

Week (7) DISCOVERING GOD IN JESUS CHRIST
Jesus Christ provides the ultimate hope.

Day 31: The birth of Jesus Christ

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Insight: The account of Jesus Christ's birth provides important insight into His fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy and His sacrificial ministry. The Bible traces Jesus Christ's lineage through King David, as the prophets foretold, and records the miraculous events surrounding His conception. The angel, Gabriel, appears to a virgin named Mary and announces that she will give birth to the Messiah through a supernatural working of the Holy Spirit. Mary expresses her human inadequacy which is confirmed by the angel, thus Gabriel attributes this momentous occasion very clearly to an act of God's grace. God was gracious to allow Mary and Joseph to be a part of Jesus Christ's birth, yet God was just as gracious to us by sending Jesus Christ to provide salvation from our sin. Mary recognizes she is simply a servant of God, yet demonstrates faith in God's words. The Son of God came to earth in a very humble manner to provide for humankind what we could not provide for ourselves.

Reflection:

What is significant about Jesus Christ being born of a virgin?

How did Mary react to the angel's words?

How did God demonstrate grace through the birth of Jesus Christ?

Why did Jesus Christ come to earth?

Principle: Jesus Christ's birth provides the hope of eternal salvation.



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Day 32: The Humanity of Jesus Christ

Scripture Reading: Mark 2:13-17

Insight: Jesus Christ clearly possessed full humanity. He was born in a typical, human manner and proceeded to mature into adulthood. In fact, Jesus Christ did not begin His ministry until thirty years of age. Many people physically heard, saw, felt, and experienced the Person of Jesus Christ. He evidenced being hungry, thirsty, tired, cheerful, passionate, emotional, doubtful, and relational. In this passage, we observe some simple reflections on Christ's humanity. We find Jesus Christ teaching a large crowd of people, observing someone in their everyday work environment, and commissioning him to become a disciple. Jesus sits and interacts with a number of very ordinary people over a meal. We see some of His emotion and passion evidenced as a group of religious leaders question His practices, which He immediately squelches by declaring His mission to help those who are in need. As humans, we easily relate to the characteristics evidenced by Jesus Christ throughout His ministry.

Reflection:

Why did Jesus Christ wait until age thirty to begin His ministry?

What human characteristics do you think Jesus Christ evidenced?

What was the purpose of Jesus Christ's time on earth?

Why is the humanity of Jesus Christ important?

Principle: Jesus Christ came in the form of those He desired to save.



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Day 33: The Deity of Jesus Christ

Scripture Reading: John 17:1-11

Insight: Throughout His ministry, Jesus Christ proved that He knew all things and that He had all power to do miracles because He was God come in the form of man. This passage provides a magnificent prayer of Jesus Christ as the Son of God to His Father. Jesus Christ begins this prayer by affirming His supernatural power over the flesh, which resulted in a perfect, sinless life. His sinless life provides the hope of knowing God and having eternal life. Jesus Christ glorified God on earth by manifesting God's character and anticipated the culmination of His ministry. He faithfully proclaimed God's words of absolute truth, which are indispensable to humankind. Those who believe in Jesus Christ ultimately have the promise of being God's children. Throughout this entire prayer, an extremely intimate relationship between God the Father and God the Son is demonstrated. The final words of this passage clearly establish that Jesus Christ is fully God: "that they may be one, even as we are one."

Reflection:

What was Jesus Christ's source of supernatural power?

How does this prayer build your understanding of God?

Why did God send Jesus Christ to earth?

What is significant about Jesus Christ's identity as God?

Principle: Jesus Christ is God.



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Day 34: The Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:44-53

Insight: In this short passage we have a record of the most significant events throughout all of history. Jesus Christ had just suffered the cruelest death imaginable. He endured an unjust trial, a mocking crowd, a skin-shredding whipping, a crown of thorns, a tortuous procession, and a death by crucifixion. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life to satisfy the holiness of God, then sacrificed His life-blood for the sinful human beings He created to satisfy the justice of God. After being buried in a tomb for three days, Jesus Christ arose from the dead, proving without a doubt that he was God by defeating death and embodying life. After His resurrection, Jesus Christ appeared to His disciples and explained His prominence within the Old Testament. Finally, the disciples understood the significance of Jesus Christ's ministry, teaching, and death. Jesus commanded them to preach His gospel for the remission of sins and await the promise of God's Spirit. Jesus Christ returned to heaven as His disciples renewed His work.

Reflection:

How did God establish the significance of a blood sacrifice?

What was significant about Jesus Christ's sinless life?

Why did Jesus Christ endure such severe torture?

What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ prove?

Principle: Jesus Christ died to provide hope for humanity.



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Day 35: The Exaltation of Jesus Christ

Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Insight: This passage has been central to the Christian faith because of its directive and doctrine. Believers are admonished to imitate the example of Jesus Christ, and then Christ's example is vividly described. Fundamentally, Jesus Christ was and is equal with God. He freely emptied Himself of His heavenly status by coming to earth in the form of man. He willingly humbled Himself by taking on the form of His creation and being obedient to the point of death. Further, His death was the ultimate in debasement and cruelty. Yet, He did it willingly because He loved you and me. Jesus Christ was God come to earth in the form of man, and He offered His life as the perfect sacrifice required for the sin of humanity. Jesus Christ was the only Person who could perform the greatest act of all time. Therefore, God ensured that all humanity will one day worship Jesus Christ and give Him the praise He deserves. Every human being will believe in Jesus Christ as their only hope either in this life or in eternity.

Reflection:

Why did Jesus Christ take on the form of humanity?

What was Jesus Christ's motivation for suffering crucifixion?

What made Jesus Christ uniquely qualified for His ministry?

Why will everyone one day believe in Jesus Christ?

Principle: Jesus Christ will be worshipped by every human being.



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Additional Study

Jesus Christ was active in Creation: Colossians 1:16-17

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Jesus Christ is the head of the church: Ephesians 5:23

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Jesus Christ took our sin so we could have His righteousness: II Corinthians 5:21

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Jesus Christ is the exclusive source of truth: John 14:6

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Jesus Christ is the only way to experience life with God: I John 4:9

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Jesus Christ is God with the Father and the Holy Spirit: Matthew 28:19

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Jesus Christ promised the Holy Spirit after His departure: John 15:26; 16:7

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Jesus Christ has unlimited power: Matthew 28:18

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Jesus Christ makes salvation available to all: Romans 10:9

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Personal Journal

How is the Person of Jesus Christ revealed progressively throughout the Bible?

Why was it necessary for Jesus Christ to come to earth?

How did Jesus Christ prove He was man?

How did Jesus Christ prove He was God?

What are my questions about the Bible's account of Jesus Christ?

What are the implications of everyone one day worshipping Jesus Christ?

"MAY THE GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST BE WITH YOU"

