



Ripple  
Effect

MODULE 3 | **The Real Jesus**

**Training Guide**



# Session 1

## Why read Luke's Gospel?

**Key idea:** Luke records eye-witness accounts of Jesus so that people might know Jesus and the forgiveness he brings, and choose to follow him.

**Key encouragement:** Trust God to speak about Jesus, through his word, as you invite people to read Luke's Gospel with you.

**Practical challenge:** Pray regularly for people to become Christian.

**Session goals:**

- Orientation to Ripple Effect 3.
- Consider who you could ask to read Luke with you and pray for them.
- Discuss reasons to read Luke with someone investigating Jesus.
- Know that God speaks through his word and Spirit about Jesus.

### Session Introduction

Watch the Ripple Effect Module 3 introduction video.

In this Ripple Effect Module (RE3 – The Real Jesus) you will learn how to read Luke's Gospel with someone who is not yet a Christian. Why read Luke's Gospel with someone investigating Jesus? Because in the pages of Luke's biography of Jesus they will meet the 'real Jesus' and be able to make an informed decision about whether to trust and follow him.

### Share

This is our first session so we'll spend time getting to know each other. Since we are learning to invite people to read Luke's Gospel with us, we'll share our favourite gospel story with each other.

- Introduce yourself to the group.
- Why are you participating in RE3?
- What is your favourite story about Jesus or told by Jesus? Why is it your favourite?

Setting group expectations.

- How can we make our group a safe and comfortable place to Share, Pray and Train together?

Many of these group expectations will also be important when reading Luke's Gospel with someone investigating Jesus.

Pray.

**Train**

Watch the introduction video for Session 1.

In his introduction and conclusion, Luke tells us what to expect from his biography of Jesus.

1. Read Luke 1:1-4. Why did Luke write this book?
  
2. Read Luke 24:13-35.
  - a. 'What things' (v19) had Cleopas and his friend learnt or heard about Jesus?
  
  - b. How did Cleopas and his friend recognise that they were speaking to Jesus?
  
3. What encouragement do these passages give us to read Luke's Gospel with someone investigating Jesus?
  
4. What additional reasons to read Luke's Gospel can you think of that would encourage someone to read it? Be creative.
  
5. Who would you like to invite to read Luke with you?
  - a. Why them? (As you share, please remember to respect people's privacy.)
  
  - b. How do you feel about inviting this person? What are you excited or hesitant about?

Jesus is still a recognisable name today. Millions of people love and follow him. People die for him. Whether or not people believe in him, they feel the influence of his life and teaching in many cultural values and institutions. The themes Luke addresses—love, hope, joy, suffering, betrayal, evil, transformation, forgiveness (just to name a few!)—still resonate with us today. There are all sorts of reasons for someone to read Luke's Gospel.

We invite people to read Luke's Gospel so that they can see Jesus through the eyes of people who knew him. As they read Luke, we pray that God will open their eyes to see and stir their hearts to love Jesus, just as God has graciously done for us.

**Pray**

What thanksgiving and prayer points flow out of:

- | our Luke passages?
- | our time of sharing?

Some members of the group may feel more comfortable praying out loud than others. Please remember that a one-sentence prayer written down and read out is just as authentic as a five-minute prayer prayed spontaneously.

**Revise**

After each session there will be review activities to complete at home. They are designed to consolidate learning and to keep evangelism on our agenda throughout the week.

- Complete the Relationship Network Worksheet attached to this session.
- Start reading Luke's Gospel. Each week we'll read through a section of Luke's Gospel so that by the end of the module we have read the whole book.

This week, read Luke 1:1-4:13 in one sitting. In these passages Luke tells us about Jesus' birth and his life before he began his public ministry. After you have read it answer the following questions about:

- a. Jesus: what do we learn about Jesus?
  - b. People around Jesus: how did Jesus impact the lives of those around him?
  - c. Me: what particularly stood out for me in this story?
- Connect with other group members during the week. Share with each other your response to the Me question. When someone else shares spend a few minutes praying for them.



# Relationship Network Worksheet

Unless we pause and reflect, we may not realise the opportunities that God has given us to proclaim the gospel to others.

