

Matt 1:18-2:23, Luke 2:1-52 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. In Luke 2:21-24 what two Jewish rituals were carried out (v21, 22-24)? Why was it important for this to be done?	
5. Read Luke 2:25-38. What did Simeon say about Jesus (v25-35) and what did Anna say (v36-38)? Why were these witnesses significant (v25-26, 36-37)?	
6. Using Matt 2:1-12 who came to see Jesus in Bethlehem and why (v1-2) and what did they do next (v9-12)? What does this story show?	
7. Looking again at Matt 2:1-12 how did Herod initially react to the news of Jesus' birth (v3)? What did the scribes tell him (v4-6) and what did he want to know (v7-8)? Why?	
8. From Matt 2:13-23 what was Herod's ultimate reaction (v16) and what three prophecies were fulfilled by this event (v13-15, 17-18, 19-23)? How does this show God's sovereignty and power?	
9. Based on Luke 2:39-40, 52 what was Jesus' purpose for his first thirty years? Describe what you think this looked like? How can we apply this?	
10. In Luke 2:41-51 what occurred and how did this show Jesus' maturity (v46-47, 48-49, 51)? How did his parents react and how does this contrast with his (v41-45, 48, 50)?	
11. Looking back on the birth and early years of Jesus, in what ways do we see God's sovereignty and power demonstrated? How was Jesus' birth and childhood both like and unlike others'?	

Scripture to Remember

“And the Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.”

Luke 2:40 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Loving Perfect Love (1 John 4:7-18)

(Using- questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Tell the group about a great expression of love that someone showed you. How did that affect you—what was the result of that?
2. Read 1 Jn 4:7-12. What does it mean that God's love is “perfect” love? Since God is the source of this perfect love how should that personally affect you?
3. Discuss the implications of the fact that “the one who is born of God” loves like God loves—how should this affect our relationships in God's family?
4. Talk about why the fact that God sent His Son is the highest way to express His love. What is significant to you about where He was sent “from” and “to”?
5. Why do you think God is so angry about our sin? How does God deal with His wrath and what does that mean to us?
6. In what sense is Jesus our Savior—what or who are we being saved from?
7. When you consider the love of God what is the most natural thing to do with it? Practically, how can we do that?
8. If there is time discuss anything else meaningful to you from the message Sunday.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Studies in the Gospels

September 13, 2009

Growing in Spirit & Truth

Volume 8, Issue 3



One of Us

Matt 1:18-2:23, Luke 2:1-52

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Joan Osborne’s 1995 Grammy nominated song, “One of Us”, asks the question, “What if God was one of us?” It reveals the skepticism that most have about God—they don’t think He understands our situation, but if He were one of us, He would. This week’s study shows that God did indeed become one of us—not a king seated on a throne, but a humble baby and ordinary child that went through the typical experiences of Jewish children of that day. First, the preparation of Jesus is seen; He had to be born of a virgin, and God intervened to insure this. Mary’s betrothed husband, Joseph, could have quietly “divorced” her, but God instructed him to take her as his wife and remain pure until marriage. Thus, Jesus, the Savior, was born of a virgin. Jesus birthplace was also or-

chestrated by God, as a Roman census sent his parents back to Bethlehem, fulfilling prophecy. His first worshipers were shepherds that were informed by angels that the Savior had been born, so they quickly went to worship Him. After this Jesus participated in circumcision and purification as an ordinary child; while at the temple, though, far-reaching prophecies were made about Him by Simeon and Anna. He was appointed as the light to the Gentiles and the glory of Israel. After this we see the protection of Jesus. Wise men from the east had responded to a sign in the stars that the King of the Jews had been born. When they asked Herod where He was it led him to initiate the slaughter of all the Jewish males under two in region around Bethlehem. After the magi went to worship



Jesus’ one solitary life changed the course of mankind for eternity.

Him Jesus’ parents fled to Egypt because they were warned by God of Herod’s plan. This event fulfilled three prophecies. Finally, the purpose of Jesus was seen even in His childhood. The major event of his childhood was His teaching in the temple at age twelve. His wisdom was amazing as He held His own with the religious leaders. This was simply a result, though, of His growth in wisdom during His childhood. His purpose was to be involved in His Father’s business, and He showed us how to live simply in His will as a man. He was one of us.

Daily Study Questions for Matt 1:18-2:23, Luke 2:1-52

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to <http://www.thehospitalchurch.com/LifeGuides.html>—lesson notes)

<p>1. Read Matt 1:18-23. How did Joseph show that he was a “righteous” man (v19, 24-25)? What was said about “his” son (v20-23), and how does this make Joseph’s actions so important?</p>	
<p>2. Looking at Luke 2:1-20 what is significant about the timing of Jesus’ birth (v1-5) and his birthplace (v6-7)? Describe His first worshipers (v8).</p>	
<p>3. Using Luke 2:10-14 what did the angels reveal to the shepherds (v10, 11, 12) and what else occurred (v13-14)? How did they respond (v15-20)?</p>	

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