

Home Group Questions

the week of 12/09/2018

Luke 2:1-19

GOD AT WORK

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel spoke about the amazing ways our God was at work through the incarnation of Jesus Christ as a little baby in Bethlehem and how it reminds us of how awesome our God truly is!!

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Luke 2:1-19. The Lord had already sent direct messages to both Mary and Joseph about the birth of Jesus. Why do you think He utilized the decree of Caesar Augustus to cause Mary and Joseph to travel down to Bethlehem? Why didn't He just inform them that they needed to go there to fulfill prophecies concerning the birth of the Messiah?

What does that tell you about the ways in which God works in your life? Talk about "coincidences" in your life. Interact with this statement: "There are no coincidences with God."

Matthew 10:29 tells us that not one sparrow falls to the ground without God's knowledge. How does that reassure you in difficult times?

This trip to Bethlehem was a difficult trip for a pregnant woman. Why would the Lord put Mary and Joseph through this?

2. Pastor Mel also highlighted that God can use unexpected people to accomplish His plans. Caesar Augustus had no idea that he would take part in fulfilling prophecy by issuing this decree, but God used him nonetheless. Think of some times in your life when God used unsuspecting people or unusual circumstances to accomplish His purposes. Looking back, what did God teach you through those experiences?

3. God's nature demands that He always operates according to His promises. He fulfilled His promise regarding the coming of the Messiah and, in this passage, the promise of where He would be born. What are some of the promises of God that have meant a great deal to you in your own personal walk?

People often think that God should give them everything they want if He truly loves His children. We know that's not a good strategy in raising kids, so why do you think it's prevalent in the thinking of some people in this world?

C.S. Lewis wrote, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." What can be troubling about pain being the megaphone of God? What are some necessary truths and attitudes that we need to handle our "pains" in the way that honors the Lord? (Read 1 Peter 4:12-14 and discuss some of the truths of that passage.)

4. The sermon also taught that God works to accomplish amazing outcomes. Certainly the virgin birth was an amazing "outcome" ☺. Even though we live in a sinful world, what are some of the amazing outcomes you have experienced, and will one day experience, in your walk with Christ? We need to know that it's not foolish to have hope...especially when it's grounded in Jesus Christ. How can we communicate to the world that our "hope" is real and that it truly changes the way we live today?

MOVING FORWARD...

Share some ways in which you can pray for one another during Christmas. Pray that we can all keep Christ at the center of Christmas!