4 of them in our teaching today.

Luke 5:16 NLT But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.

1. Jesus withdrew to the wilderness to pray.

Jesus went to the wilderness to pray. **Where do you pray?**

Over and over in the Bible, the wilderness is a place where God speaks.

I hiked for almost 10 days on the Superior Hiking Trail when Restoration gave me a 6-week sabbatical renewal 5 years ago. 5 1/2 of those days were solo. Each day, as I packed up my food, shelter and clothing, and placed one foot in front of the other, life's daily demands, the non-stop social media feeds, and the constant connection of text, email and cell phone faded into the distant past. Slowly, I started hearing the sounds that I easily miss in 'normal' life: the leaves crunching under my feet, birds singing as they sit in the branches of the trees, and the trickle of a stream that slowly morphed into a roaring river.

Just as I was able to tune in to the sounds of nature, I was also tune in to God's whispers. I was alone, but I was never lonely. God was with me. Going for a walk outside is one of the places I go to pray. Where do you go to pray?

2. Jesus prays before big decisions.

Luke 6:12-13 NLT

One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles.

Jesus had many, maybe hundreds of disciples, plus huge crowds, following him. Jesus walked with, talked with, and ate with many of these people... Some smart people think he waited almost 1 1/2 years into his public ministry before he choose 12 to be his official closest disciples. This was an incredibly important decision. And Jesus stayed up all night praying about it.

**When do you pray?**

Do you pray right before you go to bed?

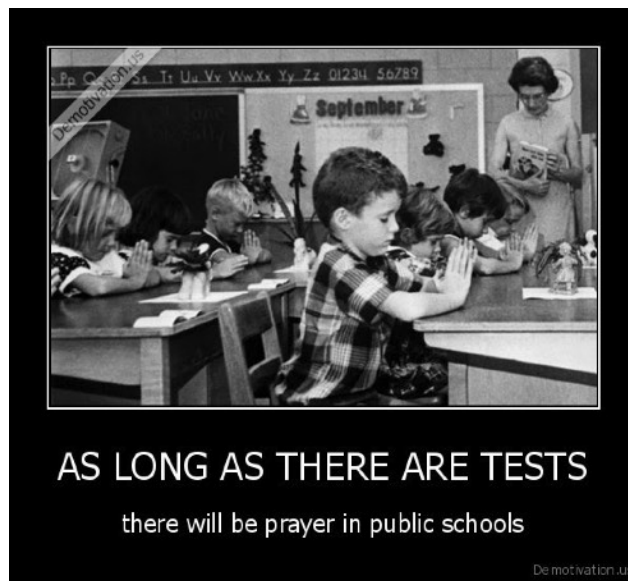
*Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray dear Lord my soul to keep,  
Guard and guide me through the night,  
and wake me with your morning light.  
Amen.*

Do you pray early in the morning, before the distractions of your day hit you?

Early morning prayer:

*Dear Lord, So far I've done all right.  
I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, or selfish.  
I'm really thankful about that.  
But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed.  
And from then on, I'm going to need a lot more help.*

Are your prayers less about the time of day and more about when it's something important?  
"As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in schools."



3. Jesus prays about what's most important  
You can discover what's most important to Jesus (and us) in what we pray.

Luke 18:9-14 NLT

Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.' I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

### What do you pray?

As in this story, Do you pray so that God to notice you or do you pray so that you can notice God?

Lastly, we see Jesus models prayer and teaches his disciples to pray.

4. Prayer is something we can learn.

Luke 11:1-4 NLT

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

Jesus said, "This is how you should pray:

"Father, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. Give us each day the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation."

### How do you pray?

Mention My PRAYERS THROUGH THE WEEK with my kids: M, T, W, Th, F, S, S

I will post through on the Restoration social media pages. I could race through them right now, but the point isn't for you to learn what I do, the point is for each of us to reflect on how much we know God's story, can we find ourselves in God's story, and how confident are we at sharing God's story?

Do you know God's story? Are you still figuring out who Jesus is? Luke wrote this so you could investigate who Jesus is and come to believe that he is the savior for all people.

Can you find ourselves in God's story? If so, where are you in these stories? Are you on the sidelines—observing from the distance? Are you religious but skeptical like the pharisees? Maybe you are a fan of Jesus? Jesus and the crowds of people follow him always amazed what he said and what he did, but they never put their trust in him and they never said, Yes Lord Jesus, you can lead me, I will follow.

Or are you a follower of Jesus? Are you someone who teaches that Jesus taught, are you bring healing to others like Jesus did, and are you someone who prays like Jesus prays?

Prayer