

The Early Life of the Messiah



Teen Workbook
Manitoulin Kid's Camp
2011

Dear Teen Young Person,

I am glad that you are interested in coming to the Manitoulin Youth Camp this summer, God Willing. We are very pleased to have Uncle Mark Carr as our main Teen teacher.

Uncle Mark's subject is "The Early Life of the Messiah".

This workbook is part of your pre-camp assignment. There are two components:

The first is a special project which you can work on individually or in pairs. This is work which you can hopefully share with the other class members during the camp week.

The second part is a series of questions based the early life of Jesus. By completing the questions ahead of time you will have a good background for our studies during the week.

I would make the following suggestions to help you prepare for our week of studies around our theme "The Early life of the Messiah":

1. Plan to READ the appropriate chapters & verses regularly to get familiar with them.
2. Work through the question section of the workbook, setting goals to finish on time. For example, 10-15 questions per week.

Don't get frustrated; just give it your best shot. Some of these are 'thinking' questions so don't be afraid to ask someone else for help!

3. Work on your special project, again setting goals to ensure it is completed before camp starts.

Remember, the more you personally put into this study the more you will get out of it!

May God bless you as you labour in His Word, that together at Youth Camp we might all be able to share what we have learned and be prepared for the return of Christ.

See you in July, God Willing,

Uncle Chris.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Type 1: Oral Presentation, Essay or Seminar.

The following suggested topics would be suitable for a 5 to 10 minute presentation or seminar to the rest of the class, or an essay of about 3 typed pages.

If you choose a presentation please try to make use of maps and diagrams to enhance it. You can also make use of a computer and LCD projector if you like! Also make a one page summary of your presentation and make 40 copies of this for the other class members.

If you do an essay, please make 1 copy of it for me to keep, and 40 copies of a one page summary to give to the other class members.

Some suggested topics (in no particular order):

1. A character study of one of the characters from the early life of Jesus.
(ex. Mary, Joseph, the Magi, Simeon, Anna, Jesus, Herod, etc)
2. Draw Jesus' "Family Tree".
3. A study of the prophecies regarding Jesus' birth.
4. Draw a map of the geography showing where the key events occurred for this time period.
5. A devotional based on themes for this study (ex. "Waiting for Messiah")
6. Your choice. Contact me if you have another idea you would like to present.

Type 2: Creative Projects

Some of you may not want to do a talk or an essay and would rather let your creative energy be channelled in another direction.

There are many very dramatic scenes in this story.

Be sure you know the Biblical account very well and bring out the details and lessons. You will need to do just as much research and study for a creative project as for a talk or essay.

Here are some ideas:

1. Dramatization. Write a skit or short play based on one section or event from the early life of Jesus. The skit may be historical or a modern day setting based on the principles from these chapters. If possible, find a couple of friends to help you enact your play for all of us to enjoy.
2. Draw a picture or make a model from one of the incidents in Jesus' early life.
3. Write a short story in a modern setting, based on an incident from the early life of Jesus.
4. Make a crossword puzzle based on the early life of Jesus.
5. Create a board game or maze based on the early life of Jesus.
6. Write a song or poem about an incident in the early life of Jesus.
7. Your idea. Contact me if you have a project in mind and we will discuss its suitability.

Luke's message and declaration - Luke 1:1-4

- 1) What was Luke's profession? Provide a verse that proves that.

- 2) The gospel of Luke is particularly detailed when it comes to what people thought, or felt about situations, more so than the other 3 gospels. What personal character traits does this tell us Luke likely possessed? (Considering your answer to #1, what might make Luke good at that profession?)

- 3) Luke 1:2 - Eyewitnesses and ministers of the word – Look up the following words:

- a. "Eyewitnesses"- Strong's #845 _____
- b. "Ministers of the word"- Strong's #5257 _____

- 4) Some of these eyewitnesses and ministers might have told Luke things that only **THEY** would have known or felt. Name some people Luke might have interviewed for his Gospel account, and something they might have told Luke that only **they** could have known.

Person	What they might have told Luke...

- 5) Luke 1:3 – "having a perfect understanding of all things" – NASB "having investigated everything carefully from the beginning."

