

## THE STORY OF THE BIBLE

## PRECEPT

## Luke 1:1-4

<sup>1</sup> Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. <sup>2</sup> They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. <sup>3</sup> Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.

## PROMISE

The Bible's story does not start at the beginning. It begins in the middle, almost toward the end, with a man named Luke. He was a physician, a careful researcher, and a follower of Jesus. Luke made it his mission to investigate everything carefully and write it down so that someone else could discover the truth. How did we end up with the Bible we have today?

The writings were recognized, not invented. The early church didn't "make" these writings authoritative—they recognized their authority. The church didn't create the Bible. The church received the Bible." The Gospels and letters were copied and shared. Churches copied the Gospels and passed them around. These writings were widely used in worship, teaching, and discipleship. They met clear, Spirit-led criteria. By the 2nd and 3rd centuries, the church began identifying which books would be recognized as Scripture. The Canon Was Affirmed, Not Created. The New Testament canon was not invented at a council, but affirmed by early Christians who were already using these books. This is why we have the Bible today. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, James, and Jude wrote down what they had seen and heard, because the eyewitnesses testified, and the disciples preserved those testimonies despite the threats of losing their lives. They defended those manuscripts with their lives at stake. So, how did we end up with the Old and New Testaments in the Christian Bible? Tanakh, the Hebrew Bible, the law, the prophets, and writing are the Bible of Judaism. The New Testament, or what we call today the New Covenant, is the Bible of Christians. Then, the early Christian was amazed by the fact that Jesus mentioned and quoted the Tanakh in many of His teachings. This is what they found out: Jesus is in every book of the Hebrew Bible (The Old Testament). The Bible has an amazing story of how it was completed and organized. The story of the Bible is so much more amazing than you think. It is not only a story of creation but also a story of redemption and restoration of humanity. It's God's love story for you—that you may believe, and that we may not perish, but have eternal life with Him. The story of the Bible is centred on Jesus, yet the purpose is to save you and give you the opportunity to spend eternity with Him. I pray that now that you know the story of the Bible, you will start to value it, explore it, read it, and trust it.

## PRACTICE

1. **Story.** Has the Bible not felt interesting to you? When was the last time you read His word?

2. **Bible unboxed.** Are you having a hard time reading His word? And how can we encourage/pray for you regarding this?

## PRAYER

## I. Families

- Pray that our homes will be filled with God's presence, unity, and love.

## II. Love

- Pray that the body of Christ would faithfully show love to all His people.

## III. Church

- May each of us extend His love to our family and communities.

## IV. North Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the North groups: Ocampo, Ico & Imperial.

## V. East Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the East groups: Domingo & Torres.

## VI. South Life Groups

- Pray for the Drapeza couple as they lead the South groups.

## VII. West Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the West groups: Oliveros, Fabregas & Padilla.