Luke 2

Christ is Born—Read Luke 2:1-7

1. Joseph and Mary were betrothed to be married (see v. 5) and were living in Nazareth (see v. 4). Mary was nearly ready to have her child (see v. 6), and it was foretold that the Christ would be born in Bethlehem (see Matthew 2:5-6; Micah 5:2). What circumstances caused Joseph to bring Mary, “great with child” (KJV), seventy miles to Bethlehem, fulfilling this prophecy (see vv. 1-3)?

2. Traveling seventy miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem was probably not something that Joseph and Mary wanted to do since she was “great with child.” Oftentimes, we have to submit to circumstances beyond our control. How do we know that God is in control of everything in our lives? (See Romans 8:28.)

3. While she and Joseph were in Bethlehem, the days were complete for Mary to deliver her child, and she brought forth her firstborn Son. Where did Mary have her child? Where did she lay him? Why? (See vv. 6-7.)

The Angels Announce Jesus to the Shepherds—Read Luke 2:8-14

4. On the night Mary gave birth to Jesus, who was living in fields nearby? What were they doing? (See v. 8.)
5. What did the shepherds see? How did they respond? (See v. 9.)

6. An angel of the Lord pronounced the birth of the Christ child (see v. 11). How did this angel, a messenger from God, describe this announcement (see v. 10)?

7. The messenger of the Lord described the child as “Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (see v. 11). What was Jesus’ primary mission? (See John 3:16-17; 1 Timothy 1:15; Matthew 1:21; 9:13.)

8. The angel told the shepherds to look for a specific sign. What was this sign? How would it be unusual? (See vv. 7, 12.)

9. If the angel of the Lord was not enough to make the shepherds greatly afraid (see v. 9), what did they see immediately after the messenger delivered his pronouncement (see v. 13)? How was this part of the mission of angels? (See Psalm 103:20; 148:2; Revelation 5:11.)

10. What did this heavenly host proclaim after the pronunciation of Christ’s birth (see v. 14)?
The Shepherds Visit Jesus—Read Luke 2:15-20

11. The angels returned to heaven (see v. 15). What did the shepherds decide after hearing and seeing this pronouncement (see v. 15)?

12. What did the shepherds find when they went to Bethlehem that night (see vv. 12, 16)?

13. Once the shepherds witnessed with their own eyes what the angel had told them they would find, they “made widely known the saying which was told them” (see v. 17). What was this saying (see v. 11)?

14. What was the response of those who heard what the shepherds made widely known (see v. 18)?

15. What did Mary do as all these events transpired before her (see v. 19)?

16. Where did the shepherds go? What did they do after this experience (see v. 20)?
Christ is Circumcised—Read Luke 2:21-24

17. The custom was to officially name a male child at his circumcision on the eighth day after his birth. What did Mary name her child? Why (see v. 21)? (See also Luke 1:31; Matthew 1:20-21.)

18. According to Leviticus 12:2-4, a woman was unclean after having a child and was required to observe days of purification. Once Mary’s days of purification were complete, they brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. How old was Jesus when He was presented (see v. 22)?

19. Why did Mary and Joseph present Jesus to the Lord (see v. 23)?

20. What was required payment when presenting a child to the Lord? Why? (See Numbers 3:13; 8:15-17; 18:15-16.)

21. What did Mary and Joseph offer when they presented Jesus (see v. 24)? Why? (See Leviticus 12:6-8.)

Simeon’s Prophecy—Read Luke 2:25-35

22. Luke described a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. What three characteristics did he point out about him? Why were they important? What was Simeon waiting for? (See v. 25.)
23. What had been revealed to Simeon? How had it been revealed to him? (See v. 26.)

24. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to be circumcised on the eighth day (see vv. 21, 27), Simeon was present. How did Simeon happen to be there at that time (see v. 27)? What did Simeon do with Jesus (see v. 28)?

25. Simeon uttered a psalm of praise, extolling God for fulfilling His promise to bring salvation. Whom did Simeon say this salvation was for (see vv. 30-32)? (See also Acts 10:45; 13:47; 28:28; Romans 9:24; Galatians 3:14.)

26. Simeon started his psalm of praise by saying, “According to Your word” (v. 29) and then described salvation as “a light to bring revelation” (v. 32). Why did he describe salvation as a light? (See Genesis 1:3; Isaiah 9:2; 42:6; 49:6; 60:1-3; John 8:12; 2 Corinthians 4:6; 1 John 1:5.)

27. How did Joseph and Mary respond to Simeon’s prophetic psalm (see v. 33)?
28. Simeon prophesied again, this time to Mary. The first thing he mentioned was that “this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel” (v. 34). What did this refer to? (See Isaiah 8:14; Hosea 14:9; Matthew 21:44; Romans 9:32; 1 Corinthians 1:23; 1 Peter 2:7-8.)

29. The second thing Simeon prophesied about the child was that He would be “a sign which will be spoken against” (v. 34). What did this refer to? (See Matthew 28:12-15; John 15:18; Acts 4:2; 17:32; 28:22; 1 Peter 2:12; 4:14.)

30. What was Simeon’s final prophetic message to Mary (see v. 35)? What was he referring to? (See John 19:25.)

Anna’s Testimony—Read Luke 2:36-38

31. Luke reported of another person who was in Jerusalem when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to be circumcised, Anna the prophetess (see v. 36). Carefully estimate her age as given by Luke (see vv. 36-37).

32. How did Luke describe the lifestyle of Anna the prophetess (see v. 37)?

33. What was Anna’s testimony of Jesus (see v. 38)?
Jesus Returns to Nazareth—Read Luke 2:39-40

34. After circumcising Jesus on the eighth day (see vv. 21, 27) and remaining an additional thirty-three days for Mary to complete her days of purification (see v. 22; Leviticus 12:2-4), Mary, Joseph, and the child returned to Nazareth (see v. 39). One of the few things we know about Jesus’ life from day forty until age twelve was recorded by Luke. What do we know about this part of His childhood (see v. 40)? What is another thing we know? (See Matthew 2:12-21.)

Jesus Celebrates the Passover—Read Luke 2:41-49

35. Luke recorded that Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of Passover (see v. 41). In the year that Jesus was twelve years old (see v. 42), what did He do after the Passover celebration was completed and everyone began returning to their own cities (see v. 43)?

36. What did Joseph and Mary suppose about the twelve-year-old Jesus (see vv. 43-44)?

37. Because of their incorrect supposition, Joseph and Mary were separated from Jesus. When were they reunited with Him? Why did it take so long (see vv. 44-46)?

38. Joseph and Mary sought Jesus (see v. 45), surely with all their heart, and found Him. Where did they find Him? What was He doing (see v. 46)?
39. When Joseph and Mary found Jesus, those who were with Him were astonished. Why (see vv. 40, 47)?

40. Joseph and Mary were amazed when they found Jesus because of where He was and what He was doing. What did His mother say to Him (see v. 48)?

41. In response to Mary’s question about why He had treated them in this manner, Jesus drew a sharp distinction between them and God, His true Father. His response confirmed His mission. What was the mission that His parents should have been aware of (see v. 49)? (See also John 4:34; 5:36; 17:4.)

42. Why do you think His parents did not understand His response (see v. 50)? (See also John 6:63.)

Jesus Grows in Wisdom—Read Luke 2:50-52

43. Luke provided us with a few insights into Jesus’ life between the ages of twelve and thirty (see Luke 3:23). What are those insights (see vv. 51-52)? What else do we know about Jesus at this age? (See Matthew 13:55-56.)