- a. Do you think Luke put a lot of work into writing his Gospel account, or do you think he just let God tell him what to write? Explain.

- b. What can we learn from Luke's attention to detail and work ethic?

- 6) Luke 1:3 - It is believed Luke wrote another book in the New Testament. What book would that be and why do you believe he might have been the author of that book? (following cross references to Luke 1:3 will help)

- 7) Luke 1:4 – The word **certainty** means in the Greek (ST#803), “firmness, stability, undoubted truth, security from enemies”.

a. What is Luke telling us about his account of the Life of Christ?

b. Find another verse in the New Testament that describes the value of the Scriptures.

The visit of Gabriel to Zacharias - Luke 1:5-25

- 8) Find the following meaning of these names (remember that you will need to trace them back to the Hebrew meanings):

Name	Strong's number		Definition
	Greek	Hebrew	
Zacharias			
Elisabeth			
John			
Gabriel			

- 9) **Abia** or **Abijah** appears twice in the early account of Jesus – speaking of two different men.

a. Find the Abia that Luke is referring to in this chapter – who *ordered* or set up the “course” and what course (or number) was Abia in the ordering of the priests?

b. In Matthew 1:7, to what Abia is this referring? Was this Abia righteous or wicked?

- c. In 1Kings 15:4 – an interesting thing is said about Abia and why God allowed him to continue as king. Can you compare what is said in this verse to what God is doing for his people in Luke 1?

10) Luke1:6 Look at the character traits of Elisabeth and Zacharias

Character trait	Strong's number	Definition
Righteous	1342	
<i>Walking</i> in the <u>commandments</u>	1785	
<i>Walking</i> in the <u>ordinances</u>	1345	
blameless	273	

- 11) Luke1:7 - They had no child because Elisabeth was barren. Elisabeth was the last in a long line of women who were barren in Scripture. Name *at least 5* other women who were barren and the sons they eventually bore.

"Barren" Mother	Son she bore

- 12) Luke 1:7 - **burning incense** – In the worship of God in the temple, of what was the burning of incense a symbol? (Hint: Psalm 141)

- 13) Where in the Holy Place was the Altar of Incense located? What was behind it? (Or a better question, what was *missing* from behind it at the time of Christ?)



14) The angel stated that his prayer had been heard. There were two things that Zacharias had prayed about because the angel spoke of two things. What two things was the angel talking about? (The first one is easy; the second one is tougher to pick out. (Hint: vs. 17 - "him" *KJV*))

15) Luke 1:15 - John the Baptist was to be a Nazirite – From Numbers 6 what were the 3 things a Nazirite was supposed to do?

Nazirite requirement	What it represented or symbolized (spiritually – ex. 'separation')
1)	
2)	
3)	

16) Name other people who were Nazirites in the Scripture.

17) The first Nazirite in the Bible was Joseph – in fact the law of the Nazirite was *modeled* after his life. In Genesis 49:26 "of him that was **separate** from his brethren" is the word "Nazirite". From what you learned in question #15 – why did the life of Joseph serve as the model of the Nazirite?

18) The Nazirite vow was put in place so that any Israelite man or woman could act like **a priest** for a period of time (all 3 requirements of the Nazirite were also required of the High Priest). John was asked to be a Nazirite. What is interesting about **John** being asked to be a Nazirite? (Hint: To which Tribe of Israel did he belong?)

19) Luke 1:17 - John was to go before Jesus in the "spirit and power of Elijah" – Elijah was most noted for his incredible fiery miracles. This may seem to be an odd description of John the Baptist's work. What does **John 10:41** say of John the Baptist and his use of the Power of the Holy Spirit?

20) John's work was *exactly* like Elijah's, but Elijah took time to learn what his **real power** was. Find where Elijah's real power according to God was, to understand what John's power was.

a. **1 Kings 19:11-12**

b. **Mark 1:3**

21) Luke 1:17 is a quote from Malachi regarding the work of John – what chapter and verse is it quoting?

22) There are 5 "messengers" recorded in Malachi – fill in the blanks to list these messengers.

