



SESSION 03: BIRTH & CHILDHOOD

Opening Prayer

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer!

-Psalm 19:14

Small Group Discussion

1. Why is it necessary that Jesus be born in Bethlehem? How do the circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth highlight Luke's theme of God's identification with the poor and forsaken?

2. Simeon and Anna play important roles in this chapter. What are they? How does Simeon's prophecy help to reveal Jesus' mission? What important events do his words foreshadow?

3. In this chapter, Jesus is given many titles. How do the titles given to Jesus reveal his mystery and his mission?

(over)



4. What does it mean that Jesus “increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man” (2:52)? Does this mean that he is not fully God?

CLOSING PRAYER

O Jesus, Prince of Peace and King of the Universe, You chose to humble Yourself and come into the world, not as a powerful ruler, but as a helpless Infant; grant us the grace and humility and gentleness before You and our brothers and sisters. Amen.

ASSIGNMENT

Baptism & Temptation

Session 4 Reading

Luke 3:1-4:13

Matthew 4:1-11

Isaiah 40:1-11

Genesis 8:6-12

Leviticus 12:1-8

Recommended Bibles

The Catholic Study Bible Third Edition: New American Bible Revised Edition – ISBN: 978-0190267230, Oxford University Press; 3 edition (March 1, 2016)

The New Oxford Annotated Bible, New Revised Standard Version, Third Edition – ISBN: 978-0195288834, Oxford University Press; College edition (February 2, 2007)