

DISCOVER

INSIDE ISSUE 9: JOSHUA, LUKE, ROMANS

1

Find a time when you can read the Bible each day



2

Find a place where you can be quiet and think



4

Ask God to help you understand what you read



3

Grab your Bible and a pencil or pen



5

Read today's Discover page and Bible bit



6

Pray about what you have read and learned



We want to...

- Explain the Bible clearly to you
- Help you enjoy your Bible
- Encourage you to turn to Jesus
- Help Christians follow Jesus

Discover stands for...

- Total commitment to God's Word, the Bible
- Total commitment to getting its message over to you

Team Discover

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How to use Discover

Here at Discover, we want you at home to get the most out of reading the Bible. It's how God speaks to us today. And He's got loads of top things to say.

We use the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible. You'll find that the NIV and New King James Version are best for doing the puzzles in Discover.



The Bible has 66 different books in it. So if the notes say...

Read Luke 1 v 1

...turn to the contents page of your Bible and look down the list of books to see what page Genesis begins on. Turn to that page.

"Luke 1 v 1" means you need to go to chapter 1 of Luke, and then find verse 1 of chapter 1 (the verse numbers are the tiny ones). Then jump in and read it!



Here's some other stuff you might come across...

WEIRD WORDS

Trangletof

These boxes explain baffling words or phrases we come across in the Bible.



Think!

This bit usually has a tricky personal question on what you've been reading about.



Action!

Challenges you to put what you've read into action.



Wow!

This section contains a gobsmacking fact that sums up what you've been reading about.



Pray!

Gives you ideas for prayer. Prayer is talking to God. Don't be embarrassed! You can pray in your head if you want to. God still hears you! Even if there isn't a Pray! symbol, it's a good idea to pray about what you've read anyway.



Coming up in Issue 9...

Luke: Life with Jesus

Have you ever wondered how we can be sure about Jesus?

Luke was a doctor and a historian who lived almost 2000 years ago — and he wanted people to be sure about Jesus. So he set about investigating the evidence and interviewing the people who knew Jesus personally. Then Luke recorded it all carefully and clearly in a biography of Jesus that we have in our Bibles today — Luke's Gospel.

So we'll read all about Mary and Joseph's strange birth announcement, the time Jesus got lost in the supermarket temple, and loads of the things Jesus did and taught once He grew up. Luke's book is full of amazing stuff because it's about an amazing man — God's Son, Jesus Christ!

Joshua: Follow the leader

Next we march into the book of Joshua. It's all about God leading His people (the Israelites) into Canaan, the wonderful land He had promised them.

The book is named after the guy who was in charge of Israel at the time: Joshua. But the Israelites (and all the other nations around them) will see who's really in charge: God!

This Bible book is full of guts and gore, blood and battles. But it makes a really important point — God is a

powerful promise keeper, and it's GREAT to be one of His people!

Romans: Right with God

Ever asked questions like these...?

How can I know if God really loves me?

Can I just keep sinning if God's going to forgive me anyway?

How did the Romans cut their hair?*

The book of Romans has answers to (almost) all these questions and loads more! It's a letter written by a church leader called Paul to a group of Christians in Rome, Italy.

We pick up the letter in chapter 5. In the first part, Paul explains how absolutely *everyone* has done wrong. Which leaves us wondering: how can we possibly get right with God? Read Romans and find out!

* With a pair of *Caesars*!

**Ready to start reading?
Then let's turn over...**

Luke: Life with Jesus

Luke 1 v 1-4



How long to go
until Christmas?

Is it days, weeks
or months away?!

WEIRD WORDS

Undertaken

Decided

Fulfilled

Old Testament prophecies that came true in Jesus' life

Servants of the word

People dedicated to telling others about Jesus

Orderly account

Reliable book about Jesus

In this issue of Discover we're going to start reading Luke's Gospel — and it all begins with the Christmas story!

Luke's book isn't big on tinsel or baubles, but it *is* full of the awesome news about Jesus. And that means there's no one right time of year to read it!