- a. Malachi himself (1:1) name means "my messenger"
- b. The priests (2:7)
- c. _____ (3:1)
- d. _____ (3:1)
- e. _____ (4:5)

23) Zacharias makes a comment that both he and his wife are extremely old and could not have children. This is the second time the Scriptures say that they are very old (1:7), emphasising the fact.

a. Who else in Scripture was too old to have children but were blessed by God to give birth?

b. How does **Romans 4:19** describe the barren mother's womb?

- c. With this in mind, what is the angel saying will have to happen to Elisabeth's body to allow her to have children?

24) The angel announces that his name is Gabriel.

- a. Where is the first time Gabriel ever appears by name? (Give chapter and verse)

- b. To whom does he appear?

Special note:

Daniel chapters 8 & 9 are very, very important chapters not only for us today, but *most especially* to those who were waiting for the birth of the Messiah. Zacharias and Elisabeth no doubt knew this section of Scripture, the Scribes and Pharisees knew this prophecy, and *most assuredly* the Magi arriving from the East came thousands of kilometers because of this passage of Scripture! The events of Daniel 8 and Gabriel's appearance at that time stand as one of the best types *in all of Scripture* of the resurrection of the dead. Of greatest importance though for our brethren and sisters in the first few Gospel chapters, is Gabriel's message in Daniel 9 about the redemption of Jerusalem. Verses 20-24 of Daniel 9 are widely known as the "Seventy week Prophecy" – From **this prophecy** many people in the time of Zacharias knew almost *exactly* when Jesus was going to be born!

25) To understand the basic principles of this prophecy we'll attempt to keep it very simple. **Daniel**

9:24 – "Seventy weeks are determined on thy people"

- a. How many **days** are there in 70 weeks? (Do the math☺)

- b. Go to **Numbers 14:34** – there is a principle in prophecy overall that is often used and Numbers 14 is one place where we find that principle – what does it say that each day represents in the mind of God?

- c. Take the answer from **a)** and apply the principle from **b)** – How many *years* does that give you?

26) The 9th chapter of the prophecy of Daniel was written probably around 538BC - 536BC but the exact date is not known. Given the number of years in the prophecy in question 25(c) and the approximate time of the writing of the prophecy of Daniel, what do you think the people in the time of the Gospels were expecting?

27) The people KNEW Messiah was coming but only approximately when that would happen – very much like today for us. From the following verses, indicate what we should look for at the time of Jesus' return

Verse	What is the event or sign to look for just before Jesus return
Ezekiel 37:11-12	
Luke 21:24	
2Timothy 3:1-5	

28) Luke1:19 - The last time Gabriel **ever** appeared to a man, he gave a prophecy of an approximate time when the Messiah would be born (Zacharias would have grown up learning about this prophecy!). When the angel said "I am Gabriel!" what do you think Zacharias may have felt and thought?

29) Gabriel promised in his message the coming of two boys. Who were they?

30) Luke1:20 - Why do you think Zacharias was made speechless until his son was born?

31) Luke1:24 - It says that Elisabeth hid herself 5 months. Wouldn't you think she'd want to celebrate with her friends? Why do you think she hid herself at this time?

32) Luke 1:25 - What does "reproach" mean? Why would not having a baby be seen as a reproach in her days?

The lineage of the Lord Jesus – Matthew 1:1-17

33) There are two lineages of the Lord, here in Matthew chapter 1 and in Luke chapter 3. Why do you think does one lineage go just to Abraham, and one right back to God?

34) What is the Greek word (not definition – *word*) for Generation? This being the start of the New Testament, what is the use of this word trying to show us about this wonderful time in history?

35) The very first verse of Matthew 1 includes two men above all others – Abraham and David. Why were these men so important to God's plan and promises?

36) There are 4 women in the line of the Lord that are mentioned, outside of Mary his mother.

a. Fill in the chart below:

Name	Why do you think they were mentioned specially when the rest of the names are men?

- b. 3 of the 4 women were for certain Gentiles, and it is very possible that the 4th was a Gentile too. Which 3 women were for *sure* Gentiles and what kind of background did they come from before they came to 'the Truth'?

- 37) How would devout Jews feel about these women being included in their Messiah's lineage by name?

The visit of Gabriel to Mary - Matthew 1:18-25 & Luke 1:26-38

- 38) Luke 1:27 is the fulfillment of what prophecy in the Old Testament?