Use the following diagram to:

- | identify the different relationship networks in your life.
- | list the names of people who aren't Christian that you know in your network.

As you look at your relationship network, ask yourself 'Is my list broad enough?'

Here are some ideas to broaden your list:

- | someone who catches the train at the same time you do.
- | an old school friend you saw at a wedding.
- | someone who walks the dog at the same park.
- | a 'blast from the past' whose name appeared in your Facebook feed.
- | a person at the gym.

As you look at your relationship network:

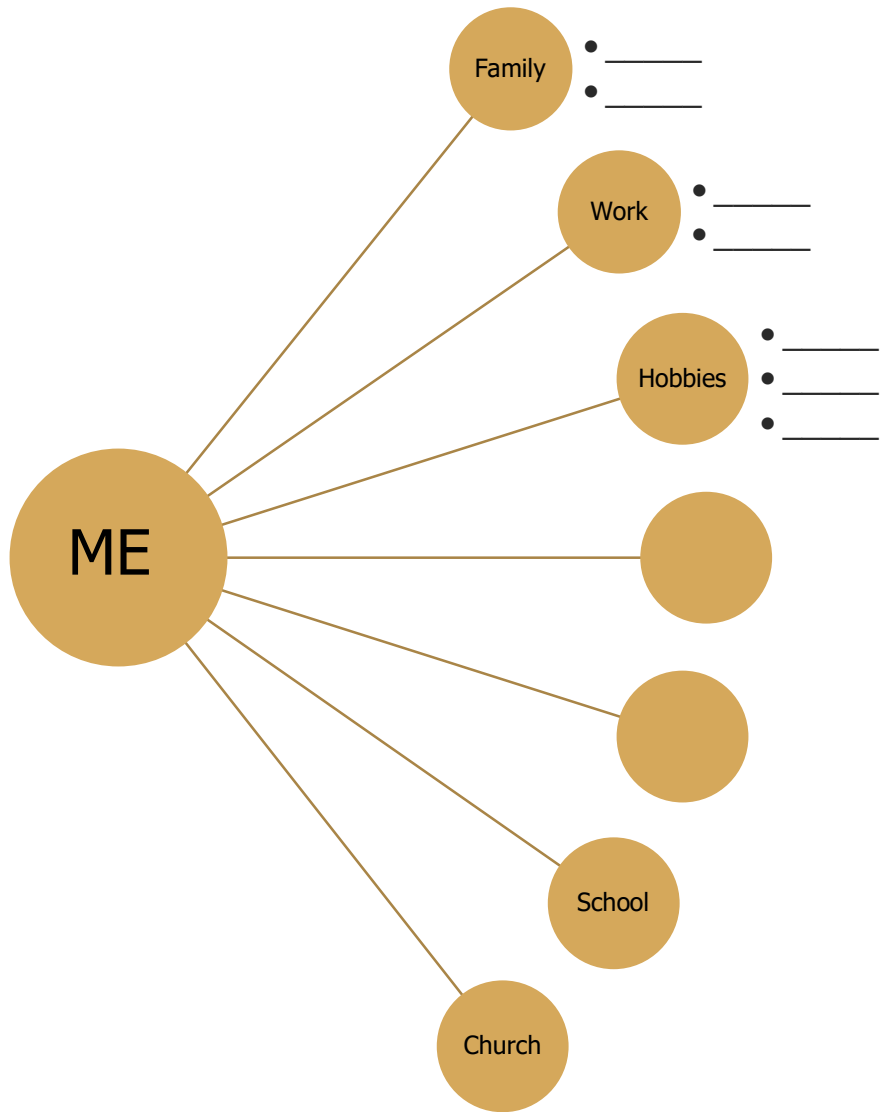
- | underline the names of people you see regularly, even if you don't know them very well yet.
- | circle the names of people you expect to see next week.

→ Choose 5 of the people you see or speak with regularly to pray for throughout RE3.

- | Include the person you shared about in Session 1.
- | These are the people we will be seeking to invite to read Luke's Gospel with us.

→ Reflect on and pray over these questions:

1. How might their lives be better if they knew Jesus?
2. Where and when do you see them?
3. What do you talk about?
4. How can you be more intentional in the way you share Jesus and your life with them?





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