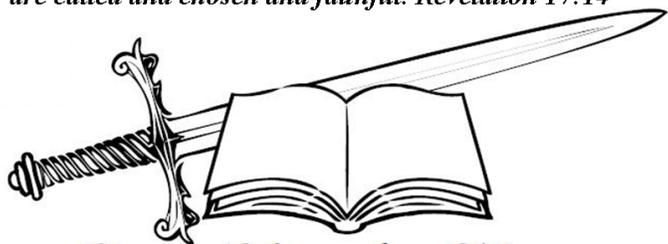


*He is Lord of lords and King of Kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful. Revelation 17:14*



## Our King's Men

# Laurel Ridge Community Church

## Men's Newsletter

Winter 2019

'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.' —Matthew 2:6

### Website Roundup

#### What is Advent?

<https://tinyurl.com/vr3dc4s>

I literally did not know until this month when my wife made a large Advent calendar.

#### The best holiday light displays in your hometown

<https://tinyurl.com/tqvzosq>

Pick a town from the list, wait patiently for the page to redraw, then take the family out to the show.

#### How do folks in other nations celebrate Christmas?

<https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/>

Lots o' interesting Christmas traditions in other nations for all you world travelers.

#### Five faith-based Christmas movies to watch with your family

<https://tinyurl.com/tdmtzdg>

These are the ones that are actually, you know, *religious*.



#### How to Put up Christmas Lights Outside

<https://tinyurl.com/vp9yvky>

The March edition of the *Men's Newsletter* will explain how to take them down. †

### Growing Up Jesus

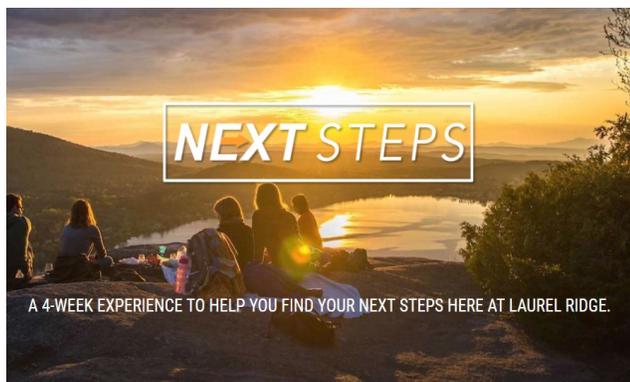
Have you ever wondered what Jesus endured in the 30 years he lived before beginning his mission that would end three-and-a-half years later at the cross?



Not much is known about Jesus' life during those 30 years. We know that he loved God with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength, and his neighbor as himself. We know that he was fully human as well as fully God. As a citizen of Nazareth, he grew up witnessing injustice, suffering, pain, and crime. As a human being, he endured temptation, desire, and loss. It is difficult even to imagine what having a sinless nature must be like, though one day we will. We will have for eternity the joy of engaging solely with people and angels who are without sin. Jesus did not have that luxury. What must it have been like for him to have been born, grown, and lived as the only sinless person in a family, village, nation and world of sinners?

—cont'd on page 3

# Growing in Your Walk



## What is NEXT STEPS?

Following Jesus is a journey. The Next Steps Experience is a series of four classes that help you:

- Connect with Laurel Ridge Church.
- Build community with others.
- Discover how you are uniquely shaped to impact others.
- Explore how people at Laurel Ridge just like you unleash compassion both locally and globally—changing the world one neighborhood at a time.

Next Step happens over the first four Sundays of each month in Room 101. Browse to [laurelridgechurch.org/next-steps](http://laurelridgechurch.org/next-steps) for more information and to reserve your place.



Prepare for the journey ahead and start getting acclimated to your faith. You will be equipped with new tools (or encouraged to sharpen old tools) that will give you a firm footing in your lifelong journey of faith in Christ. Facilitated

by well-trained guides, you will gather with others who are at a similar stage to discuss important matters of faith, life, and growing in Christ. No question is off limits.

This nine-week course is designed for new Christians, people with doubts and questions about God, faith, or the Bible, and people who are returning to church after a long time away.

The winter session begins January 12. For more information or to sign up, visit the Base Camp page at the Laurel Ridge Church website, at: <http://www.laurelridgechurch.org/base-camp>



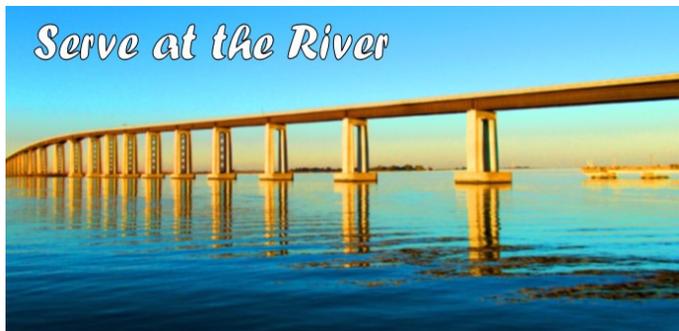
Host: Jeff Alford  
Time: Tuesday evenings, 6:00-7:30 PM  
Place: Laurel Ridge Church, Room 203

Host: Matt Onstott  
Time: Thursday mornings, 6:30 AM  
Place: Laurel Ridge Church, Room 301

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## Events and Ministry Opportunities



Sunday, January 26, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at the corner of A and 6th Streets in Antioch. Also on February 23, March 22, and April 26 (the fourth Sunday of each month).

Join with other believers in providing a meal and sharing God's love with the homeless and other people in need.

Donations of food, soft drinks and other items, and volunteers to help set up, serve and share are welcome. Contact Bob Andrade at 925-329-1108 for more information or to sign up.

### **Growing up Jesus** —cont'd from page 1

As a child, did anyone ever taunt him, bully him, or call him names? Did any grownup ever accuse or punish him for something he did not do? When his siblings or friends, parents or relatives argued, how did that affect him? Did the sight of someone hitting or whipping a slave anger him? Did the sight of people who were sick, who were blind, deaf or dumb, or who were severely injured or crippled depress him? Did the death of his father Joseph break his heart?

When did Jesus know that his greatest purpose on earth was to die on a cross for the sins of mankind? Was he in shock? Did he weep in sorrow?

The common assumption that Jesus lived a mostly normal life as a child growing up in Nazareth is belied by his responses to sinful words

and behavior in others that he encountered in the gospel accounts. The Pharisees and moneychangers angered him. He wept when Lazarus died. He endured opposition from his enemies, a lack of understanding among his people, even desertion and betrayal from those closest to him. These and the other events he endured during his mission years were not a surprise to him, just the sad and final conclusion of the sins of mankind he had witnessed and endured his entire life.

This Christmas, when you think of all that Jesus suffered on the cross for our sake, consider also the sadness, cruelty and conflict he suffered among us every day of his life on earth. What amazing love! Thank you, Lord Jesus. †



**Who was the first apostle to be martyred?**

Answer below.

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James, the son of Zebedee and brother of John (Acts 12:1-2).