

LUKE 02

"The Bible is the Word of God given in the words of people in history."

– George Eldon Ladd

Church is not meant to be a preaching centre. We have been given the Word of God so that our lives, our nation and the world can be changed.

5 ways we can believe the Bible

- 1. Oral Tradition** - by information passed on from person to person through stories, creeds and songs, we have trusted truths to shape what we believe. Especially in cultures that were not used to the instant and easy recording and transmission of information, the oral tradition was relied upon to safe-guard these valued truths.
- 2. Eye-witness testimony** - From Mary's story of the immaculate conception to Zaccheus the tax collector's encounter with Jesus. Through these personal testimonies of encounters with Jesus, we have not only first hand accounts of the events, but insight into the emotional, physical and spiritual effects on the people involved.
- 3. Detailed written record** - The detailed accounts of Jesus' life in the gospel, are either an accurate account of real events or Luke (and the other gospel writers) invented a whole new historical fictional writing style, described by CS Lewis as "modern, novelistic, realistic narrative", a writing style which was unheard of at that time.
- 4. Prophecy fulfilled** - "The Bible is the only religious document in existence that provides more than two thousand prophecies that validate its historical claims." In Luke, approximately 400 years after the last book in the Old Testament was written, we see the beginning of the fulfilment of all the prophecies of the coming Messiah.

Mal 4:6 "He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."

Luke 1:17 "and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

- 5. Changed lives** - In Luke, we see how Jesus takes unschooled ordinary men like Peter, James and John, and transforms them into men of courage that end up writing the final chapters of the Bible. The accurate portrayal of the the disciples' clear failings is one of the reasons why we can believe the Bible. Through this, we see Jesus remove the "dis" from our lives, whether we are disqualified, discomfited, dishonoured or disgraced, Jesus is the one who qualifies, comforts, honours and gives grace unreservedly.

Luke 1:25 - "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

Acts 4:13 - When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Our prayer for this series is that you will get to know the God of the Bible, through the Word of God, and to be certain of what you believe; that **nothing is impossible with God!**

How are you going to use your skills to write an account of Jesus in your life this year?