

Christmas According to Luke

Share

1. What are your Christmas plans?
2. What Christmas traditions are you most (least) looking forward to?
3. Share one favorite memory/experience about Christmas?
4. What is your favorite Christmas carol?
5. How has Christmas become complicated?
6. What is the uncomplicated message of Christmas?

Study

1. Read Luke 1:1-4. From these four verses, what do you learn about the Gospel of Luke? What do they tell us about its historical accuracy?
2. Who do you think some of these “eyewitnesses” might be? What does Luke say about the others who have written accounts?
3. What can we learn about Theophilus from the text? Why did Luke write to him?
4. Read Luke 1:26-38.
5. Think of something *great*. What does “great” mean to you?
7. Verse 26 gives us a “when,” a time indicator. Look back to verses 5-24 to find out what happened six months earlier.
8. What do we learn about Joseph in verse 27? Why do you think this might be significant? How is Mary described?
9. How does the angel encourage Mary in verses 28-31? Have you ever experienced God’s grace or favor in an unusual way? How did it feel? How did you respond?
10. In verse 32 Gabriel says that Jesus will be “great.” Then he describes four things that Jesus will be or have or do. What are they? What do these four things have in common?
11. What does it mean for us today that Jesus is a king, an eternal king, whose kingdom will never end? Where do you think his kingdom is today? How might this change or enlarge your concept of Jesus?
12. What progression do you see in Mary’s responses in verses 29, 34, and 38? How does Gabriel answer her question about how this could happen (verses 35-37)? Have you ever experienced going from confusion to questioning to faith? What was the situation?

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CONTRIBUTION REPORT ~ CHURCH BUDGET ~ 12/8/2013 (REVISED BUDGET)

	Weekly Worship Attendance	Weekly Offering Received	Weekly Offering Budget	Offering Variance	
12/4	302	\$ 450			
12/8	425	\$ 20,606	\$ 23,385	\$ -2,329	
	Budgeted YTD	\$ 537,855	Offerings YTD	\$ 492,344	\$ -45,511

Latino Ministry

Attendance 12/8 ~ 12 ~ Offering Received ~ \$ 33 ~ YTD ~ \$ 91

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Sermon Based Bible Study

“Christmas According to Luke”

13. What do you think the angel’s statement in verse 37 meant for Mary? What could it mean for you today?
14. Read Luke 2:1-20
15. In the first few verses, what are some clues that the historian Luke is trying to be painfully accurate with his political and historical facts? Why do you think he mentions Roman emperors and governors-people of power?
16. In verses 4-7, what new things do we learn about Joseph and Mary? What facts about them are repeated from Luke 1:26-38? Put yourself in the drama. How would you feel, trudging over a great distance because some occupation government officials wanted you to register so they could tax you and, if you are a man, possibly draft you into their army? Look again at verse 7. What different emotions might Joseph and Mary have experienced?
17. Shepherds were poor, lower-class people in their society, despised by religious Jews because their work kept them away from many religious activities. Looking at verses 8-14, why do you think God chose shepherds to be the first ones to hear the good news of the birth of Jesus?
18. In verse 10, the angel talks about “good news of great joy for all people.” Look carefully at the three ways Jesus is described in verse 11. What are they? What would each of these have meant for poor Jewish shepherds under Roman occupation in the first century? Take time to ponder what each description means to us today. Why is this announcement by the angel good news?
19. Notice the contrast between these majestic titles for Jesus and the poor situation into which he was born in verses 6-7. Why do you think Luke emphasizes this contrast?
20. What is the reaction in heaven to the birth of Jesus according to verses 13-14? What is a benefit to those on earth? “On earth peace among those whom he favors” is a different translation from the one in our traditional Christmas carols, but it is more accurate. What do you think it means?
21. After the angels leave, in verses 15-16, what do the shepherds do? What have they become?
22. What is the shepherds’ first act after seeing and experiencing Jesus (verse 17)? Think back to the time when you experienced good news in your life. Did you want to tell others about the good thing? If we truly experience Jesus in our lives, and thus become “witnesses” to his truth as the shepherds were, how might we respond?
23. Again, put yourself into the passage. What feelings do you think Mary experienced in this passage? What feelings did the shepherds experience? Is there anything in your life or experience right now for which you can praise God? Is there anything you are thankful for?

Support

Close with praise and thanksgiving and prayers for one another.