

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE: ADVENT PROPHECIES THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

¹⁴ *The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*
Genesis 3:13-15 (ESV)

¹² *Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."* Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV)

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14 (ESV)

³¹ *"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."* Jeremiah 31:31-34 (ESV)

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Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Share a high and a low.
- What's something you're celebrating this week?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Luke 1:26-38. What significance do you think the virgin birth plays in the identity of Jesus?
- Read Luke 1:26-38. Why do you think God chooses a "nobody" to give birth to His son?
- Read Galatians 4:4-7. Why do you think it was the right time?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Use a question from N.T. Wright's "Luke: For Everyone" (pg. 15-17).
- Do you think you would have responded as Mary did?
- Contrast the promises about what Elizabeth's son would do in Luke 1:15-17. Vs. what Mary's son would do in Luke 1:31-33.
- Why do you think it was important to salvation that God also become a man? What are the errors that can come in denying either his divinity or his humanity?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- God chose to live a human life, in part in order to identify with our experiences. How will it help you this week to know that your savior has "been there?!"
- God keeps his promises – chief of which is to redeem the world from the crushing weight of sin. What's a sin you have felt guilty or ashamed of that you can give over to Jesus?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- "Father, the birth of your son Jesus is a moment I celebrate today. Thank you for not abandoning us, or not just flooding the earth again, but desiring to redeem all of creation (including me) from sin. As you work to make this world right again, give me a right spirit within me that seeks to honor and serve you. Amen."

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three for 15 minutes:

1. What has God been teaching you in His word this week? Is there anything you need to repent of?
2. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
3. How's your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection)
4. Pray for one another.