

Intro:

*** Lk 1:5-56 contains 4 "*spiritual camera*"-like components that help us see & savor the _____ that is _____. Luke 1:5-56 contains:

I. ... the "*spiritual software*"-like component that is Jesus' _____ background.

II. ... the "*spiritual wide angle lens*"-like component that is God's redemptive actions & _____ to Abraham & _____.

III. ... the "*spiritual _____ lens*"-like component that is Jesus' _____.

IV. ... the dueling "*spiritual _____ show*"-like component of John the Baptist in comparison to _____.

Concl:

Digging Deeper into today's Bible verses & themes Feb 21, 2010

Here are a few questions to help "Life groups" &/or families spend more time reflecting on this Sunday's Bible passage & theme. Adapt them as you like.

Opener: Get into groups of 4 or 5. The share "what is 1-2 ways our mini-group can pray for you & your family"? Before you pray also ask if there is anyone else in our small group, in New Hope, or beyond our church for whom we should pray (for example: Haiti – Wilsons', Mompremier's', short term team, Krya, Banquet this Thursday ...). Take 20-30+ minutes to share & pray.

Dig #1: Read Luke 1:1-4. What stands out to you most about what Luke says is his purpose for his book? In what ways are you looking forward to our study of Luke? How might this book impact your life? This church?

Dig #2: Jeff sought to show that "the big idea" of Luke 1:5-56 is how glorious Jesus is. What aspect of Jesus glory in Lk 1:5-56 stands out to you the most. Read the verse or verses & explain why & how this verse or passage moves you.

Dig #3/ Application #1: There are many characters in our text – do you agree that God seems to be the main character? In what ways is God the main character in Lk 1:5-56? Do you think He is the main character in our day? What will help us live more like He is?

Application #2: Of the human characters in our text (Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, the crowd) – with whom do you most identify? Why? In what ways?

- It time allows: when is doubt a good thing & when is it a bad thing? And why is that so? (compare the response of the angel to Zechariah & to Mary).

Closing prayer: In a large group – spend a few minutes in praise thanking God for His gift of Jesus. Praise Him for specific ways God has "remembered his mercies" (Lk 1:54) by sending Jesus. Ask Him to help you live in light of His glory.

Other Questions for personal study or to discuss with a friend:

1. Ask 1 or more of these questions in order to reflect on Sunday's worship service:
 - How did God speak to you or reveal Himself to you in Sunday's service?
 - How did God use you at our worship gathering (to speak through you or use you to touch someone else)?
 - During the worship service was there anyone God seemed to be laying on your heart for whom to pray? Is there anyone God is calling you to write, phone or meet with soon?
2. Jeff sought to point out how Luke 1-2 says that it is impossible to understand Jesus apart from the OT/Jewish background. Do these passages support that same idea - Mt 1:1-7, Mk 1:1-3, Jn 1:1-18; Heb 1:1-4, Heb 11, Rom 1:1-3, Rom 4 - & if so how? Can you think of others?
3. Mary praises God "for remembering his mercy" (Lk 1:54). Reflect more on what it means that God "remembers" His mercies. Compare with Lk 1:72; Ps 98:3, 105:8-9, 42ff, 1-6:36-47; Ezek 16:59-60; & Ex 1:23-25.
 - For what was Zechariah praying? Lk 2:25-26, 38, 23:51 & 24:20; Is 40:1-5.
4. It is worth taking the time to reflect more on the "literary" shape of Lk 1:5-56. What patterns do you see? This is what Jeff suggested; (notice the signs of similar shaping in Lk 1:57-2:40)
 - Lk 1:5-56 The Announcement/ Foretelling of the births of John & Jesus
 - A. The Announcement/ Foretelling of John's Birth 1:5-25
 - A' The Announcement/ Foretelling of Jesus Birth 1:26-38
 - B. Celebration by Elizabeth 1:39-45 in which she blesses Mary
 - B' Celebration by Mary 1:46-56 in which she magnifies & blesses God