

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE LIFE, WORK,
TEACHING AND CLAIMS OF JESUS CHRIST

Historic and Historical

LUKE 2:8-21 | APRIL 13 & 14, 2013

Today in our study of Luke we move in an extremely important direction. Christ enters the scene. His birth is both *historical* and *historic* and it changes everything. Even more than a dividing line on our calendar, Jesus is the dividing line for eternity. Every person is called to consider what they believe about Him – and their answer will become the most important answer of your life.



Watch this week's summary message from Pastor Mike at <http://luke.christchurchil.org/resources>. (Videos will be live on Sunday afternoon.)

WITH THE GROUP



LEANING | BEGINNING TO CONNECT WITH THE TOPIC

Share an early memory of the Christmas story in your life. Perhaps the memory is of a TV program, a school play, an event in church, a time with family or singing Christmas carols, etc.



LEARNING | GETTING CLEAR ON WHAT WAS TAUGHT

Discuss what you have learned about the life and social standing of a middle-eastern shepherd. Why do you think God chose to reveal the "Great News" to them?

Mike shared a number of diagrams. Do you think they accurately reflected the views commonly held today? Why or why not?



LOVING | GROWING OUR HEART FOR A LOVING GOD

What was the most helpful or inspirational part of the sermon for you?

Many reasons were given that demonstrate Christ is the Messiah including: 1) teaching with great authority, 2) providing the greatest ethical system ever, 3) performing miracles and 4) making claims to be God himself. Were these persuasive for you? Is there anything else about his character and behavior that encourages you (or troubles you) about Jesus Christ?



LIVING | STARTING TO LIVE LIKE JESUS DAILY

Discuss how you might respond to a friend who says that they think all religions are essentially the same and that Christianity is just another approach to requiring people to be good and do good things.

ON YOUR OWN



PRACTICE

Share your journey with God in a 2-minute story within your small group. What did you believe? What changed your belief and led you to Jesus? How has your life changed since?



PRAYER

Jesus, I thank you that you did not wait for us to draw near to you. You did not tell us to try harder, to be better, or climb our way to you – instead I praise your name that you chose to come to me; that you invited me into a relationship with you and made the first move. Please help me not only to believe, but to live my life in a way that honors and grows in my love for you and for others.



MEMORIZING

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."