



SPORTS IN FOCUS

Christ's Birth and Boyhood
Luke 1:1-2:52 • Lesson One

READY

- Jesus was twelve when he visited the temple. Think back to when you were twelve years old. What were you like? What were your interests? Were you involved in church or interested in spiritual things?

SET

Context of Luke 1:1-2:52

Though attended by a great heavenly fanfare, Jesus' birth generated little notice or interest among men. Only a few obscure witnesses celebrated the blessed arrival of the Savior into our sin-scarred world. Luke alone reports the unusual circumstances surrounding the birth of John the Baptist, the annunciation to Mary, the manger, the angelic visitation to the shepherds, and the Spirit-led responses of Simeon and Anna when Jesus was presented at the temple.

Keys to Text

Luke's Purpose: Writing primarily to a man named Theophilus and for a Gentile audience, Luke set out to construct a careful and complete account of the life of Christ. His goal was to show Jesus is not only the long-awaited Messiah of the Jews but also the Savior of non-Jews. His account of the nativity is the fullest in all the Gospel records.

GO

Read Luke 1:1-2:52

1. Luke goes into great detail about the birth of John the Baptist. Why?
2. What does Luke 1 reveal about Zacharias, the father of John? How would you describe this man?
3. What unexpected events transpired when Joseph and Mary came to present Jesus to the Lord at the temple?
4. What do we know of Christ's childhood? What does Luke reveal?
5. What does Mary's response to the angel Gabriel teach us about surrendering to the sovereign will of God?
6. Why do you think there are so many references to people wondering or marveling or breaking forth in praise?
7. Who are your favorite characters in these two opening chapters of Luke? What do you like about them?
8. In what ways does Luke say Jesus grew? What areas in your own life can you foster personal growth in these areas?

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New York Jets coach Rex Ryan is making this week's playoff game with the Patriots personal. "This week, it's about Bill Belichick vs. Rex Ryan," the coach said, "it's personal." Ryan launched a barrage of brash comments toward his opponents. He vowed to avenge his team's loss last month 45-3 where he admitted he was outcoached by Belichick. Is it necessary for athletes and coaches to use brash talk to motivate themselves or teammates to perform better? A few decades ago, former NY Jets QB Joe Namath brashly predicted his underdog team would beat the Colts in Super Bowl III which they did. So what can the Bible teach us about this? One word: humility. James 4:6 says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." God's Word is clear on this matter, no wiggle room. Very little is known about Luke who was the author of one of the four Gospels. He was responsible for a significant portion of the New Testament but he almost never included personal details about himself, and nothing definite is known about his background. As we begin our study of the Book of Luke, we should remind ourselves how the Lord used a humble man to record much of the New Testament including the book of Acts. www.nebraskafca.org