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ANC Leader Training: Spring 2017

1. Gospel of St. Luke (9-9:10)
2. Highlights and challenges (9:10-9:20)
3. Planning Center and Orientation (9:20-9:35)
4. Pray for one another (9:35-9:45)

Gospel of St. Luke

St. Luke the Gospel writer has been traditionally identified with the Luke mentioned in Colossians 4:14, Paul's traveling companion. Many have concluded then that St. Luke is of Gentile origin, possibly Syrian (from Antioch). He writes to a man by the name of Theophilus, though his reason is not altogether clear. For more on the origin of this Gospel, see Darrell Bock, *Luke 1:1-9:50* (Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament; Grand Rapids, 1994), pp. 1-49. Another helpful application-oriented commentary is N.T. Wright, *Luke for Everyone* (Louisville, 2004).

Each week we will provide a leader's guide focused on a portion of this gospel. Through narrative, St. Luke focuses his arguments on several major themes: God's plan, salvation and Christology, the newly created community and its social implications. As you guide prayer and discussion, spend *more* time in broad themes rather than in the specific details of each narrative. Here is a great summary of the book given by Dr. Bock,

Luke's Gospel is pastoral, theological, and historical. The reality of God's plan influences how individuals see themselves and the community to which they belong. Old barriers of race are removed. New hope abounds. There is to be no doubt that the message of Jesus is one of hope and transformation. Anyone, Jew or Gentile, can belong. At the center is Jesus, the promised Messiah-Lord, who sits at God's right hand exercising authority from above. He will return one day and all will be accountable to him. His life, ministry, resurrection, and ascension show that he has the ability to be trusted. He can bring God's promises to completion, just as he has

inaugurated them. In the meantime, being a disciple is not easy, but it is full of rich blessing that transcends anything else this life can offer. This is the reassurance about salvation that Luke offers to Theophilus and others like him (43).

- **Highlights/Challenges**

- As you think over the last semester, what was your favorite part? What could have gone better? Or what would you like to see this semester?

- **Planning Center and Orientation**

- All resources are at <http://theascension.org/cultivate/anc/>. On the website you will find leader's guides, links to your individual pages, prayer guides (ACNA text), and articles on how to lead discussions.

- **Planning Center**

- Each leader can go to his or her individual group page. For example I am a leader of the Arlington group on Thursday nights from 7:30-9pm. If I navigate to <http://theascension.org/cultivate/anc/arlington/> I will find the sentence "Click here for more information. . . ."
- When I click "here" it takes me to <https://theascension.churchcenteronline.com/groups/ascension-neighborhood-communities/arlington-7-30pm-thursdays>.
- If I am signed in I have the easy ability to do all the following: see every member in my group, send an email blast to everyone in my group, accept/reject requests to join, schedule events, upload extra resources for people to download. **Do not worry about security: if someone is a member they can only see peoples' names and email addresses and if someone is not a member, they can only see a general area of where the group meets and the time (and nothing else).
- Why is this helpful? Because that way the staff knows how many folks are in which group and has a record of who has led/hosted previously. Staff can easily put *all* events onto one main calendar so that we do not double-book.

- One small change: last semester we did not realize that planning center was generating automatic attendance emails. I have turned off that function. However, I've created a Google form to send to the leaders so that each week it reminds them that they *can* (i.e. are not obligated) to give me an update on how the group is going. It is a great opportunity for you to debrief and for staff to help you in any way that you need.

- Questions?

- **Take time to pray for one another**