

NATIVITY

WEEK 1: A BIRTH ANNOUNCED

DAY 1: READ LUKE 1:26-38

How does Mary respond to the angel's announcement about God's plans for the birth of Jesus? When have you encountered the promises of God in unlikely, unbelievable or extraordinary ways? What is Mary's response to God's promise? How can we tangibly model our obedience, faith and behavior to better obey and pursue the promises and call of God in our lives?

DAY 2: READ LUKE 2:8-21

How does an angel of the Lord announce the birth of Jesus to the shepherds? How do the shepherds respond? What did they do? Think back to when you first encountered the good news of Jesus? What was your response? Why?

DAY 3: READ LUKE 2:8-21

In verses 13-14, how does heaven treat the announcement of Jesus' birth? How do the shepherds respond in verse 20? As we focus more closely on the tremendous, life-changing, world-healing arrival of Jesus, take time to praise God. How are you thankful for Jesus? Tell Him. Thank Him. Just like the multitudes of heavenly hosts and lowly shepherds, choose to ascribe glory, honor and praise to God Most High.

DAY 4: READ LUKE 1:39-55

In verse 45, what does Elizabeth say about the fulfillment of God's promises through Jesus? Have you written off God's promises or discounted the Holy Spirit's stirrings before? Why? How does Mary reflect on the fulfillment of God's promises to her in verses 46-55? Here, she her praises to God express a greater perspective looking at the whole of Israel and its long, storied history with God. Look at God's faithfulness and promises in your own life or the life of your family. Now try to recognize the work of God in your life from His greater, deeper perspective.

DAY 4 CONTINUED ON BACK...



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A MT. MOREB CHRISTMAS SERIES

For instance, how is God breaking your family from the bonds of generational addiction? Is He healing marriages to spur your children to godly understanding of relationships? The work of God is beautiful and both broad and personal in scope.

DAY 5: READ MATTHEW 2

How does King Herod respond to the news of Jesus' birth? How does Herod's response affect others? Does Herod's response change the fulfillment of God's promise? How does God protect and provide for His promise in Jesus from a murderous king? How does Joseph obey God's direction throughout this ordeal? When people refuse to receive the Good News of Jesus and intend to harm us, what can we learn from this situation in regard to our willingness to listen and obey the Lord and His promises?

DAY 6: READ PSALM 89

What similarities do you see between this psalm and lives of those involved in the announcement and birth of Jesus? Specifically, look at verses 14-18. How do you think Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, Elizabeth (and Zechariah) would have identified with the words of this psalm as it talks about God's promise to David, God's promises, power, provision and protection?

DAY 7: READ ISAIAH 9:1-7, JEREMIAH 31

The announcement of Jesus' birth, while sudden, was no random movement of God. God didn't just randomly decide to send Jesus to be born of the Holy Spirit to a virgin girl named Mary. Scripture is soaked with centuries of God's promise of Jesus. And His word remained true. Perhaps you're waiting for God's promises or deliverance; while the wait might be longer than we want, be encouraged and remember that our God is true to His word and is faithful to complete the things He promised. Just like Mary, Joseph, David, the prophets, shepherds, the disciples and martyrs, we must cling solely to God and prayerfully expect the fulfillment of His promises.