

THE DIG

Luke

Volume 1



Patrick Schwenk

The Dig

Dig In • Find the Treasure • Put it on Display

Volume 1 • Luke 1 – 12

Patrick Schwenk

www.thedigforkids.com

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Table of Contents

A Word to Parents	6
About Discipleship	7
About <i>The Dig</i>	8
Introduction to Luke	9
Lesson 1: Let's Meet John the Baptist	10
Lesson 2: Here Comes Jesus	11
Lesson 3: Jesus Is Born	12
Lesson 4: Jesus Goes to the Temple	13
Lesson 5: John the Baptist Gets Angry	14
Lesson 6: The Battle in the Desert	15
The Oasis	16
The Oasis Activity	17
Lesson 7: Jesus Is Rejected	18
Lesson 8: Jesus Heals the Hurting	19
Lesson 9: Jesus Calls His First Disciples	20
Lesson 10: Jesus Forgives	21
Lesson 11: Levi's Big Party	22
Lesson 12: Jesus Wants Your Heart (Part 1)	23
The Oasis	24
The Oasis Activity	25
Lesson 13: Jesus Wants Your Heart (Part 2)	26
Lesson 14: Jesus Wants Your Heart (Part 3)	27
Lesson 15: Pray Before You Act	28
Lesson 16: God Is with You	29

Lesson 17: Love Your Enemies	30
Lesson 18: Don't Point the Finger	31
The Oasis	32
The Oasis Activity	33
Lesson 19: Who Wants a Rotten Apple?	34
Lesson 20: Where Are YOU Going to Build?	35
Lesson 21: Great Faith	36
Lesson 22: Dead Man Talking	37
Lesson 23: Jesus the Messiah	38
Lesson 24: Expensive Perfume at the Feet of Jesus	39
The Oasis	40
The Oasis Activity	41
Lesson 25: A Farmer Goes Out Throwing Seed	42
Lesson 26: Let Your Light Shine	43
Lesson 27: Jesus Calms a Crazy Storm	44
Lesson 28: Jesus Sets a Man Free	45
Lesson 29: Jesus Is Never Too Busy	46
Lesson 30: Go Do What I Do	47
The Oasis	48
The Oasis Activity	49
Lesson 31: I'm Confused	50
Lesson 32: Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand	51
Lesson 33: Real Life	52
Lesson 34: We Really Saw Jesus	53
Lesson 35: Jesus Beats the Devil Again	54
Lesson 36: Who Is the Greatest?	55
The Oasis	56

The Oasis Activity	57
Lesson 37: James and John Call Down Fire	58
Lesson 38: The Cost of Following Jesus	59
Lesson 39: Give Me Real Joy	60
Lesson 40: Help	61
Lesson 41: Worshippers and Workers	62
Lesson 42: Pray the Right Way	63
The Oasis	64
The Oasis Activity	65
Lesson 43: Whose Team Are You On?	66
Lesson 44: Show Us a Sign	67
Lesson 45: Who Turned Out the Lights?	68
Lesson 46: Woe to You	69
Lesson 47: It's Better to Please God	70
Lesson 48: Don't Be Greedy	71
Lesson 49: Don't Worry	72
Lesson 50: Watch and Work	73
Lesson 51: Divided Over Jesus	74
The Oasis	75
The Oasis Activity	76
In Closing	77
Key Terms	78
About the Author	80

A Word to Parents

Hello, and welcome to *The Dig*!

I am a pastor, husband, and parent. Currently, my wife and I have four children ten years old and younger. My wife and I clean up spills, refill drinks, do laundry, change diapers, cut the grass, serve in ministry, drop kids off, pick kids up, take out the trash, clean the house, do more laundry – you get the point!

Like you, my wife and I wear many hats. One of the greatest joys in my life is being a dad and having the pleasure to be a pastor to my kids. My daughter said to me recently, “Dad, I am glad you are a pastor.” When I asked her why, she said, “Because you teach us the Bible.”

The truth is, every parent should be (and can be) a pastor to his or her children. *The Dig* has been my personal desire and attempt to teach our children the Bible from an early age.

The Apostle Paul makes an interesting comment regarding Timothy’s training as a child. In 2 Timothy 3:14-15, Paul says, “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and **how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Paul suggests that Timothy was being taught the Bible from a very young age. *The Dig* is an effort to systematically help you as a parent study through books of the Bible so you can help your child. Out of the experience you create, biblical principles are learned and lived.

The goal, of course, is that our children will fall in love with Jesus as their Savior and grow up to follow Him with all their heart, soul, and strength. I trust that this will be a great resource for you and your family!

In Jesus,

Patrick Schwenk

About Discipleship

Before we get too far into *The Dig*, let's look at a few brief observations about teaching and training our children to be disciples of Jesus.

1. We must have the **RIGHT PICTURE** of who we want our children to be. Close your eyes for a moment and picture your son or daughter when they are 15, 25, or 35 years old. What do they look like? What do they care about? How do they pray? How do they worship? Whom do they love? As Christian parents, if the picture of our children is anything other than a disciple of Jesus, then we are aiming at the wrong target. The goal is to raise children who live, love, and serve like Jesus!
2. We must have the **RIGHT PRIORITIES**. The right picture helps us establish the right priorities. What is important to you as a parent? What do you push your children to get involved in? Why? What does success look like for you as a parent? What does success look like for your child? One of the great joys of being a parent is having the opportunity to raise children who love God. This doesn't happen by accident. It is by God's grace and our own effort to establish godly priorities.
3. We must have the **RIGHT PERSPECTIVE**. It is still God's grace that saves our children and not our best intentions or methods. With this said, keep in mind the following:

Information: Children are often times growing up in American churches and homes less biblically literate than the previous generations. As parents, we need to be reminded of the tremendous responsibility we have to pass on the truth of God's Word.