- 39) Mary was called "highly favoured" by the angel. Look up the phrase and what does that tell us about how God felt about Mary?



- 40) Mary is an extraordinary sister and these chapters tell us more about Mary's character than any other chapter in the Gospels. Look at the following 3 phrases describing Mary and list what the characteristic means. (The first one is done partly for you as a hint)

Verse	Phrase	What it means? (use Strong's definitions to help)
Luke 1:29	"cast in her mind"	
Luke 2:19		
Luke 2:51		

41) What does Jesus' name mean?

42) Luke 1:32-33 – From where does the promise that Jesus would sit on David's throne come?

43) Luke 1:34 – Mary questions Gabriel here. Compare the angel's reaction to Mary's questioning against the questioning of Zacharias in vs. 18.

a. What is the difference between the two 'questionings'?

b. Why were there two different reactions by Gabriel? (hint vs 45)

44) Luke 1:35 - Where is the first time in the Bible that we learn that Messiah was going to be God's Son? (as opposed to having a human father)

45) Luke 1:38 - Mary's response was an amazing acceptance of God's will. What does this teach us about our need to accept whatever God has planned for us?

46) Matt 1:19 – Mary was in a very frightening position. Under the law of Moses, what could have been done to Mary if she was to be found pregnant without being married? (Deut 22:13-21)

47) Matt 1:19, 20 - We don't know an awful lot about Joseph, Jesus' guardian. What we *do* know was that God had selected this man to care for His only son.

a. Joseph was described as "just" – what does the word mean?

- b. There are some phrases about Joseph that tell us about his character. For each quote, explain what this might tell us about what kind of man Joseph was?

Passage	Phrase	What it tells us about Joseph
Matt 1:19	...being a just man	
Matt 1:20	While he <i>thought</i> on these things...	
Matt 1:24	...did as the angel had bidden him	
Matt 2:14, 21	He arose and took the young child and his mother...	

48) Matt 1:20-23 & Luke 1:26-35 – Gabriel appeared to Mary and Joseph separately – to one in a dream, to the other in person. He told them some similar things about Jesus birth and he told them each some unique things about Jesus birth.

- a. Find 2 things that Gabriel told **both** Mary and Joseph.

- b. Find 2 things that Gabriel **only** told Mary, or **only** told Joseph.

49) Matt 1:23 – This verse is a quote from the Old Testament.

- a. Find the passage in the Old Testament.

- b. Immanuel means “God with us”. In what way was Jesus - “God with us”?

- c. Ahaz (a very evil king) in this Old Testament passage was in really big trouble and the prophecy of Messiah was given to him as a sign.

- i. What was Ahaz’s predicament?

- ii. God was “weary” or” “tired” of Judah’s evil ways. In verses **15-16 of the Old Testament passage**, what would be different about this promised king as compared to Ahaz?

50) Matt 1:25 – Mary - a human woman brought forth a son, not fathered by man, called Jesus - “Yahweh will **Save**”.

- a. Which of the 3 great sets of promises in the Bible fits this one the closest? – the Adamic, the Abrahamic, or Davidic promises?

- b. From that promise, what was left for this child to do in his life to *complete* that prophecy in its entirety?

Mary Visits Elisabeth - Luke 1:39-56

51) Luke 1:39 There is a wonderful passage in Isaiah that is an echo of this verse. (Not only does this reference Mary, but it names others who also ran through the hill country rejoicing in our studies.) Find the passage in Isaiah.

52) When Mary embraced Elisabeth it says the baby leapt in Elisabeth’s womb (vs 41,44).

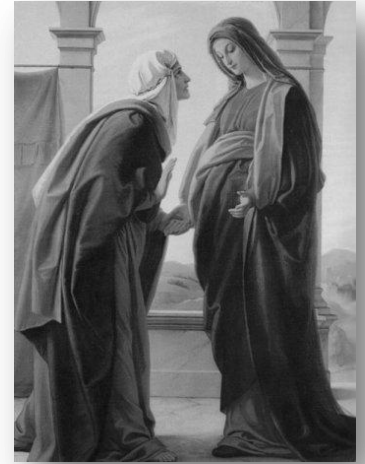
- a. Why do you think the baby jumped?

