SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Luke

Chapter 1

Nothing Will Be Impossible with God

MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 1:37

"For nothing will be impossible with God."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Luke 1

God had been silent for four hundred years, and then He spoke — to a tired old priest and to a young woman in a town nobody respected. This week He wants to speak to you the same way: to remind you that He has not forgotten your prayers, and to ask you the question Mary answered — will you take Him at His word?

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Luke study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Your Petition Has Been Heard

READ · LUKE 1:1–25

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How does Luke describe Zacharias and Elizabeth, what were they missing, and what was Zacharias doing when the angel appeared (1:6–11)?

REFLECT

They were "righteous in the sight of God" and still had no child for years (1:6–7). What disappointment have you carried a long time, and what has it done to the way you pray?

REFLECT

Zacharias asked, "How will I know this for certain?" because he looked at his age first (1:18). Where are you looking at your circumstances first and at what God can do last?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one prayer you stopped praying. Pray it again today, and thank God that He hears even old prayers (1:13).

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 1:37)

DAY 2 OF 5

May It Be Done to Me

READ · LUKE 1:26–38

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does Gabriel say about who Jesus will be, and what does Mary say at the end (1:31–33, 38)?

REFLECT

Mary's question was "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" (1:34) — but she was asking in faith, not demanding proof. What is the difference between honest questions and unbelief in your own walk with God?

REFLECT

Mary called herself "the bondslave of the Lord" (1:38), knowing people might talk. What would it cost you to say "may it be done to me according to your word" about something God has made clear?

RESPOND — TODAY

Say Mary's words out loud to God about one specific area of your life today: "may it be done to me according to your word."

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 1:37)

DAY 3 OF 5

My Soul Exalts the Lord

READ · LUKE 1:39–56

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What happened when Mary greeted Elizabeth, and whom does Mary's song say God brings down and lifts up (1:41–44, 51–53)?

REFLECT

Elizabeth said, "blessed is she who believed" (1:45). Where has believing God brought you blessing you would have missed if you had doubted?

REFLECT

Mary sang that God fills the hungry with good things and "sent away the rich empty-handed" (1:53). Are you coming to God hungry right now, or full of yourself? Be honest.

RESPOND — TODAY

Write your own short "Magnificat": three or four lines thanking God for specific things He has done for you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 1:37)

DAY 4 OF 5

His Name Is John

READ · LUKE 1:57–66

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the relatives want to name the baby, what did Zacharias write, and what happened right after (1:59–64)?

REFLECT

The neighbors wanted to follow custom; Zacharias followed God's word (1:59–63). Where are the expectations of family or friends pulling you away from what God has said?

REFLECT

After months of silence, Zacharias' first words were praise (1:64). God gave him a second chance at faith. Where do you need a second chance, and what would you say with it?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do one thing today that obeys God even though the people around you would expect something else.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 1:37)

DAY 5 OF 5

The Sunrise from on High

READ · LUKE 1:67–80

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does Zacharias say God has done for His people, and what will John's job be (1:68–69, 76–77)?

REFLECT

Zacharias sang that we are rescued so that we "Might serve Him without fear, In holiness and righteousness" (1:74–75). What fear keeps you from serving God freely?

REFLECT

Jesus is "the Sunrise from on high" who shines "UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH" (1:78–79). Where is it dark in your life right now, and what would it look like to let His light in?

RESPOND — TODAY

Get up early enough tomorrow to watch the sunrise (or the first light), and pray Luke 1:78–79 for yourself and one other man.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 1:37)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Luke checked his facts so that Theophilus could be sure of what he had been taught (1:1–4). What helps you move from "I was told this" to "I know this is true"?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Elizabeth and Mary encouraged each other at a time when few people would have understood them (1:39–45, 56). Who is the brother you can be that kind of encouragement to this week?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Both songs in this chapter end with God remembering His promise to Abraham (1:54–55, 72–73). What promise of God have you seen Him keep in your own life or family?

MY PRAYER

Lord God, You have never forgotten a single promise, so today I bring You the prayer I almost gave up on and ask You to...

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · LUKE 1:37

"For nothing will be impossible with God."