



JESUS

THE EARLY YEARS

Luke 2:22-4:13 • March - April 2022

Overview

For many years, our mission statement has been “Helping People Become Total Followers of Jesus Christ.” It means we’ve been sent into the world like Jesus on a mission to help people discover and follow Jesus for themselves. It’s not something ‘the church’ does for us but something we as the church help one another pursue together. And if we are about becoming more like Jesus, it makes sense that we will need to spend time watching him at work and imitating his ways.

This series is a statement of intent. A first step into observing the life of Jesus together. And as they say, the beginning is a very good place to start. So here we go, let’s gaze at Jesus together in his very earliest years.

Outline

1. Luke 2:22-40
2. Luke 2:41-52
3. Luke 3:1-20
4. Luke 3:21-22
5. Luke 4:1-13
6. Luke 4:14-30

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Week 1 • 27 March 2022 • Luke 2:22-40

1. Who is the most humble person you know? What is it about that person that makes them humble?

2. Although Mary and Joseph knew they had given birth to the son of God, they did everything the law required.
 - a. Why do you think obedience is so important to God?
(Matthew 28:19-20)

3. Have a read of Philippians 2:3-11. In what ways did Jesus show humility?

4. What would it look like to imitate Christ's humility in your life?



5. Are there situations or areas of your life that you feel entitled to? How could you approach them with Christ like humility & obedience?

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Week 2 • 3 April 2022 • Luke 2:41-52

1. What was your favourite subject at school?

2. How do you learn new things best?

3. Jesus' family took part in Israel's religious customs (v42)
 - a. What customs do we have in Christian community?

 - b. In what ways do you see these contributing to spiritual growth over time?

4. Have a look at v46-47:
 - a. What do you see about how Jesus' learned?

 - b. To what extent does your life group reflect Jesus' approach?

Here's a way you could try to adopt Jesus' learning model straight away. It's called "The Swedish Method" and can help study a passage together. It involves three questions:

1. **Light Bulb** - What shines out from the page and grabs your attention?
2. **Question Mark** - Is there anything that's hard to understand or that you'd like to ask the author or the Lord about?
3. **Arrow** - What would an application look like in your life?

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Week 3 • 10 April 2022 • Luke 3:1-20

1. Have you been baptised? If so, why not share the story with the group.

2. In light of Sunday's message, what do you now understand about the difference between John's baptism and the baptism he talks of in Luke 3:16?

3. Repentance is more than an apology but a change of behaviour (Luke 3:8).
 - a. What examples does John give for his listeners? (v11-14)

 - b. What other examples does Paul give in Ephesians 4:24-32 that show the fruit of repentance?

 - c. As you think of some sinful practices that are common for us, what might a positive alternative (fruit of repentance) look like?



4. Pray for one another that the Holy Spirit would empower us towards true repentance and changed lives (Luke 3:16).

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Week 4 • 24 April 2022 • Luke 3:21-22

1. Practise introducing yourself without mentioning you where you work/study and where you live.
 - a. How did you find that? What does it say about the things that most identify us?
 - b. What does the passage say about Jesus' identity?
2. Romans 6:3-14 describes the spiritual significance of baptism as a symbol of the beginning of our new life in Jesus Christ. Go through this passage and talk about all the different things you declare when getting baptised.
3. Do you struggle with having your identity in what you do for work/hobbies/study?
 - a. Imagine if your current situation changed drastically tomorrow. In what ways might it challenge your identity?



- b. How might you find contentment in being a child of God?

4. This is the first of many examples Luke gives of Jesus' life of prayer. Look at these insights into Jesus' prayer life and teaching on prayer in Luke's gospel:
 - a. Luke 5:15–16
 - b. Luke 6:12–16
 - c. Luke 11:2–8
 - d. Luke 18:1–8
 - e. Luke 22:31–32
 - f. Luke 23:34

5. What step could you take to have a practice of prayer more like Jesus?

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Week 5 • 1 May 2022 • Luke 4:1-13

1. How would you define temptation?
 - a. How is the word used in our society (e.g. advertising)?
 - b. To what extent does this affect how we see it?

In the times of testing, Jesus responds by quoting verses from Deuteronomy (each is related to Israel's experiences in the wilderness).

2. Have a look at the verses Jesus uses (and maybe some around them) Deuteronomy 6:13, 16 and 8:3.
 - a. Are there any themes you can see?
 - b. What do you think the main thing Satan might have been challenging Jesus to do?
3. One of the things being challenged was identity. Having heard a voice from heaven affirming his sonship (4:22), Satan effectively asks Jesus to prove it.



- a. What are some verses that help us understand who we are in Christ? (Here's a couple to get you started - 2 Corinthians 5:17 & 21; 1 John 3:1).
 - b. Do you have any trouble believing these for yourself? What's that like?
 - c. In what ways might we be tempted to prove them rather than just accept them?
4. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. It shows God allows us to experience times of testing to help us grow.
- a. As you think about some of the trials in your life, what are you learning about God and about yourself through it?
 - b. This might be a good moment to pray for one another, especially if we're struggling to see God's work in the middle of the trials.

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Week 6 • 8 May 2022 • Luke 4:14-30

1. Luke comments that attending synagogue and taking part in the public reading of Scripture were “customs” for Jesus.
 - a. What habits and customs have been most transformational in your Christian journey?
 - b. Are there any you think would be good to begin? What might help you be consistent?

2. In verses 18-19, Jesus announces himself onto the stage (quoting Isaiah 58:6 & 61:12).
 - a. What priorities does this show Jesus had? (see also Acts 10:38 & 25:17-18)
 - b. What does it look like practically for us to follow him in this?

Both the Hebrew word “Messiah” and Greek word “Christ” mean anointed (4:18). One of the most controversial claims Jesus makes is that Isaiah’s prophecy related to himself.

3. Exclusivity remains a big contention for many people today, even for some Christians. Check out this quote:

“One of the biggest mistakes humans make is to believe there’s only one way. Actually, there are many diverse paths leading to God.” Oprah Winfrey

- a. What might you ask or say in response to someone who agreed with Oprah?
- b. Why is exclusivity an essential Christian doctrine? What verses might you use to support this?

If exclusivity is something you’re interested in finding out more about, why not check out Mark Clark’s book “The Problem of God: Answering a Skeptic’s Challenges to Christianity.”