

# THE LIFE OF JESUS

Part 1 – Birth and Childhood  
Incense and a Tablet  
December 4, 2016  
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## ► Discussion Guide

The most important thing you can do this week is pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. This guide is designed to help you:

- Communicate with God
- Connect with Christians
- Care for Others

## Opening

Name one experience you're glad you had this past week.

## Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

Respond to the following questions using [Luke 1:5-66](#) (readings #3-6 in *The Life of Jesus*)

1. Gabriel, the angel of the Lord, brings some astounding news to Zechariah about his son who is to be born ([Luke 1:11-17](#)). How does Zechariah respond ([Luke 1:12, 18](#))? Do you find yourself sympathetic or critical of his response? Explain.
2. How is Gabriel's message to Mary even more extraordinary than the message to Zechariah ([Luke 1:26-37](#))?
3. The visit with her cousin Elizabeth bolstered Mary's faith for the amazing event to come. As expressed in her song of response, what kind of God does she believe in ([Luke 1:46-55](#))?  
*Our God is a God who...*
4. How much do you think about a spiritual reality (God being present and active) beyond the visible things you see as you go about your day? How could you be more in-tune to God's presence?

5. Why was the announcement of a Savior so significant and striking during this time in history?
6. Share a time God surprised you beyond what you ever imagined.
7. How did Zechariah, Elizabeth and Mary each express their faith?
8. What was stirring in each of their hearts after they encountered God? Have you ever felt that way? Explain.
9. What are specific ways you express your faith in God?
10. After studying this story, how would you describe God's heart for us (His disposition and intention toward humanity)? What parts of Luke 1 tell you this is so?

## Soul Training

Commit yourself to the Daily Readings this week. Use this time to develop or strengthen the habit of daily time in God's word.

## Memory Verse

*And he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to make ready for the Lord a prepared people.*

[Luke 1:17 \(HCSB\)](#)

## Daily Reading

Day	<i>The Life of Jesus</i> Reading #	or	Bible Reference
Dec 5	1, 2		<a href="#">Luke 1:1-4; John 1:1-18</a>
Dec 6	3		<a href="#">Luke 1:5-25</a>
Dec 7	4		<a href="#">Luke 1:26-38</a>
Dec 8	5		<a href="#">Luke 1:39-56</a>
Dec 9	6		<a href="#">Luke 1:57-66</a>

## Prepare for Next Week

Sunday morning's message will come from [Matt. 1:18-25](#); [Luke 1:26-28](#); [2:1-20](#). These can be found in readings #7-12 in *The Life of Jesus*.



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