

## **Newington '25 – 'A Year in the Gospels' together #2 (Dec. 9-14)**

**Dec. 9-14/ Day 1: Read Luke 1:5-25:**

***Q. Think of a time when you found it difficult to trust in God's promises. How did you come to rest more fully in His promises?***

***Q. How do our doubts about God's promises impact your witness to others?***

**Dec. 9-14/Day 2: Read Luke 1:26-38:**

***Q. Compare the response of Mary to that of Zacharias in verse 5-25. What similarities or differences do you see?***

***Q. To whom do you most closely relate in responding to God's message for your life – Mary or Zacharias? Why?***

**Dec. 9-14/Day 3: Read Luke 1:39-56:**

***Q. In v. 41, Elizabeth is filled w/ the Holy Spirit. How can we slow down & listen for the Spirit's guidance in our lives?***

***Q. What are you trusting in God to provide? Why? How are you praying to God as part of this trusting?***

**Dec. 9-14/Day 4: Read Luke 1:57-80:**

***Q. What truths about salvation are emphasized in this passage?***

***Q. How can you acknowledge God's salvation plan in your life? What is it like to share that knowledge w/ others?***

**Dec. 9-14/Day 5: Read Matthew 1:18-25:**

***Q. How do we go about recognizing God's direction, even when it seems to make little sense?***

***Q. Sometimes God's provisioning or answers to prayer seem to create chaos. How do we go about serving the will of God even when it seems to not make sense?***

**Dec. 9-14/Day 6: Study and Meditation on God's Word:**

***Q. Compare the birth stories in Luke and Matthew. Why the difference in the texts between the two authors?***

***Q. How can we extend our daily trust in God through life's troubling circumstances?***

***Q. When you read the story of the birth of Christ, what is your initial response?***

# Newington '25 – 'A Year in the Gospels' together #2 (thoughts)

Dec. 9-14/ Day 1: Read Luke 1:5-25:

**Q. Think of a time when you found it difficult to trust in God's promises. How did you come to rest more fully in His promises?** [Remembering what He has done in the past. Realizing that worry is not going to change the situation.]

**Q. How do our doubts about God's promises impact your witness to others?**

[It gets our mind off of Him, or off on what He WILL do... and onto our current situation.]

Dec. 9-14/Day 2: Read Luke 1:26-38:

**Q. Compare the response of Mary to that of Zacharias in verse 5-25. What similarities or differences do you see?**

[They both questioned the angel, but Zechariah focused on words/mind of whether he could believe – “how will I know this?”. Mary's question focused more on reality of being a virgin, but still praised God for His plan.]

**Q. To whom do you most closely relate in responding to God's message for your life – Mary or Zacharias? Why?**

[Mary. I do tend to be a pretty trusting person; but I still wonder & question God's plans when I'm not sure ]

Dec. 9-14/Day 3: Read Luke 1:39-56:

**Q. In v. 41, Elizabeth is filled w/ the Holy Spirit. How can we slow down & listen for the Spirit's guidance in our lives?**

[Close our eyes, turn off the technology, think about what just happened in the last 48 hours concentrating on what happened that you didn't have an impact or answer for.]

**Q. What are you trusting in God to provide? Why? How are you praying to God as part of this trusting?**

[Time, resources, good weather, can't do it alone. Praying, I trust God first before changing the situation.]

Dec. 9-14/Day 4: Read Luke 1:57-80:

**Q. What truths about salvation are emphasized in this passage?**

[Deliverance from enemy (74); holiness/righteousness (75); knowledge (77); forgiveness (77); mercy (78)]

**Q. How can you acknowledge God's salvation plan in your life? What is it like to share that knowledge w/ others?**

[Thank Him. Live it out. It is our mission to share it. Share your life, experiences, & life change.]

Dec. 9-14/Day 5: Read Matthew 1:18-25:

**Q. How do we go about recognizing God's direction, even when it seems to make little sense?**

[“consider” the things of God. To consider means that you have a partial or full understanding of God from His word.]

**Q. Sometimes God's provisioning or answers to prayer seem to create chaos. How do we go about serving the will of God even when it seems to not make sense?** [Remember things of the past which were similar that God answered us]

Dec. 9-14/Day 6: Study and Meditation on God's Word:

**Q. Compare the birth stories in Luke and Matthew. Why the difference in the texts between the two authors?**

[Their background. What they already knew and who their audience was.]

**Q. How can we extend our daily trust in God through life's troubling circumstances?** [Be thankful. Remember the past.]

**Q. When you read the story of the birth of Christ, what is your initial response?**

[Thankfulness.]