Fantastic fact 1

Gospel means good news. Luke is telling us the good news about Jesus and why He came to earth.

Read the start of Luke's Gospel in Luke 1 v 1-4

Luke is writing to a guy called Theophilus to tell him all about Jesus and the incredible things Jesus did and said.

Fantastic fact 2

Theophilus means **friend of God**. Theophilus wanted to know more about Jesus. Friends of God want to know all about Jesus!



Complete what Luke says in verses 3-4 by adding every missing **i**, **c** and **t**.

I have __arefully
__nvest__ga__ed
every__h__ng from the
beg__nn__ng. I decided __o
wr__te an orderly a__ount
for you so __hat you may
know the __erta__nty of the
__hings you have
been __aught.

Luke carefully investigated what he'd heard about Jesus. Luke's book is a collection of the amazing things he found out about Jesus. He wanted Theophilus to be certain about who Jesus was. We can learn all about Jesus from Luke's book and be certain about who Jesus is too!



Think!

Are you a *friend of God*, like Theophilus was? Do you want to learn more about Jesus?

Pray!

Ask God to teach you loads of new things about Jesus as you read Luke's book. Ask God to help you be CERTAIN of the truth about Jesus.



Golden oldies

Luke
1 v 5-7



We're reading
about the start of
Jesus' life Luke's
book.

Today we meet two important characters. You may not have heard of them...

Read Luke 1 v 5-7

All of today's answers can be found in the wordsearch.

Z	F	V	C	C	E	Z	O	A
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H
C	O	M	M	A	N	D	S	N
H	P	D	Q	L	K	L	G	R
A	B	S	P	R	I	E	S	T
R	T	I	K	Y	O	F	J	D
I	N	G	U	S	L	T	H	X
A	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N
H	G	T	E	B	Z	P	J	S

Luke tells us about...

Z _____
and his wife
E _____

What does Luke tell us about them?

Zechariah was a
p _____ (v5)

They both lived good lives
in God's s _____ (v6).
They kept God's
c _____ (v6)

They were serious about living God's way and obeying Him.



Think!

Do you live in a way that pleases God? Do you obey what you learn in the Bible?



Action!

Grab a notebook. Create a section called **What I've learned**. Every time you read your Bible, write down what you've learned from it.

Then make a section called **What I'll do**. There write down what you're going to do about what you've learned.

Once a week, read the two sections. Talk to God about what you've learned and what you'll do about it.

Elizabeth couldn't have
c _____ (v7). They
were both o _____ (v7).

In those days it was a disgrace for a woman to have no children. They were elderly so it seemed too late for them. But nothing is impossible for God, as we'll find out tomorrow.



Pray!

Ask God to help you learn loads from the Gospel of Luke and act on what you learn.

WEIRD WORDS

Judea

Area around
Jerusalem

Priestly division of Abijah

One of the 24
groups of priests

Righteous

Living God's way

Observing

Keeping

Blamelessly

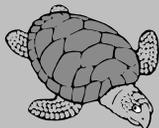
Without fault

Conceive

Become pregnant

Brilliant baby bulletin

Luke
1 v 8-17



WEIRD WORDS

Burn incense

Burn a powder that makes a sweet smell at the altar where people brought gifts to God

Rejoice

Be really happy!

Fermented

Alcoholic

Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God. He helped prophets to speak words from God

The righteous

People who've had their sins forgiven by God

Yesterday we met Zechariah and Elizabeth. They loved God and obeyed His laws. But they had been unable to have children.

Read Luke 1 v 8-13

Now cross out the wrong answers.

Zechariah was chosen to go into the tent/temple/ turtle and burn insects/ incense (v9). Amazingly, an angel/demon/prophet of the Lord appeared (v11). Zechariah was brave/scared. The angel said: "Don't be afraid, your whisper/prayer has been heard. Elizabeth will have a bun/son/daughter. You must call him Jim/John."

That's amazing! They must have given up the hope of ever having a baby. But now God was answering their prayers in an amazing way!

