



MONDAY

Not What You Would Expect
Read: Luke 1:5-25

Given how important Jesus’ birth was, you might have expected some really important people to be involved. You know, a king, the high priest, some state official, or someone like that. Instead, we get an older couple without children, a young working class couple, blue-collar shepherds, an elderly prophet and an elderly prophetess...these are the people God chooses to tell us the story of Jesus birth through! (If you’re leading your children in this study, you might help them understand how the people mention in the text were not the most popular or important in society.)

Don’t miss Luke’s point or the implication: God does not see as man sees - for He judges the heart. And, God allows people who are on the outside of society to be on the inside of His plan!

*Who are the really important people in our society today? Are they Christians or not?
How can we show value to other people who may feel rejected by society? What is important to communicate to people who might have made mistakes in life?*

TUESDAY

Reaping What We Sow
Read: Luke 1:5;
Matthew 2:7-23

Life is often not fair, sometimes people can be mean and seem to get away with it. It is never easy to watch someone be mean to another human being. And, to the extent we are not mean ourselves, we should stand up for those who are poorly treated by others. But it is also important to keep in mind this Bible principle - you reap what you sow. While this is not always the case, most often it is true. Take the case of King Herod the Great as an example. He served as king of Judea from 37BC to 4AD. He was a proud, arrogant, mean person. In our Scripture reading, we learn he had children killed around Bethlehem just because he was afraid of loosing power. History tells us he died a cruel death, and even tried to kill himself. His son who ruled after him was struck down by God and died. These men may have felt powerful at times but ultimately, they reaped what they sowed.

God values life, and only cruel human beings devalue it. Think about what it means to be truly a “pro-life” Christian from the womb to the tomb. How can we stand up for those who are mistreated in godly ways?

THURSDAY

Angels: Messengers from God
Read: Luke 1:13-17; 2:28-38

Angels are spiritual beings who were created by God to be servants. In the Scripture reading we read of one particular angel named Gabriel. In our study today we are going to briefly look at angels. You might want to make a small chain study of these passages in the margins of your Bible:

- Angels were created by God and included in the list of His creations - Colossians 1:16; Psalm 148:2-5.
- The word angel mean messenger, and like Gabriel they are often seen in Scripture delivering messages - Luke 1:19; Joshua 1:13-15.
- The first angel we read about in Scripture was a cherubim (a type of angel) - Genesis 3:24.
- Often angels took the form of a human in order to deliver their message to human beings - Genesis 18:2ff.
- In the Book of Revelation we learn there are four special angels that serve around the throne of God - Revelation 4:6. And there are thousands and thousands of angels - Revelation 5:11.
- Angels are called “ministering spirits” who serve, not only God, but those who are Christians. The Bible does not specifically say how they serve us - Hebrews 1:14.

FRIDAY

Who was John the Baptizer?
Read: Luke 1:13-17; 3:1-18

The Bible is full of interesting people we would all like to know more about. One such person is John the Baptizer (Baptist). His name was John but history has referred to him as John the Baptist because of his ministry of baptizing people in preparation for Jesus’s ministry. Here are a few things every Christian should know about John. You might organize these into a chain study in your Bible:

- He was a great and godly man of faith - Luke 1:15; Matthew 11:11.
- He preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins - Luke 3:3; Mark 1:4.
- He had taken a Nazarite vow, which describes his unusual appearance - Luke 1:15; Number 6:1-21; Matthew 3:4.
- He prepared the way for Jesus to come, which was prophesied about in the Old Testament - Luke 3:4-6; Isaiah 40:3-5.
- His baptism was necessary until salvation was proclaimed in Jesus name - Acts 2:38; Acts 19:3-4.
- Jesus was baptized by John to fulfill all righteousness - Luke 3:21-22; Matthew 3:13-17.
- He provides an example of a godly attitude - John 3:30; Matthew 3:13.

LUKE 1:5-25

DAILY SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE:
PRAYER - EXAMPLE: NEHEMIAH 1:4-11

REST:
DID WE TAKE TIME TO REST, REFLECT & RECHARGE?

LORD’S DAY:
SUNDAY, JANUARY 17TH