- b. Look at *Luke 6:20-23* (only other occurrence of the word “leaped”). Why did Jesus say we should leap for joy today?

53) Several people were filled with the Holy Spirit in this chapter. Name them.

54) Mary's song is patterned after Hannah's song. Find at least five similarities in their songs (there are more than five)

Hannah's Song – 1 Samuel 2:1-11	Mary's Song – Luke 1:46-55



55) How long did Mary stay with Elisabeth? How many months pregnant was Elisabeth by the time Mary left?

The birth of John the Baptist - Luke 1:57-66

56) When was the act of circumcision first instituted and why? What is the significance of the number 8 in scripture? (Hint 1 Peter 3, 2 Peter 2)

57) There are only a select few people in the Bible whose names were given to them by God, not picked by their parents. Besides John and Jesus, name some others whose names were given by God.

58) THINKING QUESTION: Elisabeth quoted Gabriel when naming John "He *shall be* called John." When Zacharias was asked, he changed that phrase just a little bit – he said, "His name *is* John". Other than Zacharias putting his foot down and insisting the boy's name 'is John', can you think of another more spiritual reason why he might have changed the wording? (hint: a) John's name means *gracious or grace* b) Elisabeth and Gabriel said *shall be* (future tense). Zacharias said *is* (present tense) c) Think "Whose" name is gracious?)

59) Why do you suppose that God waited to loose Zacharias' tongue until after he named his son John?

The Prophecy of Zacharias - Luke 1:67-80

The propcey of Zacharias is broken into 2 distinctive sections.

- a) The Restoration of Israel vs. 68-75
- b) The Prophet of the Highest vs. 76-79

60) Each section of his 2-part prophecy is speaking about someone different – who are they speaking about?

The Restoration of Israel - vs. 66-75

61) Luke 1:68 "(he hath) redeemed his people"

a. What does the word "redeemed" mean?

b. Look at the following verses and describe in each case what, or who was redeemed.

i. Exodus 6:6

ii. Leviticus 25:25,26

iii. Ruth 4:4-6

iv. II Samuel 7:23

c. In what way has God redeemed us through Jesus?

62) Luke 1:68 – It says God has **visited** His people. The word visited (Strong's #1980) means "to examine, to inspect with the eyes, to look upon or look after"

- a. When God visited or "inspected" his faithful servants (like Zacharias and Elisabeth for example), what *one great thing* did He find that was missing that *God* needed to provide for them?

- b. The word **visited** also means to "care for" Give at least 2 examples of how God showed his care for his people in this chapter? (there are more than 2)

63) Luke 1:69 – Horn of salvation – In the Bible, a horn is primarily used as a symbol of power and strength (think of an ox or ram's horn)

- a. In 1 Samuel 2:10, Hannah prophesies about the "horn of the anointed". Whom is she talking about?

- b. Zacharias quotes 2 Samuel 22:3 (& Psalms 18) – the words of David. The Horn of Righteousness is a description of **God** himself and his great power. Zacharias however is quoting this verse to describe **Jesus** in Luke 1. How was/is Jesus an example of the power of God?

64) Luke 1:70 – God spake through the mouth of his holy prophets about the coming of the Son of God. Name any **3 prophets/people** (men or women) who foretold the coming of Jesus (provide the reference where they said it - there are *TONS* of options here, just pick any 3 people!)

65) Luke 1:71 – "we should be saved from our enemies and ...them that hate us." Does anyone hate you today? Why would they hate you or be your enemy?

66) Luke 1:72, 73 - These 2 verses have echoes in earlier parts of Luke Chapter 1.

- a. What echoes are there to the first part of Luke 1? (Hint: the clue is somewhere in the first 10 questions in the workbook)

- b. Where would you find the oath that God swore to Abraham? (find the reference in Genesis)

67) Luke 1:74, 75 – When will God grant us deliverance from our enemies and a time when we can serve him in Holiness and Righteousness? Find a verse to back up your answer.

The Prophet of the Highest – vs. 76 - 79

68) Luke 1:76 – In ancient times it was the practice that servants of any great Caesar or king would run ahead and level the roads that the king was to travel on. This verse is very much a metaphor of this idea.