Remember — God doesn't always answer prayers when **we** think He



will. We sometimes have to wait a long time for an answer.

This would be a very special son.

Read verses 14-17

Many people will be happy/ sad when he is born (v14) for he'll be a great man in the Lord's sight/smell/ hearing (v15).

He will never drink cola/ wine (v15) and he'll be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will bring many people of Egypt/ Israel back to God! (v16) He will get them ready/greeny/ browny for the Lord (v17).



Wow!

Hundreds of years earlier, God promised to send a messenger to tell His people "Get ready for the Rescuer". God kept His promise. John would be that messenger, preparing the way for Jesus.

Pray!

Thank God for sending John the Baptist. Thank God that He answers our prayers and always keeps His promises.



Dumbstruck

Luke
1 v 18-25



An angel visited Zechariah and told him that he and his wife were going to have a baby.

God had answered their prayers!

Which of these would you believe? × or ✓

- The planet Jupiter is made of marshmallow
- All schools are being closed down forever
- Your mum will be the next Queen of England

Zechariah knew that Elizabeth wasn't able to have children.

But the angel Gabriel has just told him that she will have a son.

Do you think he will believe the angel?

Yes/No/Maybe _____

Read Luke 1 v 18-22

Zechariah didn't believe the angel. Gabriel was God's messenger, so that's the same as not believing God Himself!

So Gabriel made Zechariah unable to speak until God's promise came true and the baby was born.



Wow!

We can trust what God says to us. He doesn't usually send angels to speak to us! Instead, God speaks to us when we read His Word in the Bible. We can trust it completely.

Think & pray 1

Do you find it easy to believe the Bible? And easy to do what it says? Ask God to help you **understand, believe** and **obey** what you read in the Bible.



Read verses 23-25

*What did Elizabeth say (v25)?
Go forward one letter to find out.*

___ _ _ ___ _ _ _ _
S G D K N Q C

___ _ _ ___ _ _ _ _
G Z R C N M D

___ _ _ _ _ ___ _ _ ___ _ _
S G H R E N Q L D

Elizabeth knew that the baby was from the Lord. She thanked and praised God loads.

Think & pray 2

Do you notice when God answers your prayers? Think back to prayers you've made that God has answered. Now thank Him!

WEIRD WORDS

In seclusion

On her own, away from people

Favour

Love and kindness

Disgrace

Elizabeth's shame of not being able to have children

Brilliant baby bulletin 2

Luke
1 v 26-33



God made it possible for Elizabeth to have a baby!

Now the story switches to Elizabeth's relative Mary...

Read Luke 1 v 26-31

What a shock for Mary! She was going to have a baby too! The angel told her to call her baby **Jesus**. Use the code to discover what the name **Jesus** means.



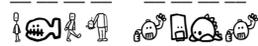
This baby would be even more special than Elizabeth's son! God sent Jesus into the world to **save** people from the results of sin!

Read verses 32-33

What else did Gabriel tell Mary about Jesus?



He will be called
of the



Jesus is God's Son,
born as a human baby!

His kingdom will



Jesus would be King of God's people. And not just the Israelites, but all of God's people, Christians. They will live in heaven with Jesus as their King forever!

WEIRD WORDS

Virgin

Someone who hasn't had sex, because it's wrong to before marriage

David

Great king who defeated Goliath

Conceive

Become pregnant

The Most High

God

Reign

Rule as King

Jacob's descendants

The Israelites, God's special people

Pray!



Thank God for sending His Son to earth — the best Christmas present ever!

For the free e-booklet *Why did Jesus come?* email discover@thegoodbook.co.uk or check out www.thegoodbook.co.uk/contact-us to find our UK mailing address.

A D E G H I M N O R S T V



Pregnant pause

Luke
1 v 34-38



The angel Gabriel has appeared to Mary and told her that she will have a baby.

Mary's baby would be God's Son, Jesus — the greatest person that ever lived!

How do you think Mary felt about this news?

Read Luke 1 v 34

Mary wasn't yet married to Joseph. It seemed impossible to her that she could be pregnant.

