



## **Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide: THE BIBLE 12.02.2018**

### Recap:

- The beginning of the Gospel of Luke is an explanation of the author's purpose for writing to Theophilus. In the introduction, we read that the book is being written so that Theophilus will know the "certainty of the things he had been taught." In other words, he wants Theophilus to believe.
- After receiving the Gospel of Luke, Theophilus doesn't just read it, archive it, and forget it. Instead, there is something in the story that causes Theophilus to share what is written with others. Theophilus isn't the only one to do this. We don't have the original copy of what Luke wrote to Theophilus. Instead, we have copies of copies of copies. Those people that Theophilus shared the story with wanted to share it with others as well. That's how we have the Gospel of Luke.
- And so, sharing is how we have the story of Jesus -- it's a story that has been shared over and over again. It is shared because the power of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It is shared because of the good news that Jesus brings.
- Sharing was also important for the apostle Paul who shares the words of the Lord's Supper that invite us to remember the new covenant that Jesus invites us to.

### Discuss:

- When you hear the phrase "good news", what comes to your mind?
- READ Luke 1:1-4
- If you were Theophilus receiving the Gospel of Luke, what are you thinking as you read the opening lines? How do you think the writer attempts to establish credibility in his story?
- The phrase "So that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught" suggests that Theophilus has heard the story before and maybe just needs further convincing. If you were going to be persuaded to believe in the story of Jesus, what would you need to read to convince you?
- How do you think a person goes from needing to be convinced about Jesus to sharing the story of Jesus? In other words, what do you think is worth sharing in the story of Jesus?
- READ 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- Why do you think it's important to remember Jesus's Last Supper?
- How do you think people "proclaim the Lord's death" when they "eat this bread and drink this cup"?
- Thinking ahead to this Christmas season, where are you in the process of sharing the news of Jesus? Are you eager? Hesitant? Zealous? Unwilling?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

### Read at Home: Additional Readings Preparing for the Advent/Christmas Season

- Jeremiah 33:14-16
- Psalm 25
- 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- Luke 21:25-36