



Prepare the Way

Four Studies in Advent

Luke Chapter 1

Study 1: He is Near (Luke 1:5-25)

1. How do you prepare for Christmas?
2. Zechariah and Elizabeth were members of priestly families (vv5-6). What do they represent within this story?
3. What is the significance of Zechariah's duties within the temple at the time that the angel appeared to him (vv8-12)?
4. What is the role of John going to be? How will God prepare him for it?
5. Why is John going to be like Elijah? (v17)
6. Why did Zechariah have difficulty believing in this message? (v18) Does this remind you of any other Biblical character?
7. Why was it a disgrace for Elizabeth to be barren? (v25)
8. How would you describe the overall tone of this story?
9. What might you do to prepare yourself well for Christmas this year?

Study 1: He is Among Us (Luke 1:26-38)

1. What do you think is the central meaning of Christmas?
2. Mary is twice called 'favoured' (v28 & 30). What is the favour that she has received? Can you think why she might have been chosen?
3. What names is Mary to call her son and to understand his role by? What do they mean?
4. What is Mary's response (v38)? What if she had said 'no'?
5. The Apostle's Creed states as a core belief of the Church that we believe in the Virgin Birth. Why is it so significant? Do you find it easy to believe?
6. What can we learn from Mary's attitude in this story?
7. What is the meaning of Christmas according to this passage?

Study 3: He Finds Favour in Us (Luke 1:39-56)

1. What are you thankful to God for at the moment?
2. Why does Elizabeth praise God?
3. Why is Mary considered 'blessed'? (v42)
4. What does Mary praise God for (go into detail)?
5. What promises will God fulfil in the coming of Jesus (v55)?
6. What is the meaning of Christmas according to this passage?

Study 4: He Gives Light to our Darkness (Luke 1:57-80)

1. Are you prepared for Christmas? What do you still have to do?
2. The name 'John' means 'God has been gracious'. Why would John have been given his name?
3. What has God done, according to Zechariah's song? (vv68-75)
4. What will John do when he grows up? (vv76-79)
5. Why did the people of Judah need reminding of the covenant that they had with God?
6. What is the meaning of Christmas according to this passage?
7. How will the study of these passages from Luke 1 affect the way that you celebrate Christmas this year?