



God's Grand Story, Pt. 7: Jesus Arrives

It had been about four centuries since any prophet had spoken for God and any Scripture was written. The Jews had been scattered around the world while being subject to various empires and only experienced occasional periods of freedom and independence. In the eyes of many, God seemed to have abandoned his people and his plan. During God's "silence," he was making preparations for the arrival of the Promised One, the Messiah. Messiah's birth was a miracle foretold and announced by angels. As an infant, enemies sought to destroy him and foreign sages traveled for months to worship him. From the time of his birth to the beginning of his public ministry, God was faithfully preparing Jesus to fulfill his divine plan of redemption.

Bottom Line: What is important requires preparation.

Discussion Questions:

1. For what areas in life have you prepared for most? Least? What area do you wish you would have prepared for more? Why?
2. **Read Matthew 1:18-21, 20:8 and Psalm 130:7-8.** The name assigned to Messiah was to be "Jesus" which is the Greek form of the Hebrew name "Joshua" which means "Yahweh Saves." What do you think went through Joseph's mind at the name of Messiah and the reason behind the name? How does this influence how you see Jesus?
3. **Read Luke 2:41-50.** Luke is the only Gospel to contain any information about the childhood of Jesus (beyond the events surrounding his birth). Of all of the events of the childhood of Jesus, why do you think Luke included this occasion? What stands out to you the most from this passage? Your biggest takeaway?
4. **Read Luke 4:1-13.** What tactics and attitudes did Jesus use to endure his temptations? What enabled him to respond to temptation in these ways?
5. To what degree are God's words in your life opposed by alternate views? In what ways is your God-given identity challenged or distorted?
6. ~What was the most challenging idea/thought to you from the message?
~What was the most helpful/encouraging thought or idea from the message this week? How did it help you?
~How can the group encourage you this week?

For resources that will help you better understand God's Grand Story, please visit this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PaziqJT1TQlpNQL14EH2UUvzcao0vM0OAdPs2DketA/edit?usp=sharing>

*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.