

Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into God's word.

1. *What is one of your favorite Christmas Movies?*
2. *If you could be one character in the nativity (Angels, Shepherds, Mary, Joseph, Wise Men, the Inn Keeper) which one would you be and why?*
3. *Do you observe the Christmas Nativity story as a fairytale or as Historical News? How does our world view the birth of Jesus? How does our perception of the birth of Jesus as myth or history change how we respond to Christmas?*
4. *What insight, observation, or principle from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, insightful, or troubling? Explain.*

This past Sunday took a look at the Genealogy of Jesus found in Matthew 1:1-17. In this genealogy we find a series of 5 women highlighted amongst 42 generations of Jesus' family tree. Today we are going to take a look at one of those women. Jesus' mother: Mary. Her story is found in Luke 1:26-39.

- *As a group spend some time reading through Luke 1:26-39. As you read highlight interesting verses, or places you may have a question.*
- *If you were in Mary's shoes how would you have responded to the news she received for the angel Gabriel?*
- *Have you ever been asked by God to do something that was beyond your comfort zone?*
- *This last Sunday we discovered that Angels were God's messengers sent by God to deliver Good News. What is the News that the Angel Gabriel brings to Mary & to Mankind? (See Luke 1:28, 30-37) Does this news apply just to Mary or to us as well? How does this news change the way we should live today?*

Digging Deeper

1. *On Sunday Pastor Jason made this statement... "GOD MAY TAKE HIS TIME, BUT HE KEEPS HIS WORD. CHRISTMAS TELLS US YOU CAN NOT JUDGE GOD BY YOUR CALENDAR." How has this been true in your life? How have you judged God according to your timeline and expectations? How does Christmas encourage you to trust & hope in God during a season of waiting?*
2. *The Angel Gabriel in Luke 1:37 declares, "For nothing will be impossible with God." Are there places in your life where you face an impossibility? How might Christmas be an encouragement to you that God indeed can overcome the impossible in our lives?*



Matthew 1:1-17 *This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:*

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴ Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, ⁷ Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, ⁸ Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, ⁹ Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰ Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, ¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

¹² After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³ Zerubbabel the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴ Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Elihud, ¹⁵ Elihud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, ⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷ Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

CHRISTMAS IS NOT ABOUT A BIRTH BUT A **COMING**. GOD HAD PLANNED HIS ARRIVAL BEFORE **CREATION**.

1. JESUS IS NOT A **METAPHOR**. HE IS REAL.

Luke 2:10-12 *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

CHRISTMAS TELLS US THAT THE GOSPEL IS...

- * NOT GOOD ADVICE: YOU DON'T SAVE YOURSELF.
- * GOOD NEWS! GOD HAS COME TO SAVE YOU.

2. THE GOSPEL TURNS THE WORLD'S VALUES **UPSIDE DOWN**.

- * CHRISTMAS TELLS US GOD IS NOT ASHAMED OF US, WE ARE ALL WORTHY TO BE IN HIS FAMILY!

3. GOD MAY TAKE HIS **TIME**, BUT HE KEEPS HIS **WORD**.

- * CHRISTMAS TELLS US YOU CANNOT JUDGE GOD BY YOUR **CALENDAR**.

4. REST WILL ONLY COME THROUGH **JESUS CHRIST**.

Genesis 2:2-3 *By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.*