Read verses 35-37

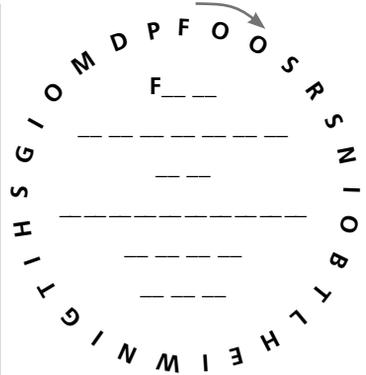
Who would make it possible for Mary to have a baby (v35)?

The H _____ S _____

The Holy Spirit is the Helper who God gives to all Christians to help them serve Him. Here, the Holy Spirit miraculously caused Mary to be pregnant!



*Does that sound impossible? Well, check out something else that Gabriel said to Mary. Find it by taking **every second letter**, starting with the **F** at the top.*



Wow!

Some Bibles say: "No word from God will ever fail". They both mean the same thing. Nothing is impossible for God! When He says He'll do something, He will. Because He can do anything. He can use unknown people like Mary (and you and me!) to serve Him in amazing ways!

Read verse 38

Mary **believed** what the angel said, **trusted** God to keep His promise and wanted to **obey** God, whatever He commanded.

Pray!

*Dear God, please help me to **believe** Your words in the Bible. Help me to **trust** You more. And please help me to **obey** whatever You want me to do. Amen.*



WEIRD WORDS

Virgin

Someone who hasn't had sex

The Most High
God

Conceive

Become pregnant

Sixth month

of being pregnant

The bump jumps for joy!

Luke
1 v 39-45



I did well
in my
exam!

We're
going on
holiday to
Hawaii!

*What do you do
when you have
some good news?*

You share it!

Mary would have a baby who will be God's Son! Mary wanted to share her great news with her relative Elizabeth. The angel had told her that Elizabeth was pregnant too, so they could share in their happiness and excitement.

Read Luke 1 v 39-41

What **two** amazing things happened?

1. The b_____ leaped in Elizabeth's womb!

The baby inside Elizabeth was John, who would grow up to tell people about Jesus.

Even as an unborn baby he was excited about Jesus!!

**Do YOU get excited about Jesus?
Do you want to tell others about Him?**

2. Elizabeth was filled with the H_____ S_____

The Holy Spirit points people to Jesus. That's how Elizabeth knew Mary was to be Jesus' mum. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand the Bible and learn more about Jesus.



Read verses 42-45

What word does Elizabeth repeat several times?

B_____

That means God is pleased with Mary and has given her a great gift (Jesus). Mary was blessed in **three** ways...

1. Blessed are you among w_____ (v42)

Mary was specially chosen out of all women to give birth to Jesus!

2. Blessed is the c_____ you will bear (v42)

Mary's baby would be the most important person that ever lived — Jesus!

3. Blessed is she who b_____ what the Lord said to her (v45)

Mary was blessed because she believed that God would keep His great promise to let her be Jesus' mother.



Pray!

Ask God to help you believe what you read in the Bible about Jesus. Ask God to get you excited about Jesus!

WEIRD WORDS

Judea

Area around
Jerusalem

Fulfil

Keep

Pregnant praise

Luke
1 v 46-56



WEIRD WORDS

My soul glorifies

I praise God with everything I've got

Spirit rejoices
I'm really happy!

Saviour
Rescuer

Mindful
Aware

Humble state
Mary was unknown and unimportant, yet God used her

Holy
Pure and perfect

Mercy
Incredible forgiveness

Mary is going to give birth to God's Son! She is so excited that she praises and thanks God loads!

Read Luke 1 v 46-50

What great truths about God does Mary mention? Use the words down the centre.

God is...

my **S** _____ (v47)

God wants to rescue us.

m _____ (v49)

He is stronger and more powerful than anyone or anything else!

full of m _____ (v50)

We deserve to be punished for sinning against God. But God wants to rescue us from this punishment, even though we deserve it! That's mercy!