Impression: The goal is also to leave a positive spiritual impression on the hearts of our children. Our children won't have a pleasant memory if all they remember is Mom or Dad (tired and grouchy) drilling Bible verses into their heads! Taking your child through *The Dig* should be a memorable experience. Best lessons are taught within the context of loving and meaningful relationships.

Imitation: Don't forget that our children listen to us and watch us. As a parent, we must be growing as a disciple of Jesus ourselves. We want to be able to say, as Paul did to the church in Corinth, "Follow me as I follow Christ" (I Corinthians 11:1).

About *The Dig*

Shortly, you will meet a character named Doc. Doc is an experienced Bible scholar and archaeologist who will be your *Dig* tour guide during each lesson. A typical *Dig* lesson follows the same pattern consisting of four main parts. Below is a short description of each of these four components.

1. **The Map:** Each lesson has a map. The map tells you and your child where you'll be going in each lesson. It is a short summary of the study ahead.
2. **The Dig:** The Dig is the main passage you will be studying. Following each passage will be several questions designed to help conversation and understanding. They are meant to be a guide. You can use them or tweak them to help you talk with your children.
3. **The Treasure:** The Treasure is the big idea of the lesson. In a short statement, it is what you want your child to remember from the passage you studied.
4. **The Display:** When an archaeologist finds a treasure, they will clean it up and put in on display for everyone to see. This is the basic idea of the Display. It is the application of the Treasure you have found. This is a great opportunity to discuss with your child how he or she can live out the truth of God's Word for everyone to see.

The Oasis is a chance to review what your child has learned so far. Make it your own and make it fun. A quiz and coloring activity are provided, and you can provide the prize! You'll also notice there are key verses in each section. Memorizing God's Word is a great way to hide God's Word in the heart of your child and also to reinforce what your son or daughter is learning.

Enjoy the adventure!

Introduction to Luke

Greetings!

Hi, I'm Doc! I've been studying the Bible, history, and archaeology for a long time. I love to learn about God's Word and teach others, too. I am very excited that you are joining me on this Bible adventure through the Gospel of Luke. You are going to be learning about who Luke was and why he wrote this book about Jesus. Most importantly, you will be learning all about Jesus as you journey through *The Dig*.

Who is the author?

Let's start by taking a look at a few interesting facts about Luke. With God's help, Luke wrote one of the books in the New Testament that we call the Gospel of Luke. Most Bible experts believe that Luke, who was a doctor and follower of Jesus, wrote this book to make sure all the facts were right about who Jesus is and what Jesus did.

Would you be mad if someone was telling other people things about you that were not true? I would be very upset! Luke wanted to make sure this didn't happen to Jesus. He wrote the Gospel of Luke so that everyone would know what was really true about Jesus.

Take a minute and see if you can find the book of Luke in your Bible. Did you find it? The first four books in the New Testament are called the gospels. They tell us about who Jesus is and what He did. The third gospel is Luke and it is the book you'll be studying very shortly. Soon, you will be a Bible expert, too!

What is the date?

Do you know when you were born? I was born in 1975. Wow, I know that is long time ago! Well, Luke wrote this book around the year 60 A.D. Now that is a really long time ago! God wanted to make sure we would never forget what He has done, so He helped people write the Bible.

Are you ready for an adventure through the Gospel of Luke? I am! Let's pray and get ready to check out our first **map**, go on a **dig**, find our **treasure**, and put God's Word on **display**!

Let's dig,

Doc

Lesson 1:

Let's Meet John the Baptist

Key Verses: Luke 1:30-31

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus."

The Map:

During our first lesson in Luke's gospel, we will be looking at the birth of John the Baptist. John will eventually be the one to tell everyone that Jesus is going to be born! Let's take a look at how John's mom and dad find out they are going to have a new baby boy in the family. The key verses for the first six lessons are Luke 1:30-31, so don't forget to start working on memorizing!

The Dig: Luke 1:1-25

What are the names of John's parents?

Where does John's dad, Zechariah, work?

What is the temple?

How do John's parents find out they are going to have a baby?

The Treasure:

God always keeps His promises! Have you ever told someone you were going to do something and then you forgot to do it? God never forgets. In the Old Testament, God had promised the Jewish people He was going to send a Savior, or Messiah, one day to forgive them of their sins and save them from their enemies. John was sent to spread the word that Jesus the Savior was on the way!

The Display:

It is never fun when someone says something and then doesn't do it. If God always does what He says, then we should, too! Is there a time someone didn't keep a promise with you? How did that make you feel?

Lesson 2:

Here Comes Jesus

Key Verses: Luke 1:30-31

And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.
And behold, you will conceive in your womb
and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.”

The Map:

During this lesson, we’ll be looking at how an angel announces to Joseph and Mary that Mary is going to have a baby boy. This isn’t going to be just an average or ordinary boy. This is going to be a very special baby. His name will be Jesus because He is God, coming to save us from our sins and give us everlasting life!

The Dig: Luke 1:26-56

What is the name of the angel who tells Joseph and Mary about the birth of Jesus?

What is special about Jesus?

Whose family is Jesus from?

In the Old Testament, God had promised King David, the second king of Israel, that a king in his family would someday rule forever and ever. God was already letting people know about Jesus even long before in the Old Testament.

The Treasure:

The birth of Jesus is another example of how God always does what He says! God is faithful so we know we can always count on Him.

The Display:

God’s people had to wait a long time for Jesus to come. They remained patient and faithful as they were waiting for God to help them. Tell me about a time you had trouble waiting for something to happen.