



Week 2: The Savior's Birth

Introduction:

Last week, we discovered the purpose of Luke's gospel: To show that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of God's promise for a savior. Jewish and gentile (non-jewish) converts to Christianity were having trouble understanding how a man put to death could be the savior, but Luke writes a careful account to show how this paradox is true. We discussed the many prophecies concerning the savior and read in Luke 1 that this very savior was announced to be born.

Today, in Luke 2, we will witness the miraculous birth of the savior. In addition, we also receive a glimpse into His purpose and identity and we get to learn about His nature by observing moments of His infancy and childhood. By the end of this chapter, one thing is made very clear: The promised savior is here.

Note: As you discuss questions in your groups or reflect on them by yourself, keep in mind that the goal is not to get all the answers right. Many of us will not know the answers, and that is okay! The goal is to interact with God's Word and give genuine thought to it. If you struggle to even guess a possible answer, that is okay too! The pastors will provide the answers after your discussion so you can know and record them on your study guide.

Questions:

Read Luke 2:1-20, if time permits

1. So far, David's name has been mentioned four times in the gospel of Luke. Why are Jesus' connection to David and His birth in Bethlehem important?

Answer:

2. Consider and compare the announcement and birth of Jesus with that of John the Baptist. According to Jesus himself, John was the greatest of prophets. How is Jesus even greater than John? What does this say and prove about Jesus to the reader of the Gospel?

Answer:

3. What evidence is there of Jesus' humility? Why is Jesus' humility significant?

Answer:

Read Luke 2:21-40

4. According to Luke 2:10, Jesus' birth represents great joy for "all the people." In the first century, this phrase would normally have been taken as a reference to the nation of Israel. How does Simeon's declaration in verses 29–32 expand our understanding?

Answer:

5. Mary and Joseph were not wealthy (they could not afford to sacrifice a lamb, so they gave two doves), Elizabeth and Zechariah are old and childless (a tragic and humbling situation in a time when your value as a person was directly tied to your family), the shepherds in the field were working class people. God chooses to reveal himself to and work through the lowly. In His ministry, Jesus has mercy on these same people and spends much time with them. What does this reveal about God's character and His kingdom? How should that affect the way we see Jesus, ourselves and, especially, others?

Answer:

Read Luke 2:41-52

6. In the second chapter of Luke's gospel, the twofold nature of Jesus' true humanity and his divinity is made clear. What features of this chapter suggest that Jesus is a fully human child? What features indicate that he is fully God?

Answer:

Closing Thought:

Today, God reveals to us that the Savior has finally come. His arrival is cause for great celebration in heaven and on earth. That savior is, without a doubt, Jesus. Today, we rejoice as well knowing that in Jesus God has kept His promise to rescue humanity. Give thanks to God today and humble yourself as you pray for God to work through you to reveal the light of Jesus to the people around you.