Read verses 51-56

Mary talks about some of the great things God has done.

God has...

scattered p _____

people (v51) and brought down r _____ **from their th** _____ (v52)

God is angry with people who think they don't need Him.

I _____ **up the humble (v52) filled the h** _____

with g _____ **things (v53)**

God loves people who others look down on. He even uses them to serve Him in great ways. Like Mary!

h _____ **his servant**

I _____ (v54)

God looked after His people, the Israelites, keeping His promises to them. And God looks after His people (Christians) today too!

Mary is praising God because He is so good to those who trust Him and serve Him.

Pray!

What great things can you praise and thank God for?

Now do it as you talk to God.

good helped hungry Israel lifted mercy mighty proud rulers Saviour thrones



Look who's talking!

Luke
1 v 57-66



If you had a new baby brother and could choose his name, what would it be?

In Bible times, people named their children after their relations. So it looked as if Elizabeth's baby would be named after her husband...

Z _____

It even had a great meaning — **God has remembered**.

Read Luke 1 v 57-61

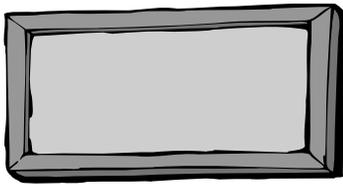
What did Elizabeth say (v60)?

He is to be called _____

Her family were not happy about this. So they asked Zechariah (who the angel had made unable to speak).

Read verses 62-64

What did Zechariah write?



Do you remember what the angel had said to Zechariah? Find it in **Luke 1 v 13**.

Your wife
E _____ will
bear you a s _____ and you
are to call him **J** _____.

God had told them to call him **John**. It means "*the Lord is gracious*" — God gives people far more than they deserve. So Elizabeth and Zechariah **obeyed God** and called their son John.



Think!

What has God done for you that you didn't deserve?

God gave this baby a special name because He had a special plan for John's life.

Read verses 65-66

What does the last sentence of verse 66 say?

The Lord's _____

God was with John and would help John to serve Him.



Pray!

Do you want to serve God? Ask God to be with you, helping you serve Him with the way you live. Praise and thank Him for doing what you wrote down under Think!

WEIRD WORDS

Mercy

Gave her a son when she couldn't have one

Circumcise

Cut off skin around the penis to show he was Jewish

Writing tablet

Wooden board covered with wax

Filled with awe

Amazed and impressed

Luke
1 v 67-75



Thank you God!

The story is gathering pace. God answered Zechariah and Elizabeth's prayers by giving them a son called John. It's Zechariah's turn to praise and thank God now!



Read Luke 1 v 67-75

Each sentence below sums up one of the verses you've just read. Find the right verse number for each one and shade in that verse number on the grid. Sometimes you'll need to shade in more than one square.

Praise God! He has come and redeemed His people	75	68	68	68	68	68
Long ago, the prophets said it would happen like this	73	68	71	70	74	71
He has sent us a Saviour who is from King David's family	70	75	75	69	73	72
He promised to show mercy to our ancestors and keep His covenant	75	73	74	72	70	73
God has kept His promise (oath) to Abraham	71	70	74	73	69	68
We'll be saved from our enemies and those who hate us	69	72	75	71	68	73
God will rescue us so that we can serve Him without fear	74	68	68	74	69	72
...and live holy, righteous lives all our days	68	75	75	71	70	69

WEIRD WORDS

Propesied

Spoke the truth from God

Redeemed

Bought back, rescued

Horn of salvation

That means strong rescuer. That's Jesus!

House of David

David's family

Holy prophets

God's messengers

Covenant

Agreement that God made with the Israelites

Holiness and righteousness

Living God's way

The shaded squares should form a letter. No prizes for guessing who the letter stands for...

J _ _ _ _

Zechariah thanked God for sending baby Jesus. Jesus was the Rescuer who God had promised would save His people. Now read the sentences and verses 67-75 again. →

Action!



We can thank God for those things too! Pick two or three of the sentences and thank God for those amazing things.