

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 42

Luke

Objects to have:

The sign for this new Bible book: LUKE

Jesus, the Son of Man

A real birth announcement in an envelope

A large envelope titled on the outside: ANNOUNCEMENT FROM LUKE

Objects in the large envelope: A picture representing a sunburst, a paper shepherd's staff, a tape measure, some stones, a pillowcase and a handkerchief

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

I am pretending that I am at home. I think that I will go out and see whether there is any mail in the mailbox. (Walk across the room, then walk back with the birth announcement and the other envelope in your hand.) There was some mail. There was this small envelope and this large envelope. I think that I will open the small one first. (Do that and read it to the children; it should tell you about a baby that has been born.)

(Pick up the large envelope. Read the title on the outside: ANNOUNCEMENT FROM LUKE.) Luke was the man who wrote down the words that are in the book of Luke in the New Testament. That's the next book in the Bible for us to study. Well, I wonder what Luke is announcing to us. I'm going to look inside this envelope for his announcement.

Telling the story:

(Pull out the picture of the sunburst.) There are several parts to this announcement. This is a picture of a bright light shining down. Luke tells us about a night when a very bright light shined down from Heaven. Along with the bright light an angel came from Heaven. The angel said, "Do not be afraid. I have good news for you." Men were listening to this angel. They were men who were out on the hillside during the night. These men were not sleeping on the hillside; they were watching. They were watching their sheep. From the book of Luke I know something about these men. They loved God. They were waiting for a time when God would send His Son from Heaven to earth. The angel said, "Shepherds, my good news is that Jesus has been born in Bethlehem. The Son of God has finally come to earth from Heaven."

How excited the shepherds were at this news! Suddenly the shepherds heard many voices speaking some beautiful words. Many angels came from Heaven to join the one angel. The angels said all together, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men." (Lay down the picture of the sunburst.) Just as suddenly as the light shined about them and as suddenly as the one angel and then the many, many other angels came, that suddenly they all left, and the light stopped shining.

The shepherds talked to each other: "Let's go see about what the angels have told us." Sometimes when we receive a birth announcement in the mail, we go as quickly as we can to see the new baby that was brought into someone's home. The shepherds did not wait even one day to see this new baby. They went immediately that night into the town of Bethlehem. There in a manger in a stable they saw Jesus Who had come to earth from Heaven. Jesus, the Son of God, came as a tiny baby boy. The shepherds saw Him and were so happy to see Him!

(Pull out the paper staff.) Here is another part of the announcement! The shepherds made this part of the announcement. When they left the manger, they went about telling everybody that Jesus had come to earth from Heaven. I mean, I think that they stopped people in the streets to tell them Whom they had just seen. They also went to people's houses and said, "Do you know the news? We have just seen God's Son. We have seen Jesus.

He is a baby boy in a manger in Bethlehem. His mother Mary was with Him. His foster father Joseph was with Him.” The shepherds were announcing Jesus’ birth, and the book of Luke tells us about that.

(Pull out the tape measure.) There was another part of this announcement from Luke. Luke tells us in his book that Jesus did not stay a baby boy while He was on earth. He started to grow up. I am sure that His mother measured Him many times as He grew to see what size should be the new clothes that she was making for Him. Does your mother ever say to you, “How tall you are getting; your clothes are getting short”? Jesus grew, too. Luke tells us about the time when Jesus got to be 12 years old. He tells us that Jesus grew and that He was obedient; Jesus was a hard worker, also. Jesus grew in favor with people and with God our Heavenly Father.

(Pull out the stones.) Luke is announcing something else to us. We know of his announcement about Jesus’ birth. We know of his announcement about the fact that Jesus grew. Luke is announcing, “Jesus is the Son of God, but He is also just like us people.” Jesus would get hungry while He was here on earth. One time He was so very, very hungry because He had not eaten for 40 days. He had not wanted to eat; He had wanted to talk with His Heavenly Father instead of eating. After having not eaten for several days, Jesus was hungry. He was out in an open place that was called a wilderness. There were no stores or homes nearby. The Devil tempted Jesus. The Devil said, “Jesus, why don’t You make these stones into bread for Yourself? You could.” Jesus refused to do that; Jesus could have made those stones into bread, but Jesus would not perform miracles to help Himself. He would perform miracles to help others. Jesus was like you and me: He got hungry.

(Pull the pillowcase from the envelope.) This is a pillowcase. You put a pillowcase over a pillow. We put our heads on pillows to sleep. Luke tells us something else about Jesus while He was here on earth: Jesus got sleepy and tired just like you and me. He tells about the time when Jesus was in a boat with His disciples. The water was softly and gently splashing against the boat. Pretend: Listen to the water splash against the boat and feel the gentle swaying of the boat in the water. Jesus listened to the water splash, and He felt the gentle swaying of the boat on the water. He got sleepy. He lay down in the back of the big boat, and He fell asleep. Jesus was just like you and me—He got sleepy. Jesus was just like us—He had to sleep sometimes.

(Pull out the handkerchief.) Luke is announcing something else to us. He is announcing that Jesus sometimes cried. Jesus would never cry for Himself; He cried only for others who were in trouble or were sad. One day Jesus was getting near the city of Jerusalem. In the city of Jerusalem were many, many people. He wanted to talk with them. Jesus loved them all. He wanted all of them to listen to Him. He wanted all of them to admit that they were sinners, and then Jesus could save them. Most of the people in Jerusalem, however, would not admit that they were sinners, so Jesus could not forgive them. How sad that made Jesus feel!

Coming close to Jerusalem, Jesus was walking on a path on a small mountain. He came around the side of the mountain, getting closer to the city of Jerusalem. From the side of the mountain He could look down on the city. He could see the wall around Jerusalem. He could see the houses inside the city. He could see the Temple. He could see some of the people, and He thought of all the people in the city. Then He started to cry; tears rolled down Jesus’ face. He cried, “O, Jerusalem, I wish that you would come to Me. Just like a mama chicken or mama bird draws little chickens or little birds under her wings to protect them and keep them from harm, I would like to pull you close to Me. You won’t come to Me, however.” Jesus cried.

Luke tells us in his book all of these things that I have told you this morning, and he also tells us many, many more things than these. Luke was a doctor; he loved people, and he wanted the best for them, so he wanted to write down all the things that people had heard and seen while Jesus was here on earth. He did that so that others would know for sure that Jesus really did come from Heaven to earth, that Jesus really made Himself into a baby boy and that He grew to be a man. He wanted us to know that even though Jesus is the Son of God, while He was on earth He grew like us, He was hungry like us, He got tired like us, He was sad like us, He loved being with His friends and having a good time with them like us, but that Jesus never sinned like us. Luke also tells us that Jesus went back to Heaven after dying on the cross for us.

Because Jesus was like us, He knows exactly how we feel. Are you ever sad? Do you have problems, do you get tired or do you get hurt? Jesus knows exactly how you feel. Do you ever get excited about getting to go someplace or being with special people? Jesus knows how that is. When you talk to Jesus, He understands all about You. Jesus loves you more than anybody loves you. He wants the best for you, and He wants you to turn out to be the best that you can be.

I love Jesus. I want to please Him, and I want Him to control my life. I hope you do.

The book of Luke is the third book in the New Testament. (Show the children the location in your Bible.) What are the other two books that we have studied in the New Testament? (Review them. If time permits, say the books of the Old Testament, also.)

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Luke 1:3, "It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order..."