

Hi Everyone- I write these notes in case you are a little intimidated to lead a study. These are merely insights that may be helpful. I also try to anticipate questions that may come up in your group discussion for the week's lesson. They are only meant to serve as a tool- take them or leave them! XOXO Alisa

Week 2 Unexplainable Jesus

Day 1

Erica brings up a good point that is always good to remember- the Bible is not a fairy tale. The biblical authors, like Luke, bring in historical, archeological and geographical data points when they are able to anchor the Bible to reality. (That is not to say that portions of Scripture- such as parables- can be made up to convey a biblical point). Luke brings up Cesar Augustus and the census as evidence to the truth of his account.

Luke emphasized Joseph's lineage to David, to affirm the Davidic covenant in 2 Samuel 7:12-13. The Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 12:1-3) and the Davidic Covenant (2 Sam 7:12-14) are passages that should be highlighted in your bible because they build off of the Proto Evangelion ("the first gospel") of Genesis 3:15. God makes promises the head crushing seed of the woman in Gen 3:15, and then adds more detail to this coming Messiah through the Abrahamic Covenant and the David Covenant.

Day 2

There is a lot to pull from this day. I like the way Erica distinguishes the actions and emotions of Mary and the shepherds. Mary had to treasure up- both the wonderful and the wounded part of her story. You, or someone in your group, may be carrying an awfully heavy load- and they may not have the energy to be happy all the time- that is okay. Mary had a lot on her mind and you may too!

God called Mary to travel a lot- sometimes following God's plan can be physically demanding.

I love the stories of Simeon and Anna (Anna is on day 3) It serves as a great reminder that older people still serve kingdom purposes. Older people are not forgotten by God- even when it seems like the world often forgets them. God had their names recorded in Scripture! Simeon and Anna are good examples of faithful disciples.

Mary learned that her child would suffer- this may be an emotional truth to some of the ladies in your group. You may have a woman who has had to watch their child suffer in life, and she may need to talk about it.

Day 3

God gave Anna a real example of His presence in her life circumstances. She was able to witness the Messiah. Are there times in your life where God has made Himself evident in ways that confirm His involvement in your life?

Jesus grew up over time- not all at once. God can do miracles in a moment, but often God works through processes, and our job is not to worry about the timing of His work, but to simply be faithful and obedient each day to God. I think this is especially encouraging to our moms of young children- where, at times, the days seem to run together and you wonder if you are making any progress at all!

Day 4

In this day, we get the first glimpse of Jesus pulling away from His parents to accomplish the call that God the Father had on His life. Does this resonate with anyone in your group? Sometimes there are markers in our life where our allegiance to God over everything else in our life is plainly visible.

We also see the continuation of God's timing in Jesus' life. He had this breakthrough moment in Jerusalem but then went back to Nazareth and was a carpenter with His dad, Joseph. God knows how to pace our life. When you feel like your life has been placed on the "back burner" it is not because God has forgotten about you, doesn't know what you are capable of, or that He has nothing for you to do for His kingdom. It may be that He is preparing you for the things ahead. Sometimes, that preparation takes time, experience and maturity. Sometimes that time is to protect us until we are stronger and more competent to face what is going to come.

Day 5

In this day we see the ministry of John the Baptist- Jesus said that no greater man lived than John the Baptist (Matthew 11:11) it was due to his humility and focus on eternal and spiritual things. We can learn a lot about what a disciple of Christ looks like by taking note of where Scripture mentions John the Baptist. John was bold and intentional with his message to "repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand". Because of this- he did not fit into society as well as others. John also experienced suffering and hardship. He was imprisoned, and eventually murdered. In his darkest moments he needed reassurance from God (we will get to that in Luke 7:18-23). How do these characteristics resonate with the ladies in your group?

Both Jesus and John preached a message of repentance and a turning toward God- a recognizing of who God is. This message was loving- yet confrontational. We will see how people responded to the same message in different ways- some submitted to Christ and Jesus viewed as a peacemaker. Others resisted and rejected the message of repentance, and as a result Christ was not viewed as a peacemaker, but brought persecution upon Himself. Have you experienced both peace and persecution for the same message?