

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) in shades of green and blue, dancing across a dark, starry night sky. Below the sky, a wide, flat landscape is covered in a thick layer of snow, with several small, dark evergreen trees scattered across the horizon.

The Beginning of the Gospel
A Devotional Study in Luke 1 and 2
Advent, 2018

Trinity Fellowship
Friendswood, Texas

Certainty and Continuity

Luke 1:1-25

Preaching Date: November 25, 2018

Key Sentence: The gospel is the fulfillment of God's Big Story

Objective: That we would have confidence in this Gospel record.

Outline:

I. The Certainty of the Gospel (Luke 1:1-4)

II. The Continuity of the Gospel (Luke 1:5-25)

Luke 1:3-4 it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

“Such knowledge can be yours. How? By some mystical experience? By a deep study of philosophy? No: by reading and meditating on the plain facts of the story of Jesus, set out here in Luke's Gospel. That is where you may come to know the basic certainties of life.”

Michael Wilcock: *The Savior of the World*

Luke 1:16-17 “And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

John is the forerunner who will prepare the way, the first messenger in Malachi 3:1, the beginning of God's fulfillment of his covenant promises. That's the significance of these verses and these allusions to prophecy: God will always renew his work in his people's lives. And that's the way we need to take it for ourselves. We need to learn that God will always renew his work in us.

Preaching Date: November 25, 2018

This week's passage: Luke 1:1-25

Lesson 1

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Underline the thoughts that stand out to you.

Write out one verse that stands out to you.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple of observations you make as you consider the whole passage. Consider the important events, people and teachings.

What connects this passage to God's Big Story of redemption and rescue?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. Is there a way that this passage connects with your life or resonates with your heart?

Pray God's word back to Him. Give Him thanks for the truths that He has revealed in this passage.

Preaching Date: November 25, 2018

This week's passage: Luke 1:1-25

Lesson 2

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Mark all the references to God in a distinctive way.

Write out one verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse than Day 1.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple more observations as you consider the main passage. Is there something that stands out to you about God (Father, Son or Spirit) from this portion of Scripture?

How does this passage display the character and plans of God?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. What did you learn about God that could impact the way you think about Him or respond to Him?

Pray God's word back to Him. Talk to God about what you have learned and how you desire to respond.

Preaching Date: November 25, 2018

This week's passage: Luke 1:1-25

Lesson 3

Read the Scripture passage for the week once again. Mark repeated words or phrases and thoughts that seem important to Luke.

Write out the verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse from Day 1 and 2.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down one or two more observations as you consider the passage a final time. If you like, use an English or Greek dictionary, a concordance or the cross references in your Bible to further explore interesting words or phrases.

What thoughts from this passage lead you toward wonder and worship?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. How do Luke's key thoughts impact your thinking? How would you like them to impact your words, your actions, and your attitudes?

Pray God's word back to Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your responses to the truths you have been considering this week.

Remember Wonder Luke 1:26-56

Preaching Date: December 2, 2018

Key Sentence: God astounds us with the undeserved gift of His Son

Objective: That we would magnify His love.

Outline:

- I. The Astounding Gift (Luke 1:26-38)
- II. Blessed are those that believe (Luke 1:39-45)
- III. Our Souls Magnify the Lord (Luke 1:46-56)

***Luke 1:30-35** And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.*

“The real difficulty, the supreme mystery with which the gospel confronts us, does not lie here at all. It lies not in the Good Friday message of atonement, nor in the Easter message of resurrection, but in the Christmas message of incarnation. The really staggering Christian claim is that Jesus of Nazareth was God made man, and that he took humanity without loss of deity, so that Jesus of Nazareth was as truly and fully divine as He was human.”

J. I. Packer ***Knowing God***

Preaching Date: December 2, 2018

This week's passage: Luke 1:26-56

Lesson 1

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Underline the thoughts that stand out to you.

Write out one verse that stands out to you.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple of observations you make as you consider the whole passage. Consider the important events, people and teachings.

What connects this passage to God's Big Story of redemption and rescue?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. Is there a way that this passage connects with your life or resonates with your heart?

