

Read: Luke 1: 1-25

Introduction to the gospel of Luke: Luke 1: 1-4

1. What was Luke's purpose in writing the book of Luke?

The foretelling of John the Baptist's birth: Luke 1: 5-11

2. What are two of the things we can know about John the Baptist's parents from these verses?

The angel's visit: Luke 1: 11-20

3. How does the angel comfort Zechariah?

4. How does the angel deal with Zechariah's doubts?

The angel's message: Luke 1: 13-17

5. What kind of man would John be?

6. What was John not supposed to do?

7. What would be his task?

The results of the angel's visit: Luke 1: 21-25

8. How did the people know that Zechariah had a heavenly visit?

9. How was the angel's prophecy fulfilled?

(See additional study,
topic #1 & 2)

(See additional study,
topic #3)

Today's Thought

From verse 17 ". . . to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Am I ready?

Is there anything hindering me from following Jesus?

Knowing
Jesus

Read: Luke 1: 26-45, 56; Matt. 1: 18-25

The angel visits Mary: Luke 1: 26-30, 34, and 38

1. Who was the angel who visited Mary?

2. What are four things we can know about Mary from these verses?

Gabriel's message: Luke 1: 28-37

3. What did Gabriel say would happen to Mary?

4. What did he say about her son?

(See additional study,
topic #4)

5. What did he say about Elizabeth?

Mary's visit to Elizabeth: Luke 1: 39-45, 56

6. What was Elizabeth's reaction to seeing Mary?

7. Mary was thankful to be used by God and sang a song in response to Elizabeth's blessing. It is recorded in verses 46- 55. How long did Mary stay with Elizabeth?

Joseph's reaction to learning Mary is pregnant: Matt. 1: 18-25

8. What are three things we can learn about Joseph in these verses?

9. What did the angel tell him about the child?

Today's Thought

Luke 1: 37- "For nothing is impossible with God."
In what "impossibilities" have you seen God work?

***Knowing
Jesus***

Read: Luke 1: 57-80

John's birth: Luke 1: 57-58

1. Parts of Gabriel's announcement to Zechariah in Luke 1:13- 17 were already fulfilled. Which ones?

John's circumcision: Luke 1: 59-66

2. When was John circumcised?

3. Why did his parents name him John?

4. Why did this surprise the neighbors?

5. What were the neighbors' reactions to all that had happened?

Zechariah's song: Luke 1: 67-79

6. Was Zechariah's song just from his own heart? Where did it come from?

7. In Luke 1:68-75, Zechariah is prophesying that God was beginning His plan to save His people and fulfill His covenants to David and to Abraham. Then in verses 76-79, Zechariah is prophesying about someone who would be called a prophet of the Most High. Who was he prophesying about?

John's childhood: Luke 1: 80

8. What did John do?

(See additional study,
topic #5)

Today's Thought

In verse 66, the neighbors wondered what John would be, "for the Lord's hand was with him."
Do we see the Lord's hand on those around us?

Knowing
Jesus

Read: Luke 2: 1-40

The trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem: Luke 2: 1-5

1. What caused Joseph to take Mary on a trip of more than 70 miles while she was pregnant?

The night of Jesus' birth: Luke 2: 6-20

2. How does the Bible describe the place of Jesus' birth?

3. How were the shepherds to know that the angel spoke the truth?

4. What was the shepherds' immediate reaction to the appearance of angels? What was their response after hearing the message? What was their response after seeing the baby Jesus?

5. What did the angel say about this baby that had been born?

Presentation in the Temple: Luke 2: 21-40

6. In Luke 2: 21-23, 27, and 39 we see indication of Mary and Joseph's devotion to God. How did they demonstrate their love for God?

7. How does the Bible describe Simeon? How did his prophecy affect Mary and Joseph?

8. In all the previous prophecies about Jesus, the emphasis was on His fulfilling the covenant to David and inheriting the eternal throne of David. In verse 32, reference is made about another group of people who would benefit from Jesus' coming. Who are those people?

9. What was Anna's reaction to seeing Jesus?

(See additional study,
topic #6)

Today's Thought

Luke 2: 19 "But Mary treasured these things and pondered them in her heart."

Do I treasure and ponder in my heart all that I hear and see of God?

***Knowing
Jesus***

Read: Matt. 2: 1-23; Luke 2: 41-52; Micah 5: 2

The visit of the Magi: Matt. 2: 1-12 and Micah 5: 2

1. King Herod, although not a Jew, had been appointed king in Israel by the Romans. When the Magi arrived and asked about the birth of the king of the Jews, Herod feared this would end his power among the Jews. What was the **first** thing he did?

2. The birthplace of the Messiah was prophesied by Micah. How is Bethlehem described?

3. How did the Magi know they had found the child?

Escape to Egypt: Matt. 2: 13-23

4. Why was it important that the Magi not report the whereabouts of Jesus?

5. From verse 16, how old do you think Jesus was when the Magi came?

6. How did God direct the Magi and Joseph?

The only story about Jesus' boyhood: Luke 2: 41-51

7. From these verses, how would you describe the home in which Jesus grew up?

(See additional study,
topic #7)

8. What was Jesus doing for those three days?

9. What was the reaction of everyone who heard him?

10. What did Jesus say when his parents questioned him? Then what did he do?

Today's Thought

Verse 52: "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."
Am I growing in all ways to please both God and men?

