

Why I Need The Christmas Story: “Staying Focused”
Luke 2:1-20

I find myself getting caught up in the business of the Christmas season—Christmas parties, buying gifts, long lines, guests, and extra work in getting ready for the “big day.” And, I lose perspective on life. I get a tunnel vision that tends to look at the next moment or next event or next whatever.

The pressures of Christmas can distract us from what is really important. So, I asked myself, why do I need the Christmas story? How does the story help me stay focused when my life is full of stress and distractions? Good question. Let’s let Luke help us work through a response.

- 1. I remember that _____ to the gods and enemies of this world.**
(Luke 2:1-3; 1:46-55)

- 2. I remember that God is fulfilling His plan _____.**
(Luke 2:4-7; 1:26-38, 45)

Day by Day in the Word

“Day by Day in the Word” is a tool we use to help us in the process of becoming more and more like Jesus and ultimately to bring glory to God. The biblical principle is: The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to bring about Christlikeness.

Monday-Tuesday

- Read Luke 2:4-7 and Philippians 2:5-11. The wrapping of Jesus in a cloth begins the humble emptying of Christ. Spend time in Philippians 2:5-11 identifying Christ’s humiliation (vv. 6-8) and exaltation (vv. 9-11). What does he “made himself nothing” mean?
- Christ’s birth was so simple and located in a tiny little village on the outer edge of the empire. This is not the normal setting for the birth of a king. Key question from this: what gives us worth and value and dignity? Is it money? Job? Status? What is it?
- What would it take for us to become convinced of our worth before God? What can you do this week to work in that area?
- Share the Christmas story with someone.

Wednesday-Thursday

- Read Luke 1-2. How would you respond to this statement, “The birth of Jesus is a lesson in God’s faithfulness, but it also reveals God’s heart and character”? What do you find in the text that describes God’s faithfulness as well as His heart and character?
- How does the emphasis upon “humility” in the text challenge us in our culture? Our culture focuses on size, bank account, and social resume. What else does it focus on? How does this influence the church? What can we do to become humble and guard against focusing on externals?
- How would you define “humility”? What could you do to become more humble? Put together a plan and share that with another individual. Be sure to celebrate what God is doing in your life.
- Share the Christmas story with someone.

Friday-Saturday

- Read Luke 1:46-56 and identify what God has done in her life and in the life of Israel. How does Mary respond to the actions of God? What does she actually do?
- Luke 1:50 focuses on those who “fear God.” How would you define what fearing God means? Discuss this with a group of friends. What can you practically do today to develop fear of the Lord in your life? Take steps to do that.
- Share the Christmas story with someone.