



The Birth of Jesus

This Advent study is based on the first two chapters of Luke. Both weeks are included below. This study will not follow the sermon series but rather be a two-week stand alone study. It follows the study guide format with which you are already familiar.

WEEK ONE: Our Response to God

WELCOME & DISCUSSION

Getting Warmed Up

- Open with prayer as you dig into the word surrounding the birth of Jesus.
- How did stories you heard about as a child help shape your images of the biblical version of the birth of Christ? (Was it a silent night? Did Jesus not make a sound? Were there three kings? Was it snowing?) OR What sights, sounds and smells may have filled the place as Jesus was born?

Digging In

- Read aloud **Luke Chapter 1**. Pay attention to Mary and Joseph's response to the angel, and hence to God.
- What was unique about Mary being chosen by God?
- The angel's message set forth God's plan in motion for Mary's life. What do you think Mary was able to grasp as the significance of what she was being asked? What can we learn from Mary's complete willingness to serve God?
- What was Joseph's understanding about his primary role in Jesus' life? How was it different from Mary's response?

Bring It Home

- What do Mary and Joseph's responses to the angel tell us about the kind of people through whom God works?
- In what ways would you say that their response to the angel summarizes what our relationship with God ought to look like?
- In reading this chapter we see that with God, nothing is impossible and that God works in ways we can't understand or imagine. How has that truth taken root in your life?
- God is often speaking to us. How might we better hear him?

Walking It Out

- Re-read Luke Chapter 1 this week and reflect on the discussion in group adding your own insights.
- End with **Prayer**.



WEEK TWO: Our Journey To Jesus

WELCOME & DISCUSSION

Getting Warmed Up

- Open with prayer as you dig into the word surrounding the birth of Jesus.
- When you think about uncomfortable travel, what personal experiences do you recall? OR Have you ever ridden on a donkey? What was the experience like?

Digging In

- Read aloud **Luke Chapter 2**.
- Travel is usually restricted before the birth of a child. Why did the couple travel to Bethlehem?
- In what ways did God make the events of history to get Joseph and Mary where he wanted them at the right time?

Bring It Home

- How did the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem change and define the lives of Mary and Joseph?
- What does it mean that Mary "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart"? Do you treasure the journey that Jesus has put you on?
- How have the journeys in your life changed you and defined your life?

Walking It Out

- Re-read Luke Chapter 2 this week and reflect on the discussion in group adding your own insights.
- Who do you need to tell about the good news of Christ during this season? Invite them to join you at one of the Christmas Eve services or watch online.
- End with **Prayer**.