Pray God's word back to Him. Give Him thanks for the truths that He has revealed in this passage.

Preaching Date: December 2, 2018

This week's passage: Luke 1:26-56

Lesson 2

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Mark all the references to God in a distinctive way.

Write out one verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse than Day 1.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple more observations as you consider the main passage. Is there something that stands out to you about God (Father, Son or Spirit) from this portion of Scripture?

How does this passage display the character and plans of God?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage.
What did you learn about God that could impact the way you think about Him or respond to Him?

Pray God's word back to Him. Talk to God about what you have learned and how you desire to respond.

Preaching Date: December 2, 2018

This week's passage: Luke 1:26-56

Lesson 3

Read the Scripture passage for the week once again. Mark repeated words or phrases and thoughts that seem important to Luke.

Write out the verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse from Day 1 and 2.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down one or two more observations as you consider the passage a final time. If you like, use an English or Greek dictionary, a concordance or the cross references in your Bible to further explore interesting words or phrases.

What thoughts from this passage lead you toward wonder and worship?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. How do Luke's key thoughts impact your thinking? How would you like them to impact your words, your actions, and your attitudes?

Pray God's word back to Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your responses to the truths you have been considering this week

Dawn

Luke 1:57-80

Preaching Date: December 9, 2018

Key Sentence: This is the dawn that brings the light of the world

Objective: That we would rejoice to see our salvation coming.

Outline:

I. Rejoice in the anticipation of God's grace. (Luke 1:57-66)

II. Praise the arrival of God's redemption. (Luke 1:67-75)

III. Prepare for the preaching of God's forgiveness. (Luke 1:76-80)

***Luke 1:76-79** And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

It was 6:20 A.M. The sun had not yet risen, but the evidence of its rising was clear. The sky to the east was pearly blue, shading to pink near the horizon. The wispy silhouettes of the clouds were pink and gray against the subtle colors of the sky. About a third of the way up, the crescent moon shined brilliantly. Though it was a crescent, you could see the whole disk by reflected Earthlight. And further down was a jewel set among the clouds, a planet, probably Venus, shining as a morning star. And all of this, every bit, illuminated by the light of a sun, that had not yet even risen. It was the dawn.

That's where we are in Luke. It is the dawn. And the light of the Son who has not yet even risen illuminates our forgiveness, and our redemption, and our rejoicing.

Preaching Date: December 9, 2018

This week's passage: Luke 1:57-80

Lesson 1

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Underline the thoughts that stand out to you.

Write out one verse that stands out to you.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple of observations you make as you consider the whole passage. Consider the important events, people and teachings.

What connects this passage to God's Big Story of redemption and rescue?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. Is there a way that this passage connects with your life or resonates with your heart?

Pray God's word back to Him. Give Him thanks for the truths that He has revealed in this passage.

Preaching Date: December 9, 2018

This week's passage: Luke 1:57-80

Lesson 2

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Mark all the references to God in a distinctive way.

Write out one verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse than Day 1.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple more observations as you consider the main passage. Is there something that stands out to you about God (Father, Son or Spirit) from this portion of Scripture?

How does this passage display the character and plans of God?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage.
What did you learn about God that could impact the way you think about Him or respond to Him?

Pray God's word back to Him. Talk to God about what you have learned and how you desire to respond.

Preaching Date: December 9, 2018

This week's passage: Luke 1:57-80

Lesson 3

Read the Scripture passage for the week once again. Mark repeated words or phrases and thoughts that seem important to Luke.

Write out the verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse from Day 1 and 2.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down one or two more observations as you consider the passage a final time. If you like, use an English or Greek dictionary, a concordance or the cross references in your Bible to further explore interesting words or phrases.

What thoughts from this passage lead you toward wonder and worship?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. How do Luke's key thoughts impact your thinking? How would you like them to impact your words, your actions, and your attitudes?

Pray God's word back to Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your responses to the truths you have been considering this week.

Good News of Great Joy Luke 2:1-20

Preaching Date: December 16, 2018

Key Sentence: God has broken into history to be with us!