- a. How did John 'level the roads' before Jesus came? John might not have built a literal road for Jesus, but what was he sent before to prepare?

- b. How can we, like John, prepare a road before the second coming of Jesus?

69) Luke 1:77 – To us today it seems logical, but there is an equation in this verse that would have surprised the people who were looking for the Messiah to come in their day (the equation is - Knowledge of salvation = Remission of sins)

- a. What were virtually all the people looking to be saved from in the days of the birth of Jesus? Who did they think was their enemy that they needed saving from?

- b. Jesus, born of the tribe of Judah, by rights was a King. Did he come first as King? How did he appear to the people in his ministry?

- c. While we may have enemies, tough trials, or difficulties, what is the key thing we need to be saved from in our lives?

70) Luke 1:78 - "the day spring from on high"

- a. Look up the word "dayspring" in Strong's - what does it mean?

- b. Dayspring is also translated as "east" 3 times in Matthew Chapter 2. Find those references and highlight them in your Bible. If you have a wide-margin Bible, make a reference back to this verse in Luke.

- c. Psalm 50:1-6 is a wonderful passage that speaks also of the "sun rising" – "the heavens declaring His righteousness" - in this passage the saints that God is coming to deliver are those who have made a "covenant with me by sacrifice". How do we make a covenant by sacrifice? What do you think that phrase means?

71) Luke 1:79 – to give light to them that sit in darkness – this passage is a direct quotation from Isa. 42:5-9. Turn to that passage and read it.

- a. This passage in Isaiah is talking about more than just "light to the blind". What is the theme of these verses? (hint: prison, prison house, give breath unto the people)

- b. Isa 42:6 would be problematic for the devout Jews of the day, but great news for US! – Why?

72) Luke 1:80 – “and the child grew...and was in the deserts until the day of his shewing unto Israel.”
The inference is this: the *child* (infant or young man) grew, and the (*child*) (infant or young man) was in the deserts...(no indication that he was older before he entered the wilderness)

- a. Practically, consider the possibility that John at a very young age left home to go into the wilderness. Why would you think he *might* have to do that? (hint: parents)

- b. John from an early age grew up (Strong's - increased) and became a great, great prophet. John however knew his role and purpose – Look at John 3:30 (same word grew = increase) and explain what John understood about the importance of his role in God's plan.

The birth of Jesus - Luke 2:1-7

73) Using a Bible dictionary find out what years Augustus reigned as Caesar?

74) It says that Caesar decreed that all the world should be “taxed”. What did Caesar want to do in making this decree?

75) Joseph lived in a city called Nazareth.

- a. What status did Nazareth (and Galilee) have in the Jewish world? Was it a rich or prestigious area? (hint: check a Bible dictionary and see John 7:41-53)

- b. Jesus was often called “Jesus of Nazareth”. When someone used this title of Jesus, what do you think they were trying to say about him?

76) What does Bethlehem mean? What is the significance of Jesus being born there?

77) It states that Joseph needed to go to Bethlehem because he was of the *house* and *lineage* of David. What is the difference between 'house' and 'lineage'?

78) Why do you think God would send Mary and Joseph on such a long journey when she was going to have a baby?

79) Why would God allow His Son to be born in such lowly conditions? Surely if *someone* deserved to be born with honour in the best facilities available, Jesus would, don't you think? What is God telling us here?

80) The inn. The word is only used 2 other times in the New Testament. Look up the two other occurrences (Mark 14:14, Luke 22:11 – guest chamber).

a. What will be happening in that inn (or chamber)?

b. Can you think of any comparisons to what is happening in Luke 2? (hint: think of the meaning of "Bethlehem")

81) In Jeremiah 41:17 there is a "lodging place"(habitation) for weary travelers *right near Bethlehem* on their way to Egypt.

a. Who was Chimham and at what event are we introduced to him? (use a Concordance)

b. Why do you think Chimham would have built an inn right near Bethlehem?

c. What is significant (or sad) about the phrase "there was no room for them at the inn" given what we just learned about that inn built near Bethlehem and who it was for?

The Heavenly Host appear to the Shepherds Luke 2:8-20

82) The shepherds were in the field “keeping watch” (or *guarding* like a soldier as the word means) their sheep. Why do you think the angels appeared to these men *first* of the millions of people they could have told?

