

B O R N

T H E K I N G H A S C O M E

SERMON SERIES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDY

1) Begin with prayer. Below are examples of prayers appropriate for personal study time and small group use. Your small group may want to consider using Living Room Liturgy by Winfield Bevins, Seedbed Publishing 2020.

Personal prayer- Father God, help me to know the wonderful things you have freely given me through your Son, Jesus Christ. I listen now for his voice as I look to the Scriptures and study. Jesus grant me a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that I will serve and love well. Holy Spirit, teach me and help me to live by faith that I may bring all glory to God. Thank you for teaching me to do what is good and leading me in the way I should go. May your Word be a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. Amen.

Small group prayer- Dear Lord, you created us for relationship and community. The earliest Christians devoted themselves to the breaking of bread and prayer, to the apostles' teaching and reflection on your word, they ate together with glad and sincere hearts, and served those who were in need. We thank you for the gift of this small group fellowship. May we grow together by following their examples of mutual prayer, support, and encouragement. Unite us together in the bonds of this fellowship and use our small group as a means of grace that we may draw closer to you. Amen.

2) Watch/ listen to the sermon again prior to your study or meeting.

3) Read the suggested text in preparation for the meeting. Consider reading in several different Bible versions (suggestion- use <https://www.biblegateway.com> to access other versions). Are there nuances that help you to see different things in the text?

4) Consider reading the suggested text aloud at your small group meeting.

5) Important questions to consider: What is the context of this scripture? What was happening at the time in which the scripture was written? How does this passage relate to our world now?

6) Utilize your Bible Study Notes if you have a study Bible. Compare notes from different group members Bible versions. Some may be very text specific; others may provide good cross references and others may be more application oriented.

7) Consult a biblical commentary or trusted website for additional insight or guidance if you desire a more in-depth understanding or if you are unsure.

8) Encourage everyone to participate and be respectful of your group members. Try not to dominate the conversation.

9) Practice confidentiality. Never share personal thoughts or struggles of other group members.



Week 1

Text: Isaiah 9: 6- 7

Topic(s): God's Promises, Salvation, Prophecy

Core Value(s): Learning, Mission

Application Point: The birth of Christ was foretold to reveal God's plan of salvation.

Deeper Dive: Isaiah Chapter 9; Matthew 1: 1, 22-23

Bible Study Questions:

1. The Book of Isaiah preserves the divinely inspired prophecies Isaiah made during his ministry of >40 years in the 700's BC. What was happening in Judah at this time?
2. What is the prophecy in these verses?
3. By what names will the child be called?
4. What characteristics are implied by the names the child will be called?
5. Which characteristics foretell of a mortal human? Of the Divine God?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. What expectations might the first people who heard this prophecy have had for this child?
3. Prayerfully approach the reading of Isaiah 9:6, narrowing your attention to the phrase "Mighty God." Discuss the ways Isaiah might have intended the use of this phrase as applied to God's Messiah.
4. What is the eternal significance of the identity of this baby being given the title "Mighty God" for us? Why is this an announcement of "great joy"?
5. How often do you personally think of Jesus being fully God and fully human? Which do you tend to focus more on –Christ's deity or humanity? Why?
6. In a world filled with war, violence and discord, these verses promised a child who would be the embodiment of peace. Read John 14:27; Romans 5:8-10; Romans 5:1; John 10:27-28; Galatians 5:22-23. Discuss the ultimate fulfillment of Christ's work as "Prince of Peace."
7. How can we pray for you?



Week 2

Text: Luke 1: 67- 80

Topic(s): God's Promises, Salvation, Prophecy, Holy Spirit

Core Value(s): Worship, Mission, Learning

Application Point: Zechariah prophesies what John the Baptist's role will be in preparing the people to receive Jesus.

Deeper Dive: Luke Chapter 1

Bible Study Questions:

1. Luke wrote his Gospel to provide an orderly account of the beginnings of Christianity so that the reader would have reliable information about Jesus Christ. When did the events of this book happen?
2. These verses are filled with OT quotations & allusions and are referred to as the _____.
3. Zechariah expounded on 4 ideas: 1. An exhortation to praise God, 2. The reason God should be praised, 3. Deliverance for Israel through the Messiah, 4. The ministry John would have. Discuss each of these.
4. What do the horns of an animal symbolize in verse 69?
5. What was God's Holy Covenant---the oath that He swore to our father Abraham? (Genesis 12:1-3)
6. Born as a Levite, John the Baptist's ministry would have begun when (Num 4:46-47)? Where was he living prior to his ministry and Why?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. According to verses 74-75, what's the outcome of God saving his people?
3. According to verse 76, before whom will Zechariah's son go to prepare the way? What does this tell us about God (Is 40:3; Mal 3:1)?
4. How is salvation described in verse 77? What's the significance in understanding salvation in terms of sin and forgiveness?
5. According to verse 78, what's the reason for this salvation? What does this tell us about God?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 3

Scripture: Luke 1: 26- 56

Topic(s): God's Promises, Submission, Holy Spirit

Core Value(s): Worship, Mission, Fellowship

Application Point: God will uphold his promise, no matter how unfaithful we may be.

