

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 04 Mar..... Luke 1:1-80.....A Special Baby – Rejoice
- 2) 11 Mar ..... Luke 2:1-52.....A Unique Person – Praise God**
- 3) 18 Mar..... Luke 3:1 – 4:30.....An Unexpected Messiah – Honor Him
- 4) 25 Mar..... Luke 4:31 – 6:11..... Christianity 101 – Accept Others
- 5) 01 Apr..... Luke 6:12 – 8:56..... Christianity 102 – Live to Benefit Others
- 6) 08 Apr..... Luke 24:13-35.....Be Confident of the Resurrection
- 7) 15 Apr..... Luke 9:1-50..... Christianity 103 – Meet Needs
- 8) 22 Apr..... Luke 9:51 – 13:21..... Christianity 104 – Be Good Neighbors
- 9) 29 Apr..... Luke 13:22 – 17:10..... Christianity 105 – Manage Money Well
- 10) 06 May..... Luke 17:11 – 19:27..... Christianity 106 – Learn to Pray
- 11) 13 May..... Luke 19:28 – 22:65.....He Voluntarily Suffered – Be Grateful
- 12) 20 May..... Luke 22:66 – 23:49.....He Offers Salvation – Believe
- 13) 27 May..... Luke 23:50 – 24:12,36-53..... He Lives Eternally – Carry On

**INTRODUCTION**

- The next 52 verses take us from Jesus’ birth to 12 years of age
- How much would we whine and complain if our kids were born under such 3<sup>rd</sup>-world or ghetto-like conditions?

Passage	Comments
Luke 2:1-7	<p><b>The Birth of Jesus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was Jesus born in an open stable, a cave, or the basement of a relative’s house?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ v7. “No room in the ‘inn’ – the “inn” word here is actually misinterpreted. A better translation is “there was no room in the ‘guest room’” – see Luke 22:11 &amp; Mat 14:14 where this word [grk. kataluma] is used to describe the “guest room” where Jesus and His disciples celebrated the Passover</li> <li>♦ Besides, Bethlehem was too small to have a hotel</li> <li>♦ Luke actually uses the term for an inn in Luke 10:34 where he tells the story of the Good Samaritan taking a wounded man to an “inn” [grk. pandocheion]</li> <li>♦ Mary likely gave birth to Jesus in the opened lower level of a crowded in-law’s house, where animals might have been brought in for the night. She then wrapped Jesus in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger (an animal feeding trough used as a crib)</li> <li>♦ Why such a humble beginning for the King of Kings?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Were animals kept in the house?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was customary to bring animals into the lower level of a house to protect them from weather and thieves</li> <li>• Judges 11:30-40. The account of Jephthah records he vowed to sacrifice the first thing which came out of his house upon his return from fighting the Ammonites</li> <li>• Apparently, he expected an animal to come out of his house. Instead his only daughter came out, and she remained a virgin all her days</li> </ul>
2:8-20	<p><b>The Shepherds and Angels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v13. Why did the Angels appear to the lowest class of people working in the dreary darkness and not to the wealthier, political or religious class residing in the city?</li> <li>• Shepherds were usually kids, slaves, or immigrants who couldn’t get a better paying job anywhere else</li> <li>• Since the angels told the shepherds the Messiah would be found lying in a feeding trough it probably didn’t take them long to find Him</li> </ul>
2:21-24	<p><b>The Circumcision and Presentation of Jesus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After 7 days, Jesus was circumcised; and after 40 days, Mary &amp; Joseph went to Jerusalem and presented a pair of turtledoves as a sacrifice ..... Lev 12:1-4</li> <li>• They were not rich enough to bring a lamb, so the wise men who had offerings of gold, frankincense and myrrh have not paid them a visit yet</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
2:25-35	<p><b>Simeon’s Prophetic Praise</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God rewarded him with the ability to prophecy – to receive unique messages from God and to share them</li> <li>• The special revelations about their son was alarming</li> </ul>
2:36-38	<p><b>Prophetess Anna’s Testimony</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apparently after becoming a widow young in life she opted to devote her remaining years in full time service - fasting, praying, worshipping (probably cleaning too)</li> <li>• Like Simeon, God rewarded her with ability to prophecy</li> </ul>
2:39-40	<p><b>The Family’s Return to Nazareth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v40. “And the child grew, and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God”</li> <li>• Can any child do this? ABSOLUTELY, if they are first willing to turn TV off, study God’s words and live by it</li> </ul>
2:41-50	<p><b>Jesus, 12 years old, Baffles the Religious Elite</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was this miraculous? Or did Jesus apply himself to study and application while at home?</li> <li>• In all probability, Jesus did what every mentally-abled kid has the ability to do – no miracles were needed</li> </ul>
Apocrypha stories of Jesus as a youth	<p>Apocrypha books are of dubious nature and sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus brings life to a dried fish; breathes life into birds fashioned from clay; curses a boy who falls dead and his parents become blind; resurrects a friend</li> </ul>
2:51-52	<p><b>Jesus Grew in Favor with God and with People</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v51. Jesus, the Creator – who knew more than His earthly mom &amp; dad, subjected Himself to them</li> <li>• Being God, Jesus knows everything, BUT He never experienced pain, loss or temptation like a human</li> <li>• He had to become human to learn those things... WHY?</li> <li>• He “learned obedience from his sufferings” .....Heb 5:8</li> <li>• v52. There is no reason for each of us not to grow in favor with God and people on a continuing basis</li> <li>• If we have behavior issues, now’s the time to fix them</li> <li>• It’s never too late to start living by God’s principles</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- We may not be the perfect kids that Jesus was, and we may not have had the perfect parents who loved God with all their ability, but we have no excuse not to move forward for Christ and to grow in favor with God and with our neighbors, spouses, and co-workers

**NEXT WEEK:**

**Luke 3-4.** Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist, spends 40 days fasting in the wilderness and comes out prepared to start His ministry



“I can’t get my husband to attend either.”