



Topeka Bible Church
“Christmas according to Luke: The Baby was a Man”
Community Group Study Questions
Luke 1 & 2:1-20; 19:10 and selected passages

1. What do we know about Luke, the author of this third gospel (*Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11; Luke 1:1-4*)? What title did Jesus use to describe Himself 25 times in this gospel (*Luke 5:24; 9:22, 58; 12:8; 17:26; 19:10; 22:69*)? How does this background help us understand the focus of Luke’s gospel?

2. God sends His messenger (angel) Gabriel both to Zechariah (*Luke 1:11-13*) and to Mary (*Luke 1:28-31*). How does the announcement of these two pregnancies illustrate Luke’s focus on Jesus as both the divine Son of God as well as a human being (*Luke 1:32, 35, Philippians 2:5-7*)?

3. What do these angelic visitations tell you about God’s involvement in the human world? Is He distant and uncaring or is He present and lovingly involved? Do you believe that God is passionately interested in the details of your life? Why or why not?

4. What is significant about Joseph having to go to Bethlehem to register for Caesar’s census (*Luke 2:1-4*)? Who was Joseph’s ancestor (*Matthew 1:20*)? Why did Jesus’ birth happen during the time of the census (*Luke 2:6*)? Who was responsible for this timing (*John 7:42; Micah 5:2*)?



5. Why would angels appear to lowly shepherds (*Luke 2:8-9*)? Didn't God have more important people to whom He could declare the birth of His Son? What does this say about the things that God deems important (*1 Corinthians 1:27-29*)? How does Luke's key verse (*Luke 19:10*) demonstrate God's priorities?

6. Throughout portions of *Luke 1* and *2*, individuals respond with songs of praise when they recognize the work of God displayed before their eyes (*Luke 1:46-55, 68-79; 2:14, 29-32*). What should we learn from these responses of praise (*1 Thessalonians 5:16; Philippians 4:4; Psalm 97:12; 100:1-2*)?

7. Notice also the shepherds' response to what God had done (*Luke 2:17-18, 20*). Contrast their response to Mary's (*Luke 2:19*). How can you both proclaim and ponder what He's done in your life? Should this be something you do solely at Christmastime or all year round?

Memory Verse:

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

(Luke 2:11, NIV)