

“THE GOOD NEWS FOR THE GENTILES”

The Gospel of Luke

Who wrote The Gospel of Luke?

Luke was a Syrian from Antioch who lived late in the first century A. D. Luke was apparently well educated. According to Paul in Colossians 4:14, Luke was also a physician.

How did The Gospel of Luke get its name and/or what does that name mean?

This Gospel is named after its author Luke. It is part one of a two-part work which concludes with the Acts of the Apostles.

When did these events take place?

Luke wrote his Gospel sometime between 80 and 90 A.D. It chronicles Christ's life from the announcement of the birth of John the Baptist through the Ascension of Jesus.

For more on The Gospel of Luke:

See Page 1090 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

You know what happens when you find yourself needing to meet a quota for sales in a youth group fund-raising campaign? Your first inclination is to ask your parents or anyone in the family to be the first purchasers. Because they love and support you, you figure they wouldn't mind buying a couple dozen boxes of frozen fajitas or a case or two of miniature chocolate chip cookies. After all, you say, "You can always freeze them." How about grandma, or Aunt Mary? If you are lucky, you might just make your quota without ever having to leave the house.

But what if you don't? That might mean making your pitch to people you don't even know. Now you have to tell them much more than your name to get a commitment. They want to know what their donation is for, how long will it take and why they should buy into it. If you are sincere, honest and genuine in your approach, you will convince them, especially if the product is the best. You might even get some of them to sell for you.

Saint Luke, the author of the third Gospel in the New Testament, found himself outside of the first generation "family of Christians." He had never met Jesus in person. He only knew His story through what he learned from St. Paul, the writings of St. Mark and the testimony of other early Christians. Luke was not from Palestine or even familiar with Jewish traditions, or geography. Instead, he was a Syrian who lived in Antioch (modern day Turkey). He spoke and wrote in Greek, not Hebrew, and wrote his Gospel for Gentiles and not Jews. Luke was definitely selling the message of salvation through Christ outside "the family of first believers" and in a neighborhood dominated by secular Romans and not religious Jews. But these were not shortcomings for Luke. In fact, these are some of the very reasons why his Gospel is so powerful and so popular today.

Instead of focusing only on Christ as the fulfillment of Jewish prophecy or the mystery of His divinity as the Son of God, Luke's account of Christ's life deals with his humanity. Luke recalls with a joyful sense of wonder, this gift of the Incarnation – Christ's existence among us as God made man. Jesus' compassion and forgiveness highlights this Gospel as Luke relates how Jesus accepted everyone, even the oppressive Romans. His portrayal of Pilate's struggles of conscience during the trial of Christ and his focus on the stories of needs presented by the very human conditions of poverty, sickness and despair all indicate that Luke was trying to send the message that Christ knew and understood the world as the Greeks knew it. It's as if Luke was trying to convince these first Gentile converts that you could live a Christ-like life in a secular world. Most importantly, the Gospel of Luke takes the next logical step. More than any other, Luke's Gospel teaches us the importance of prayer and clearly gives us Christ's assurance that He will always be with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world.

Luke's was the last of the four Gospels written. Some scholars believe that Luke lived to the age of 84 and died a natural death. Others however, believe he died a martyr's death.

Bonus point: The word "Stewardship" appears only once in the Bible, in Luke. Where?