



# LIFEwork

Week of Dec. 6, 2020

Luke 1 – The Greatest

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching the promise and conception of John the Baptizer, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## DISCUSSION

1. We are in Advent – approaching Christmas, internationally celebrated as the birth of Jesus. If you were to ask five of your friends who don't go to church who Jesus is, how do you think they would answer and what would they base their answers on?

2. How has your understanding of who Jesus is changed over your lifetime?

3. Doubt is something that plagues all of us at one time or another. This weekend, we saw Zechariah express his doubt even after the angel Gabriel appeared to him with the news that he would have a son (Luke 1:18). Below are several incidences in which people in the Bible showed their doubt. What do you learn about doubt or Jesus' response to it from these stories?

Read these three stories from Scripture: John 20:24-29 ~~ Mark 9:17-24 ~~ Luke 7:18-23

Have you ever felt like doubt has been a hindrance to your faith?

Discuss the difference between “doubt” and “so unlikely I have no hope that it will happen”.

Do you think doubt can ever help you grow spiritually? If so, how?

4. We witnessed this weekend that God's promises always come true, but the timing is not up to us. Share with one another any promises of God that you are absolutely believing without any expectation of seeing the results in the near future.

5. John was GREAT, yet far from it by normal human standards. What elements of John's GREATNESS can each of us adopt?

In 1926 Dr. James Allan Francis wrote the short piece, “One Solitary Life” and considering your previous discussion, what elements of greatness in this description can we also extract from the life of Jesus.

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built, all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

Please, as always, live as a group together in prayer and mutual support and encouragement.



## The Greatest

Luke 1:8-17

December 6, 2020 – Pastor D. R. Hilken

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A.D. -6 months

### The Context and Details

Verses 8-9 – his turn for special service

LOTS: Prov. 16:33, 18:18/Joshua 14:1-2/1 Sam. 14:38-43/1 Chron. 25:8-31/Jonah 1:7/Acts 1:26

Incense AND Evening Sacrifice: Daniel 9:20-21/Psalm 141:2/Revelation 8:3-4

Verse 10 – the multitude

Verse 11-12 – the ANGEL

an order of created beings, spirits, without material bodies, though they can assume various forms, superior to man-greater power & wisdom though limited, belonging to Heaven and to God, engaged in His service – except for the fallen rebellious.”

Verse 13 – the ANNOUNCEMENT

the PRAYER/S

a) For a child

b) For the sins of

- i. God's people
- ii. Himself

c) For the REDEMPTION of Israel

you shall call his name John ~ “Yahweh is gracious”

Verse 14 – personal and global consequences

Verse 15 – Greatness: Rightness with God (justified)

Likeness to God (sanctified)

Readiness for God (servant's heart)

Your choice of “spirits” – Ephesians 5:18

Verses 16-17 – TURN people

Ignorance to knowledge/sinfulness to repentance/self to God

The Apostle John writes: 1:6–9, 23