Knowing
Jesus

Day 1

- 1.** Luke's purpose for writing this gospel was to record an orderly account from eye witnesses so that we may know the certainty of what we have been taught about Jesus.
- 2.** John's parents were both descendants of Jewish priests. They were already old and had no children. They also lived good lives and fully obeyed God.
- 3.** The angel comforted Zechariah by saying, "Don't be afraid," and telling him that his prayers had been heard and Elizabeth would have a son.
- 4.** The angel told Zechariah he would be mute until the angel's words came true.
- 5.** John would be a delight to his parents and he would be great in God's sight.
- 6.** John was never to drink wine or other fermented drink.
- 7.** John's task would be to go before the Lord. He would bring many in Israel back to God and get the people ready for the Lord.
- 8.** When Zechariah was mute and signing to the people they realized he had seen a vision.
- 9.** After his time of temple service was completed he went home and Elizabeth became pregnant.

Day 2

- 1.** Gabriel was the same angel who had announced the birth of John the Baptist to his father, Zechariah.
- 2.** Mary was a virgin. She was pledged to be married. She was a descendant of King David. God was very pleased with her. She willingly agreed to do everything the angel said.
- 3.** Mary would become pregnant by the Holy Spirit and give birth to a son and would call him Jesus.
- 4.** Jesus would be great and would be called the Son of the Most High. He would become a king like his ancestor David and his kingdom would last forever.
- 5.** Elizabeth was six months pregnant.
- 6.** Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she blessed Mary.
- 7.** Mary stayed with Elizabeth three months.
- 8.** He was a righteous man. He was merciful and didn't want to publicly humiliate Mary for being pregnant. He was a spiritual man who obeyed the angel's directions.
- 9.** The angel told Joseph the child was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He was to call the child Jesus, and Jesus would save his people from their sins.

Day 3

- 1.** Elizabeth had a son and he was a joy and delight to them; many rejoiced with them because of his birth.
- 2.** John was circumcised when he was eight days old.
- 3.** Gabriel, the angel, had told Zechariah to give him that name.
- 4.** The neighbors were amazed because they expected him to be named after his father, or at least some other relative.
- 5.** The neighbors were astonished by his name and they were filled with awe and they talked about all these things throughout the hill country of Judea.
- 6.** Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and his song was a prophecy.
- 7.** Zechariah was prophesying about John.
- 8.** He grew physically and spiritually and lived in the desert until he began his public ministry.

Day 4

- 1.** Everyone was required to go to their ancestral home to register for a census.
- 2.** The only thing it says is that there was no room in the inn, so he was laid in a manger. This must mean that they stayed wherever the animals were kept.
- 3.** The shepherds would find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.
- 4.** At first the shepherds were terrified. Then they were curious and hurried to find the baby. They told Mary and Joseph and everyone what the angels had said. They went back rejoicing.
- 5.** The angel said a Savior has been born, Christ the Lord. (Note: the word Christ is the Greek word that is equivalent to the Hebrew word Messiah. They both mean "The Anointed One.")
- 6.** They did everything required by law and by custom for Jesus.
- 7.** Simeon is described as a good, God-fearing man, waiting for Israel to be saved, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. Mary and Joseph marveled at what he said.
- 8.** In this prophecy, Simeon mentions Jesus being a light to the Gentiles- all who are not Jewish.
- 9.** She gave thanks to God and spoke about Him to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Day 5

- 1.** The first thing King Herod did was to find out from the chief priests and teachers where the Christ would be born.
- 2.** Bethlehem is described as one of the smallest towns in Judah.
- 3.** The Magi knew they had found the child when the star stopped over the place where Jesus was.
- 4.** King Herod was furious and planned to kill the child when he found Him.
- 5.** Jesus must have been less than two years old, but certainly not still an infant.
- 6.** They were directed by four dreams, the Magi by one and Joseph by three.
- 7.** His home seems religious since they went to the Feasts every year. His parents apparently trusted him because they traveled for a day assuming he was with their friends and family. Mary and Joseph were anxious and apparently frustrated by their search for Jesus, but not unduly angry for the inconvenience he caused them. They expected obedience.
- 8.** Jesus was in the temple listening to the religious teachers and asking them questions.
- 9.** Everyone was amazed at his understanding and his answers.
- 10.** He seemed surprised and asked why they didn't assume he would be in the temple. He went home with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them.

additional study: week 1

Day 1

1. Other barren couples God blessed with children:

Abraham and Sarah- Gen. 18:10-15; 21:1-7
Isaac and Rebecca- Gen. 25:20-26
Jacob and Rachel- Gen. 30:1-24
Elkanah and Hannah- I Sam. 1
Manoah and his wife- Judges 13

2. Other heavenly visits:

God Himself visited Abraham- Gen. 18:1
The Angel of the Lord- (Thought to be Christ before He came as Jesus)- Ex. 3:2
An army of angels defended the prophet- II Ki. 6:15-17
Paul's visit from Jesus- Acts 9:1-9
An angel woke Peter and took him from prison- Acts 12:1-11

3. The Nazarite vow:

First mention of the Nazarite vow- Numbers 6
The most famous Nazarite was Samson- Judges 13:1-5; 16

Day 2

4. Old Testament prophecies about the birth of the Messiah:

Isaiah's prophecy that the savior would be conceived by a virgin- Isa. 7:14
Isaiah's prophecy about a Savior- Isa. 9:6-7
Jeremiah's prophecy of a priestly reign for David- Jer. 33:17-18

Day 3

5. Jewish circumcision:

The first occurrence- Gen. 17:1-14, 23-27
Abraham kept the covenant- Gen. 21:1-5
New Testament teaching about circumcision- Rom. 2: 25-29; I Cor. 7:17-19

Day 4

6. Purification in the Law of Moses:

After the birth of a child- Lev. 12:1-8
Burnt offering and sin offering- Lev. 5:7-10
Atonement is in the blood- Lev. 17:11

Day 5

7. The Feast of Passover or The Feast of Unleavened Bread:

The First Passover- Ex. 12:17-39
Celebration of Passover- Ex. 23:14-15