Objective: That we would rejoice in His presence

Outline:

I. God has stepped into human poverty (Luke 2:1-7)

II. God has announced his presence (Luke 2:8-14)

III. We glorify God for what he has done (Luke 2:15-20)

Luke 2:10-12 *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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."*

We now see what it meant for the Son of God to empty himself and become poor. It meant a laying aside of glory; a voluntary restraint of power; an acceptance of hardship; finally, a death full of spiritual and physical agony. The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity - hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory, because at the Father's will Jesus Christ became poor and was born in a stable so that thirty years later he might hang on a cross.

J. I. Packer ***Knowing God***

Preaching Date: December 16, 2018

This week's passage: Luke 2:1-20

Lesson 1

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Underline the thoughts that stand out to you.

Write out one verse that stands out to you.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple of observations you make as you consider the whole passage. Consider the important events, people and teachings.

What connects this passage to God's Big Story of redemption and rescue?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. Is there a way that this passage connects with your life or resonates with your heart?

Pray God's word back to Him. Give Him thanks for the truths that He has revealed in this passage.

Preaching Date: December 16, 2018

This week's passage: Luke 2:1-20

Lesson 2

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Mark all the references to God in a distinctive way.

Write out one verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse than Day 1.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple more observations as you consider the main passage. Is there something that stands out to you about God (Father, Son or Spirit) from this portion of Scripture?

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Write down one or two personal applications from this passage.
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Preaching Date: December 16, 2018

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Lesson 3

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He is Faithful

Luke 2:21-40

Preaching Date: December 23, 2018

Key Sentence: To the faithful He shows himself faithful

Objective: The we have confidence in His faithfulness

Outline:

I. Joseph and Mary were faithful (Luke 2:21-24, 39-40)

II. Simeon was faithful (Luke 2:25-35)

III. Anna was faithful (Luke 2:36-38)

Luke 2:39-40 *And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.*

From “25 Questions for Mary”

Did you ever feel awkward teaching him how he created the world? When he saw a lamb being led to the slaughter, did he act funny? What did he and his cousin John talk about as kids. How did he act at funerals? Did the thought ever occur to you that the God to whom you were praying was asleep under your own roof? Did you ever think, “That’s God eating my soup?”

Max Lucado ***God Came Near***

Preaching Date: December 23, 2018

This week's passage: Luke 2:21-40

Lesson 1

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Underline the thoughts that stand out to you.

Write out one verse that stands out to you.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple of observations you make as you consider the whole passage. Consider the important events, people and teachings.

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Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. Is there a way that this passage connects with your life or resonates with your heart?

Pray God's word back to Him. Give Him thanks for the truths that He has revealed in this passage.

Preaching Date: December 23, 2018

This week's passage: Luke 2:21-40

Lesson 2

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Mark all the references to God in a distinctive way.

Write out one verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse than Day 1.

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The Passover Plot

Luke 2:41-52

Preaching Date: December 30, 2018

Key Sentence: Jesus understood the priority of his relationship with his Father

Objective: That we make relationship with God the first priority in our lives

Outline:

- I. Passover (Luke 2:41-42)
- II. Pursuit (Luke 2:43-45)
- III. Priority (Luke 2:46-50)
- IV. Plan (Luke 2:51-52)

Luke 2:39-40 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

From “25 Questions for Mary”

Did you ever feel awkward teaching him how he created the world? When he saw a lamb being led to the slaughter, did he act funny? What did he and his cousin John talk about as kids. How did he act at funerals? Did the thought ever occur to you that the God to whom you were praying was asleep under your own roof? Did you ever think, “That’s God eating my soup?”

Max Lucado *God Came Near*

Preaching Date: December 30, 2018

This week's passage: Luke 2:41-52

Lesson 1

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Underline the thoughts that stand out to you.

Write out one verse that stands out to you.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

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What connects this passage to God's Big Story of redemption and rescue?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. Is there a way that this passage connects with your life or resonates with your heart?

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Preaching Date: December 30, 2018

This week's passage: Luke 2:41-52

Lesson 2

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Mark all the references to God in a distinctive way.

Write out one verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse than Day 1.

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