

JESUS INVESTIGATING

HOW WE KNOW.
WHY WE FOLLOW.

INVESTIGATING JESUS | PART 2

The Christian faith rises and falls on the identity of a single individual: Jesus of Nazareth. Luke documented the life of Jesus and tells us he carefully investigated these things so Theophilus, the first-century recipient of his letter, could have his faith anchored to something that happened.

Luke was not writing a Bible story. He included specific details because he was documenting something that *happened*.

CONNECT

In the video we are about to watch, John the Baptist has a lot to say about “what’s-in-it-for-me” believers. So, what do you think differentiates a comfortable, consumer-oriented believer from a true follower of Jesus?

LEARN

You will watch a shortened version of a message from this series to set up your group discussion. Encourage your group members to watch the full message sometime this week to remind them of what you talked about.

APPLY

After giving your group members an opportunity to share what stood out from the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. In the message, Andy says, “When it comes to the Christian faith, there is not deep teaching; there are deep activities.” What do you think about this statement? Why do you think we sometimes prefer deep teaching over deep activity?
2. Think about your own faith. Have you become more of a consumer than a doer? If not, how have you kept that from happening? If so, what needs to change?
3. Why do you think we have a tendency to drift toward a “what’s-in-it-for-me” consumer mentality?
4. Read **Luke 3:10–14** aloud. Is there an area of your life where God has been asking you to do something? Share it with your group.



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BEFORE NEXT TIME

A self-focused, internal faith is comfortable. It's easy. But it isn't what Jesus has invited us into. Take some time this week to reflect on the question that John's audience asked: "What should we do?" Maybe God will bring something to mind that you can do. If so, share it with your group the next time you meet.

In addition, read **Luke 4–7** to prepare for Part 3.

PRAY

Use Andy's prayer as a guide:

Heavenly Father, thank you for preserving these texts; thank you for Luke, who decided to get it all down. And thank you for the thousands of men and women through history who protected this sacred text so it made it into our Bibles. And Father, all of us, all of us at some level probably have experienced the joy of selfless serving, of simple sharing, giving sacrificially. I pray that that would become more and more of a lifestyle. I pray that you would raise up a group of Jesus followers for whom that is so characteristic that people can't help but stop and stare and join us as we allow our good works to glorify our Father in heaven, to give us wisdom to know what to do with what we just heard. Give us the courage to step out into the deep and do it. In Jesus's name, amen.

