

THE **crossing** **small groups**

Keith Simon | Luke 1 Sermon Discussion Participants Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To see that Luke opens his gospel account by addressing our head and heart as we anticipate the coming birth of Jesus our Lord.

Icebreaker: What do you love about winter in Mid-Missouri? If you don't love winter what is one thing you wish you could change about this season?

Discussion:

Transition:

Advent is a time of anticipation and remembering. Anticipation of Jesus and the introduction of His upside-down kingdom. Remembering that our Lord was born into real-time and space. The incarnation is not only a sobering truth but an illuminating reality. We focus on the story of Jesus' birth through the gospel of Luke. Luke is a major author in the New Testament, writing both Luke and Acts, as he made an account of the good news of Jesus and followed along as the early church spread throughout the known world. God reveals himself to us through these actions and this story. This series shows us the unreasonable hospitality of the birth of the world's True King.

Read:

[Luke 1: 1-4](#)

1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, **2** just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. **3** With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, **4** so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

1. What do we learn from Luke in these early verses?

Keith mentioned that there is a difference between reading the bible through personal preference or as objective truth.

2. Give examples of each of these. How does Luke approach the early verses of this book?
3. Have there been aspects of the bible or following Jesus that you have encountered and wondered about?

Keith mentioned in his sermon that Luke addressed the head and the heart in this opening chapter of Luke. He addresses the head through his detailed and rigorously researched accounts of Jesus he shares with Theophilus. He addresses the heart by writing to someone he cares deeply about with a message that saves. Luke also shows us that this message impacted his life, in other words, his hands by dedicating a good chunk of his life to follow this movement and make an account of it.

4. In what ways does Advent affect you the most? Does it strike at your heart? Head? Hands?
5. What joys do you have about this time of the year?
6. What laments do you have about this time of the year?

Read:

[Psalm 130](#) (A song of ascents)

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;

² Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive

to my cry for mercy.

³ If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,

Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But with you there is forgiveness,

so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

⁵ I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,

and in his word I put my hope.

⁶ I wait for the Lord

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more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

⁷ Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.

⁸ He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.

7. How does this Psalm encourage us to handle our grief, sorrow, pain, and laments?

Keith finished his sermon by talking about who Luke was writing to, Theophilus. The name Theophilus means Loved by God. While this was not likely the actual person's name, most scholars agree that Theophilus was a historical person. Luke was writing to someone to share with them the Gospel. To make sure that Theophilus was rooted in Jesus with confidence.

8. Do you have a Theophilus in your life? Meaning, do you have someone who is Christian curious, or doubting, or perhaps is asking some big life questions?

9. Wrap up your time by sharing what encouraged you from this passage and this discussion.

Sharing and Prayer:

Take time for prayer requests and sharing. Turn this time into what makes the most sense for your group. It may be good to lament if hard situations are going on. It may be good to pray prayers of joy and thanksgiving for God's goodness. Pray that God would use the Advent series in Luke to challenge and move within your hearts and minds this season.