



Lesson Title: The Incarnation

Scripture Focus: Luke 1:35

The Lesson in Context

The birth of the Messiah surprised so many. Jesus was not wrapped in silk cloth, laid in a golden crib, and given a silver pacifier. No, Jesus was born into less-than-royal accommodations. Nevertheless, even if His birth took a surprising shape, His arrival was not unexpected. The prophets had long predicted the arrival of their King who would possess certain moral characteristics and be anointed by God Himself (Isaiah 11:1-5). The prophesied Savior would bring peace, comfort, and power to govern the people of God (Isaiah 9:6-7). His job description included setting captives free, restoring joy, and proclaiming God's favor over humanity (Isaiah 61:1-3).

God's desire for covenant relationship finds no better portrait than that of the King enthroned and crowned on a blood-stained hill. He was first enthroned on a cross and crowned with thorns, but He was still as powerful as He has ever been. He was still on the throne of Heaven even when He was on the cross. The Jews considered it scandalous and the Greeks thought it foolishness that Jesus was crucified, but to us who believe, the gospel is the power of God. Believing in this glorious gospel is who we are. Like the apostle Paul, we are not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. Since King Jesus forgave our sins and saved our souls, let us share this glorious gospel with others around us. God wants to invite them into covenant with Him as He has invited us.

Group Discussion

1. What do the circumstances of Christ's birth tell us about Him? As King, why would He come in such a way?
2. What do we learn about God when we see He chose to make His birth announcement to shepherds in a field?
3. Why do you think the angels' announcement warranted such a quick response?
4. Why is patience so important as it relates to God's promises?
5. If you were Mary, how would you have responded to Simeon's announcement?

My Prayer for the Upcoming Week

How do you want to be different because of what you have experienced today?
