

# Joyful Life Bible Studies

## Timeless Joy

### Christmas Study

#### FIRST DAY:

Read Galatians 4:4,5

1. Time is always a very relevant and important word during Christmas. We do not know for sure what the New Year will bring, but we do know what happened in Bethlehem about 2,000 years ago. Record this from Galatians 4:4,5. (Write it as a news report if you desire.)
  - a. Why was this a *time* of great *joy*? See Luke 2:(8-10)11.
    - 1) Consider the word Savior in the context of John 3:16,17. What do you read in these verses about our Savior that bring you joy?
    - 2) Observe the words *everlasting life* from John 3:16. In what way does *everlasting life* speak to you about *Timeless Joy*?
2. Think about our theme for this week's lesson: *Timeless Joy*. The word *timeless* has been defined as *that which cannot be measured by time; unending; transcending time; eternal*. In light of this how would you define the word *joy* as it relates to Christ's birth?
3. Begin this week's lesson with a prayer asking the Lord to grant you a fresh revelation of what His birth means in your life as you study. Express to Him your deepest desire this Christmas in response to His love for you.

*Such love springs from eternity  
Such love streaming through history.  
Such love, fountain of life to me  
O, Jesus, such love.*

*Selected*

**SECOND DAY:**

Read Luke 1:26-38

1. View this *timeless joy* from the following prophecies written over 700 years before Jesus' birth. What do you see:
  - a. Isaiah 7:14
  
  - b. Isaiah 9:6 (7)
  
  - c. Notice the phrases *and shall call His name* and *His name shall be called* in these prophecies. Thoughtfully record each of these names. Add them to your adoration and worship this Christmas season.
    - 1) Choose one of these names and share what it means to you today.

Optional: Research and record other Old Testament prophecies that relate to Christ's birth.

2. Observe the miraculous unfolding of these astounding prophecies through Luke 1:26-38. Summarize each of the following passages in your own words.
  - a. Luke 1:26-29
    - 1) Pause and think about the promise to Mary, *the Lord is with thee*. Luke 1:28 Put yourself in Mary's place and share what those words would mean to you.
  
  - b. Luke 1:30-37
    - 1) Focus on Luke 1:36,37. Why do you think Gabriel told Mary about her cousin Elizabeth's pregnancy?

c. Luke 1:38

1) BEHOLD *the handmaid of the Lord*. What does this phrase signify to you about Mary?

(a.) How is this an example for your life?

3. How has today's study of Luke 1:26-38 enriched your *joy* and prepared your heart for worship this Christmas season?

**THIRD DAY:** Read Luke 1:46-55

1. Read Luke 1:46-55 in light of Psalm 40:16. Mary spoke her song of praise before the birth of Jesus. Take *time* now to write your own magnificat (song of praise) to the Lord for the birth of Jesus our Savior.

2. Review Jesus' birth by reading Luke 2:1-7. Again, we BEHOLD the greatest birth announcement ever written. It is recorded in just one verse. Let the glorious wonder of this verse permeate your heart and soul as you write Luke 2:7 phrase by phrase.

a. What is your response to this verse?

3. Luke 2:7 substantiates the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14, verifies the Apostle Paul's words in Galatians 4:4, and through succeeding centuries kindles the fire of hope and joy in the believer's heart. Now walk back to Bethlehem in your mind's eye and try to view these scenes as though you had never seen them before. Read Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1a; Luke 2:1-7 and briefly describe what you see.

Challenge: What do you learn about Jesus' birth from the following verses:

- a. John 1:14 (This verse describes the incarnation of Christ. The incarnation means God became Man.)
  - b. I Timothy 3:16
4. In what practical way can you share the *timeless joy* of Jesus' birth with others?

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Luke 2:8-20

1. Write a brief report of the amazing account recorded in Luke 2:8-20.
  - a. What was the shepherd's response to all *that they had heard and seen*? Luke 2:20
2. Consider Luke 2:10 in the light of the title of this lesson, *Timeless Joy*. For whom were the *good tidings of great joy* intended?
  - a. Why hasn't the birth of Christ brought *timeless joy* to *all people* (Jews and Gentiles)?
  - b. In what way has Christ's birth brought you *great joy*?
  - c. What example can you draw from the shepherds in sharing this *timeless joy*? Luke 2:17

3. Provide a brief account of another interesting event associated with the first Christmas from Matthew 2:1-10.

a. Notice verse 10. Why do you think they *rejoiced with exceeding great joy* when they saw the star?

4. Read Matthew 2:11,12. What did the wise men do when they saw the young child:

a. Matthew 2:11a

b. Matthew 2:11b

Advanced Students: Research what each of the gifts the wise men brought might have represented. Use scripture to support your answer.

To think about: *What treasure will I prepare in my heart to give Jesus this Christmas?*

**FIFTH DAY:** Read Luke 2:21-40

1. Describe the event in the following verses:

a. Luke 2:21

1) What do you learn about the name *Jesus* from Matthew 1:21 and Luke 2:31?

b. Luke 2:22 (23) 24

2. What do we *behold* about Simeon in Luke 2:25, 26?

a. What did he do? Luke 2:27,28

b. What did he say? Summarize Luke 2:29-32.

1) What three things did he say he had seen concerning Jesus? Luke 2:30,32 Selah

2) What was Joseph's and Mary's response? verse 33

c. After Simeon had blessed them, what did he say to Mary? List these four statements from Luke 2:34,35.

1) Consider Luke 2:35a in the context of John 19:25a. Selah - pause and think about this. Comment on this.

2) In spite of Mary's pain and sorrow what is the last glimpse we have of her? Acts 1:(13) 14

Optional: Share how her being there validated the truth of the gospel Jesus came to proclaim.

3. Read Luke 2:36-38. Focus intently on Anna's dedication and devotion to the Lord. Thoughtfully write from Luke 2:37b,38 what the Bible reveals about her.
  - a. With all the responsibilities and distractions of living in this present day and age, in what way is Anna a role model for you?

**SIXTH DAY:**

Review

1. Think of the *timeless joy* of the Christmas message. The birth of Jesus Christ is without parallel in history. From the first promise of a Savior in Genesis 3:15 to the details of the divine conception recorded in Luke 1:(26-34)35 to the manger in Bethlehem, we stand in awe of God's plan through the ages. BEHOLD this from Luke 1:31.
  - a. How would this take place? Luke 1:(34)35
  
2. Review Luke 2:19. What *things* will you keep or treasure and *ponder* in your heart this Christmas?
  - a. What helps you do this?
  
3. Review Luke 2:10-14. Join the angel choir this Christmas in praising God. Why are they praising and glorifying God?
  
  
4. In what area have you profited the most through your study this week?

Optional: If you could interview anyone who is a part of the Christmas story **except** the angels or Baby Jesus, what question would you ask?

- a. Which of these people would you most like to have been? Why?
5. How has this study of Christ's birth inspired your heart to a deeper dimension of worship?
6. Complete this lesson by writing a sentence expressing what the *good tidings of great joy* mean to you today (Luke 2:10).

### *Timeless Joy*

*Of the Father's love begotten, 'ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore He shall be.*

selected

## *“Christmas Joy and Blessings”*