

Christmas Bible Study 2025

Week 2

Day 1: Read Luke 1:57-80

1. What do Elizabeth's neighbors and relatives do in regard to the birth of her son? Do you have people in your life who rejoice with you? Thank the Lord for these people. Do you have people in your life who you wish would rejoice with you? Pray for these people and thank the Lord for them too.
2. In verses 59-66 Elizabeth and Zacharias go against tradition to obey what God had told them to do. What was the tradition? What did they do instead?
3. How did the people react at first? Why did their reaction change?
4. Has there ever been a time that you chose to do things God's way instead of following traditions? How did the people around you respond?
5. What blesses you the most today when you read Zacharias' prophecy in verses 67-79? Why does that stand out to you today?
6. How is John described in verse 80? Do you feel strong in Spirit? What can you be doing throughout this Christmas season to be stronger in Spirit?

Day 2: Read Matthew 1:18-25

1. What dilemma does Joseph find himself in in verses 18-19? How does he respond? What does this tell us about Joseph?
2. What happens as Joseph is still considering these things?
3. Do a little digging and see if you can find out why Joseph is told to call the child Jesus even though the prophecy referred to in the next verses says to call Him Immanuel. What did you discover?
4. What does Joseph do when He is aroused from sleep? What does this tell us about Joseph's character?
5. In these brief verses about Joseph we see a great deal of godly character displayed. This must have been a huge trial for him! If someone took a "snippet" and made a narrative out of the last trial you faced, what godly characteristics would they see displayed? If there are some ungodly characteristics mixed into that trial as well, identify them and ask God to continue to refine you in those areas.
6. It shouldn't surprise us that God would choose a loving and godly man to be the husband and leader of the woman who would bring forth His son! Although not everyone is called to be married, for those who are, God desires for all husbands to be godly and loving leaders for their wives. If you are married, pray for your husband today. If he is unsaved, pray for his salvation. Saved or unsaved, thank God for the godly characteristics you see in him. Make it a point to tell your husband about a godly characteristic you notice in him (even if he doesn't know it's a godly characteristic...). If this is a challenge, don't give up. God won't give up either. Keep looking for godly characteristics and praise God when you find them. If you're not married, pray for the marriages of the women in our group.

Day 3: Read Luke 2:1-7

1. What occurred in verses 1-5 that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem? This is a great example of God's sovereignty working through humankind. Caesar Augustus had no idea that his decree would play a part of fulfilling Messianic prophecy. Can you see anything going on in our world today that God could be using to fulfill prophecies in His Word that have yet to be fulfilled?
2. Verses 1-7 contain all that we know about the circumstances of our Savior's Birth. Tradition has embellished this narrative to "fill in" information that we don't have. What are some things that are in a traditional retelling of the Christmas story that are "missing" from the scripture?
3. What did Mary wrap Jesus in? What did she lay him in? Why was this their situation?
4. These circumstances were, obviously, not ideal. Why do you think God chose to allow His son to be born under these circumstances?
5. Consider what might have been going on in Mary's mind through these circumstances? Have you ever had a situation in the past where you knew God was working but absolutely did not understand why He was allowing things to go the way they were going? How did you respond? How did He use the challenges to bring about His purpose and will in that situation?
6. What are some things going on right now that you don't understand? (personal, in someone else's life, nationally, globally...) Write these things down and prayerfully surrender them to the Lord, trusting that He is in control and has a good plan.

Day 4: Read Luke 2:8-20

1. What were the shepherds doing, what happened and how did they respond?
2. What was the news that the angel brought and who was the news for? Take some time to meditate on this. How can you be bringing good tidings of great joy to the people around you this Christmas season?
3. To emphasize the magnitude of this incredible announcement an angelic army (heavenly host) began to praise God. What did they say?
4. The shepherds go and find the Babe in the manger. What did they do when they found Him? How did the people respond? Sharing testimonies of the great things God is showing us and the things He is doing in our lives is a powerful way to glorify Him. What testimony could you share with someone about what God is doing (or has done) in your life?
5. How did Mary respond to all these things? How is her reaction different from the Shepherds? Share about a time when you could see God working but knew it was far from over and just pondered things in your heart as you waited on the Lord.

Day 5: Reread Luke 1:57-80, Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-20

Spend some time reflecting on and worshipping the Lord as you meditate on the challenges Mary and Joseph faced, the birth of our Savior and the wondrous angelic announcement to the shepherds. Countless songs have been written about that night. Make a list of some of your favorite Christmas songs and carols. Sometimes they are so overplayed we forget to listen to the words and be blessed by them. Take some time to do that today.

One of my favorite contemporary Christmas songs is **Welcome to Our World** by Chris Rice. Here are the beautiful lyrics that bring me to tears year after year...

Tears are falling, hearts are breaking
How we need to hear from God
You've been promised, we've been waiting
Welcome Holy Child
Welcome Holy Child

Hope that you don't mind our manger
How I wish we would have known
But long-awaited Holy Stranger
Make Yourself at home
Please make Yourself at home

Bring Your peace into our violence
Bid our hungry souls be filled
Word now breaking Heaven's silence
Welcome to our world
Welcome to our world

Fragile finger sent to heal us
Tender brow prepared for thorn
Tiny heart whose blood will save us
Unto us is born
Unto us is born

So wrap our injured flesh around You
Breathe our air and walk our sod
Rob our sin and make us holy
Perfect Son of God
Perfect Son of God
Welcome to our world