

JESUS INVESTIGATING

HOW WE KNOW.
WHY WE FOLLOW.

INVESTIGATING JESUS | PART 1

The Christian faith rises and falls on the identity of a single individual: Jesus of Nazareth. We are invited to ask hard questions, and we should start with this one:

“Is the book of Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John a reliable account of actual events?”

If so, what they say about Jesus is true. And if what they say about Jesus is true... game on. Luke took the time to investigate.

CONNECT

If you had to document the life of someone you know, who would it be and why?

LEARN

You will watch a shortened version of a message from this series to set up your group discussion. Encourage your group members to watch the full message sometime this week to remind them of what you talked about.

APPLY

After giving your group members an opportunity to share what stood out from the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. In the message, Andy said, “Luke’s account of the life of Jesus didn’t *become* reliable when it was placed in the collection of documents we call the Bible. Luke’s account of the life of Jesus was included in the Bible *because* his account was reliable.”

Does this change the way you view the Bible? If so, how?

2. Read **Luke 1:1–4**. What stands out to you regarding how Luke began this book?
3. Luke’s purpose in writing this letter was to provide Theophilus certainty in what he believed. As it relates to faith, have you ever experienced a season of doubt? If so, what exactly did you doubt and why?
4. What’s your initial response to the suggestion that the Christian faith rises or falls on the reliability of the Gospels rather than the reliability of the entire Bible?



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BEFORE NEXT TIME

Depending on your background, the distinction between the Christian faith rising or falling on the reliability of the Gospels rather than the reliability of the entire Bible may make you nervous. As we'll see over the course of this study, the foundation of our faith is anchored to something far more substantial and sustainable than "The Bible says." The foundation of our faith is *Jesus*. So, this distinction is important. In fact, this distinction may actually be the key to recapturing and safeguarding the faith of this and the next generation.

Throughout this study, you will read through the book of Luke. Before your group meets for Part 2, read **Luke 1–3**.

PRAY

Use Andy's prayer as a guide:

Heavenly Father, thank you for preserving this text. Thank you for the men and women whose names we'll never know and places we'll never visit who held in their hand fragments, handwritten copies, buried them in the backyard, buried them in the woods so as not to be found. Thank you, Father, for preserving them for our generation. I pray that we would be great stewards, not simply of the text, but we would be great stewards of the message that for God so loved the world that he sent his Son and that whoever believes in him won't be lost to God anymore, but will have eternal life. So, give us eyes to see and ears to hear. And for the man or woman, Father, who's leaning away, I pray they'd have the courage to lean back in and listen and discover for themselves the God who loves them, the Savior who died for them. In Jesus's name, amen.

