

So Much More

Than a Baby (Week 3)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

If Jesus hadn't come as a baby, our relationship to God would be marked by fear instead of hope and joy.

Key Scriptures

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. Luke 1:46-50 ESV

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." Luke 2:25-32 ESV

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. Luke 2:8-9 ESV

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a

Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" Luke 2:10-14 ESV

They waited. They wondered. They worshipped.

Mary reminds us of the joy available to the anonymous and the unassuming. Anna and Simeon point us to the hope we can have in every circumstance. The shepherds remind us that we don't have to fear, no matter what we face.

Start talking.

- What is your favorite part of Jesus' birth?
- Which character do you most identify with and why?

Start thinking.

- Read Luke 1:46-50. What stands out to you from Mary's song? Why do you think her pregnancy caused her to sing?
- Read Luke 2:25-32. What does it mean that Jesus is a "light for revelation to the Gentiles" and "glory to your people Israel?"
- Read Luke 2:8-9. Why is the birth of Jesus so significant in allowing us to fearlessly approach God?

Start sharing.

- Is Christmas an exciting time for you? Or is this season hard?
- How does immersing yourself in the Christmas story lead you to the "so much more" that Christmas has to offer.

Start doing.

- What would it look like for you this week to:
 1. Wait long enough to see Jesus.
 2. Wonder at his glory.
 3. Worship loud enough for others to hear.