Deeper Dive: Read Luke Chapter 1

Bible Study Questions:

1. We have learned that Luke takes great pains to provide a clear chronology and geography of the Holy Family's various journeys prior to and after Jesus' birth on Christmas. Where is Mary throughout these verses? Why is location important?
2. The Angel Gabriel was sent by God. What was the second word to Mary, also repeated in v. 30? Why was Mary favored?
3. Mary is troubled for two reasons; What were they (v.29 & 34-35)?
4. Why is "David" also being called the "father" (Luke 1:32) of Jesus?
5. Why will Jesus "be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35)?
6. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit; what did the Spirit reveal to her & how?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. What makes Gabriel's news to Mary shocking? How is it shocking for her personally? How is it shocking to the world?
3. How is Mary's response different from Zechariah's response earlier in the chapter? What example does Mary set for us?
4. How did Mary express her faith? The Magnificat is not only a memory of God's salvific acts, but also a prophecy that God will continue to act in this way, that God is faithful. Would you have been able to accept and respond as Mary did?
5. What spiritual virtue does Mary demonstrate? How can we live out this virtue?
6. What *lessons* does Mary provide for us, as God changes our plans?
7. God chose Elizabeth and Mary to be a part of His amazing plan. Notice how kind God was to give these women each other to understand and encourage one another. God often gives us a friend to help us and encourage us as we follow Him. It is right to encourage those who are doing God's work (1 Thessalonians 5:11). How can you encourage a friend who is doing what God wants him/her to do?
8. God still uses regular people to be involved in His plan! Discuss examples of this in our church or in your life.
9. How can we pray for you?



Week 4

Text: Romans 5: 18- 19

Topic(s): God's Promises, Salvation, Righteousness

Core Value(s): Worship, Mission

Application Point: Jesus Christ came into the world to save us

Deeper Dive: Read Romans Chapter 5

"In the whole Bible there is hardly another chapter which can equal this triumphant text." (Martin Luther)

Bible Study Questions:

1. The contrasts in these verses are simple yet profound:
One _____ led to _____ for all men
One act of _____ leads to _____ and _____ for all men

By the one man's _____ the many were made sinners
By the one man's _____ the many will be made righteous
2. Who is Paul referring to when he says one man?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Why does Adam's sin affect us today?
3. From these verses, in what ways are Adam and Christ similar?
4. From these verses, in what ways are Adam and Christ different?
5. Have you ever wished that you would be free from sin?
6. Think about an area of your life, your community or the world that demonstrates the brokenness of sin. What would that area look like if there was a "reign of grace" instead of a reign of death?
7. What are you doing in your life right now (this week) to reflect what the new Adam (Christ) has done for you, how are you reigning in new life?
8. How can we pray for you?



Christmas Eve

Text: Luke 2: 8- 20

Topic(s): God's Promises

Core Value(s): Worship, Mission

Application Point: Jesus is born into this world.

Deeper Dive: Read Luke Chapter 2

Bible Study Questions:

1. What's symbolic about God announcing Jesus' birth to some of the lowliest members of society? How do you go about sharing big news in your life?
2. How does the appearance of the angel of the Lord to the shepherds relate to Mary's song in Luke 1:46-55?
3. What did the angel reveal about Jesus' uniqueness? What three titles are given to Jesus in verse 11? What is significant about them?
4. As Jews, the shepherds probably knew a little something about the coming Messiah. What might they have thought about the mixed messages of "Savior" and "in a feeding trough"?
5. What do we learn about God's love for us through the shepherds' encounter with the angels?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. How can these verses reassure you when you're tempted to feel unworthy of God's love?
3. How would you describe to someone that Jesus is fully divine and fully human?
4. Have you ever had an undeniable encounter with God? If so, describe the experience. What made it so evident God was present? How did you respond to Him?
5. What keeps us from embracing the message of Jesus with the same abandonment as the shepherds?
6. Jesus went from a throne in heaven to a manger in a stable. How does this single act demonstrate how much God loves each and every one of us?
7. Spend some time praying for the loved ones in your group members' lives who don't know Jesus personally. Pray that the gospel would reach these individuals' lives, and pray for you and your group members to have the courage to be the ones who deliver the good news.
8. How can we pray for you?