

GOOD NEWS

KING | DECEMBER 8, 2024

Luke 2:1-11—*In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.*

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

Isaiah 9:6-7—*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end...*

Mark 1:15—*"...The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

WHAT KIND OF A KING IS JESUS?

1. Jesus is a righteous King.

Mark 1:24—*What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!*

2. Jesus is a loving King.

John 21:15-19—“...Do you love me?...”

Matthew 22:37-38—Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.”

2 Peter 3:9—The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Isaiah 1:18—“Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”

3. Jesus is a merciful King.

1 John 1:9—If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

2 Chronicles 7:14—If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Psalms 103:8—The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

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All verses quoted in New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

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STUDY GUIDE: 12/8/24

Begin your group with prayer. Have one or two people share a testimony from their week. Keep it positive and reflect on the good things God has done.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 19:1-10 together. In what ways do we see the kindness of Jesus in this story? Discuss. How did Jesus help Zacchaeus to think differently?
2. Read Luke 15:11-31. What does this story teach us about the ways God loves us all? Discuss. Repentance included the son's mind, heart, and actions. Discuss the different elements. What did the older brother need to repent from? How did his father lead him in this? Discuss.
3. Read 2 Chronicles 7:14. How does this verse relate with the story of the prodigal son? What shared principles do we see? Discuss together. What do you think it means to 'seek God's face'?
4. Read Matthew 5:1-12 together. Jesus is teaching on the values of God's kingdom. What are the specific values taught here? How does this differ from the values of our culture? Discuss. What is one specific area mentioned that you really need God's help with today? Discuss and pray together.