83) The KJV margin says that the shepherds were “night watchmen”. Are there any lessons **we** can draw from that description of the shepherds?

84) It says the glory of the Lord “surrounded them”, not just above them. Here are some other places the “Glory of the LORD” appeared to surround others. Look up each passage and describe *where* the Glory appeared and *to whom*?

a. Numbers 20:16

b. 2 Chronicles 7:1,2

c. Isaiah 60:1-3

d. Ezekiel 43:4,5

85) The angel says “for unto YOU is born”, not unto Mary or Joseph or even Israel, but unto *them*.

a. What does that tell us about why Jesus was sent?

b. What wonderful Old Testament passage tells us that Jesus was *born* or *given* to US?

86) Verse 10 says the tidings of joy will be **to all people**, but the angels say to the shepherds that **to you** (especially) is born a saviour. All people would hear of him, but for only a few he was born. Why would he only be born for a few?

87) “You shall find the babe (*their king*) wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger” It was said this would be a **sign** to them. The word sign means “a token that by which a person or a thing is *distinguished* from others and is known as...” Do you think the angel is just telling the shepherds what Jesus looked like, or is there something special about the manner of his birth that they might not have expected if the angel didn’t tell them?

88) **Swaddling clothes** – this would mean that the baby was wrapped tightly up in a blanket (just like we would do for a baby today). Can you think of another time when Jesus was handled in the same way?

89) “There was a multitude of angels” - we don’t know exactly how many, but this describes it as the Heavenly host (host means “army”)! Can you think of another time when an actual **number** of angels was mentioned, giving perspective on how many there *might* have been visiting the shepherds?

90) The angels focus their joy singing, “Glory to God” and from that, and *only then* can there be “Peace and goodwill to all men.” Find a verse that speaks of the “Glory of the Lord” and the overall purpose God has with mankind.

91) The shepherds came to see Jesus. It seems they did not return to their flocks immediately, they went out another way to bring the joyful news to others.

- a. What parable of Jesus is similar to what the shepherds did here? What was the main lesson from that parable and can it apply to what these shepherds did?

- b. There were others who went out a *different way* after seeing Jesus. Who?

- c. After meeting Jesus, they felt compelled to go a *different way*. What lessons can we take from that?

The visit of the Magi - Matthew 2:1-12

92) Look up in a Bible dictionary information on Herod the Great (37BC – 4BC).

- a. Was Herod Jewish? What nation was he from?

- b. What kind of man was he? Give 2 examples from what you find about him that best show what kind of person he was.

93) Matt 2:1 – How many wise men came to visit Jesus?

94) Matt 2:1 – The wise men came from the East to Jerusalem.

- a. Where do you think they came from? (what nation or region)

- b. Do you think they were Jews or Gentiles? Why do you think that?

- c. How do you suppose they would have known about the coming birth of the Messiah (where would they get their information from, or from *whom*?)

- 95) Matt 2:3 – Why would Herod be *troubled* about the Messiah being born? Why wouldn't that be happy news for him?

- 96) Matt 2: 6 – Look up the word “**rule**”

- a. What does it mean?

- b. How does that relate to the profession of the first king born in Bethlehem many years before?

- 97) Matt 2:6 The Chief Priests knew exactly where Jesus was going to be born. What Bible passage did they turn to in order to find this information out?

- 98) Matthew 2:6 – a woman gave birth to another boy near Bethlehem.

- a. Who was the woman and what happened to her?

- b. Who was her son and what does his name mean?

- c. What is significant about the meaning of *the boy's name* in comparison to Jesus?

- 99) Matt 2:7-8 – Herod stated that he wanted the wise men to search for Jesus, and when they found him, to bring word so he could worship him.

- a. What were his real intentions?



