

 Luke



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A *Discover Together*
BIBLE STUDY

Luke

*Discovering Healing in
Jesus' Words to Women*

Sue Edwards



 Kregel
Publications

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How to Get the Most Out of a Discover Together Bible Study

Women today need Bible study to keep balanced, focused, and Christ-centered in their busy worlds. The tiered questions in *Luke: Discovering Healing in Jesus' Words to Women* allow you to choose a depth of study that fits your lifestyle, which may even vary from week to week, depending on your schedule.

Just completing the basic questions will require about one and a half hours per lesson, and will provide a basic overview of the text. For busy women, this level offers in-depth Bible study with a minimum time commitment.

“Digging Deeper” questions are for those who want to, and make time to, probe the text even more deeply. Answering these questions may require outside resources such as an atlas, Bible dictionary, or concordance; you may be asked to look up parallel passages for additional insight; or you may be encouraged to investigate the passage using an interlinear Greek-English text or *Vine's Expository Dictionary*. This deeper study will challenge you to learn more about the history, culture, and geography related to the Bible, and to grapple with complex theological issues and differing views. Some with teaching gifts and an interest in advanced academics will enjoy exploring the depths of a passage, and might even find themselves creating outlines and charts and writing essays worthy of seminarians!

This inductive Bible study is designed for both individual and group discovery. You will benefit most if you tackle each week's lesson on your own, and then meet with other women to share insights, struggles, and aha moments. Bible study leaders will find free, downloadable leader's guides for each study, along with general tips for leading small groups, at www.discovertogetherseries.com.

Through short video clips, Sue Edwards shares personal insights to enrich your Bible study experience. You can watch these as you work through each lesson on your own, or your Bible study leader may want your whole study group to view them when you meet together. For ease of individual



viewing, a QR code, which you can simply scan with your smartphone, is provided in each lesson. Or you can go to www.discovertogetherseries.com and easily navigate until you find the corresponding video title. Woman-to-woman, these clips are meant to bless, encourage, and challenge you in your daily walk.

Choose a realistic level of Bible study that fits your schedule. You may want to finish the basic questions first, and then “dig deeper” as time permits. Take time to savor the questions, and don’t rush through the application. Watch the videos. Read the sidebars for additional insight to enrich the experience. Note the optional passage to memorize and determine if this discipline would be helpful for you. Do not allow yourself to be intimidated by women who have more time or who are gifted differently.

Make your Bible study—whatever level you choose—top priority. Consider spacing your study throughout the week so that you can take time to ponder and meditate on what the Holy Spirit is teaching you. Do not make other appointments during the group Bible study. Ask God to enable you to attend faithfully. Come with an excitement to learn from others and a desire to share yourself and your journey. Give it your best, and God promises to join you on this adventure that can change your life.



Why Study Luke?

What if Jesus invited you to lunch? What would you talk about? What concerns would you divulge? How might the interaction affect you? Dozens of first-century women experienced a face-to-face encounter with Jesus, and, in a sense, we can too, as we “eavesdrop.” Luke recorded many of these conversations in his gospel.

Each of the four gospels was written to a different audience for a different purpose. Luke’s gospel is the gospel to the Gentiles, to the little people, and to women, who were undervalued in the first century. C. S. Lewis wrote, “. . . for the little, low, timid, warped, thin-blooded, lonely people—or the passionate, sensual, unbalanced people—if they make any attempt at goodness at all, they learn, in double-quick time, that they need help. It is Christ or nothing for them. It is taking up the cross and following—or else despair. They are the lost sheep; He came especially to find them” (*Mere Christianity*, 181). I so relate.

There are forty-three references to women in Luke’s gospel. Obviously, Jesus cared for first-century women, and he cares for you. Let’s explore these conversations together, and don’t expect to walk away the same as when you arrived. Nancy Ortberg wrote, “Jesus’ interactions with people rarely left them unchanged. He stirred things up and shook people’s wrong ideas of God. He made heroes out of the most unlikely people and challenged thinking and lifestyles. He didn’t end conversations by saying ‘You’re great just the way you are; don’t ever change. Let’s do lunch.’”



Introduction to Studying Luke (5:10 minutes).

