

Lesson 4-26-20

Theme: Church in the New Testament. We will start this week by learning about Luke who wrote the *Acts of the Apostles* as a letter to his friend, Theophilus, about the early church and the leading figures in the growing community. Then, in the coming weeks, we will learn about some of those people.

Story to Read: Luke, the Christian Writer

Luke wrote down things he saw and heard. It helped him to remember.

Luke was a Christian. He had not seen Jesus with his own eyes, but many others had told him about Jesus. Luke heard about the great deeds of Jesus. He heard about what Jesus taught. He knew Jesus was the Son of God who had risen from the dead.

One day Luke said to his friend, Theophilus, "We are growing older. I am afraid people will forget the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ. It should be written again and saved so that all people may read and know of our joy!"

Theophilus replied, "Luke, you are the one to do that. You write well. Tell the story just as you have heard it."

"I will," Luke answered. "I will write more than others have, and it will be like a letter to you."

Luke unrolled a scroll and dipped his pen in ink. For many days he worked. Then he said, "It is done."

We call his first book The Gospel According to Luke.

Days and weeks and years went by. Luke gave thanks to God for all that had happened in his life. He had clear memories and so many other stories to share!

"I must write another book," he said. "It will be like a second letter to Theophilus. This time I will share stories of my friend, Paul, and tell of his travels and teaching. The Church would not have been so strong in so many places if it had not been for Paul!"

Luke said, "I will tell more about Peter, the fisherman who became a bishop of the Church. I will tell about the first helpers of the apostles especially good Stephen, who died for his faith. I will tell new stories of Barnabas and John Mark, Dorcas and Lydia, and many more."

So Luke filled another scroll. In our Bibles it is called The Acts of the Apostles.

Activities

1. Scroll - You will need a piece of long, narrow paper, 2 small sticks, writing utensils, and glue/tape. Children should write or draw things about our church on the paper - people they know, what the building looks like, activities they do there. Attach the sticks to the ends of the paper and roll towards the center to make a scroll. This is what Luke did - he wrote things he wanted everyone to remember about his church on a scroll.

2. Talk it over - Discuss with your child the importance of what Luke did by writing about the early church. Some questions to kick off the discussion: Suppose we had no books or newspapers, no records, or videotapes about the past. How would we ever find out important facts about the past, such as years famous people lived and great events we don't want to forget? Then, shift to Luke and ask: Why would people care about remembering the facts of Jesus' life and the stories he told? Why do you think Luke wanted to write his Gospel and Acts?