- b. Herod and the Chief Priests couldn't be bothered to search for Jesus, they wanted the benefits (finding the king, obtaining salvation) but didn't want to put in any effort. Can we compare this to Christianity today in any way?
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Special Note: The truth is we don't exactly know what that star looked like and there is a lot of speculation about it in the scientific and Christian world. The scientific world has tried to link it to solar events that they know happened around this time. The word star in the gospels means just that – "a star", and is used mostly as a symbol later on in Revelation. The two most popular suggestions about what the star was are these:

- i) There were two astronomical events involving conjunctions of planets around the time of Jesus' birth---the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in 7 B.C.E. and the near-conjunction of Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn in February 6 B.C.E. A conjunction is when two or more objects (stars) appear very close together in the sky.
- ii) Chinese astronomers recorded a new star in the March--April of 5 B.C.E. which was extremely bright and visible for over 70 days. This new star was what we call a nova (short for the Latin "nova stella = ``new star"). A nova, or super nova in short is an exploding star, series of stars, or an entire galaxy.

There are no perfect answers to what this star was and exactly when it occurred. It's really neat to investigate, and for astronomers it's an exciting puzzle to unravel. All of the above suggestions are good ones, and make some sense, but none completely satisfy the characteristics given to us in the Gospel accounts. It is very possible this was a miraculous event, never to be duplicated again.

- 100) Matt 2:9 – "the star in the East" The star seemed to **lead** the wise men to Jerusalem and then it **led** them to Bethlehem. Matthew then states it '**stood** over the child'.
- a. What does the word "stood" mean?
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- b. Is it possible for a star to stand over a child or a house directly? What did it mean in this case?
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- 101) For something to stand still, it implies that the star was *moving* at some point – guiding the wise men to Jesus.
- a. Find a parallel in the Old Testament that was i) like a star (in some ways) ii) and guided people in their way.
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b. From the answer in a. *Where* did that “star” stand over when not moving?

c. From the answer in b. What did the place it stood over *represent*?

102) Matt 2:10,11 – The young child

a. Look up the word “**young child**” – what is the meaning of the word?

b. The word for ‘young child’ is the same word used in Luke 2:21, 27. How old was Jesus in the Luke 2 passage?

103) Matt 2:11 – What is different about *where* the wise men and *where* the shepherds visited Jesus?

104) Matt 2:11 The 3 gifts for a king. Note: It seems that the Magi brought *many* gifts (they opened their *treasures*) and out of those gifts, they selected 3 gifts to give him. Try your best to fill in this chart. This could be a bit tough! (use Bible dictionaries to look up the gifts to help you out).

Gift	What is it? What is it used for?	Spiritual Significance?
Gold	Money, Holy items made of Gold	Tried faith, 1 Peter 1:7
Frankincense		
Myrrh		

105) When do you think these gifts might have been used, and for what purpose? They were precious gifts, but not gifts you'd normally give a baby.

106) Matthew 2:12 – They went out “another way”. After meeting Jesus (even as a baby) people didn't go back the same way they came.

a. Give another example *in the account of the birth of Jesus* of people who went out a different way than they came?

b. The wise men went home physically a different way after meeting Jesus. Can you think of other examples in the Bible of people who after meeting Jesus changed their direction (physically or spiritually)?

Flight into Egypt - Matthew 2:13-23

107) Matt 2:13 - What is the significance of Egypt in the Bible?

108) Matt 2:15 – There is a prophecy quoted here about Jesus coming out of Egypt.

a. Find the Old Testament prophesy quoted.

b. The prophecy in the OT doesn't at first seem to be talking about Jesus. Who is the “my son, or my child” talked about in that prophesy?

c. In what sense are we “called out of Egypt”?



- 109) Matt 2:16 Herod destroys the children.
- There was another man in history who commanded that the Israelite children were to be killed – who was that? (Hint: Egypt)

b. Who was the saviour at that time in history? (what man) What did his name mean?

c. What parallels can you make between Jesus coming out of Egypt and what this man did?

- 110) Matt 2: 17, 18 - The prophesy quoted in Jeremiah seems to be a sad one.

- Go to Jeremiah 31:15-17 and read it.
- The prophesy begins on a sad note, but how does it end?

c. How would Jesus later fulfill verses 16-17 of Jeremiah 31?

Special Note: It is often assumed that the passage that speaks of Jesus as “a Nazarene” means that Jesus took a Nazarite vow like John, Samuel and Samson. While the root of the word for Nazareth can possibly be traced back to “nezer” or Nazarite, we feel that is not the primary lesson of what Matthew 2:23 is trying to tell us. Jesus never partook physically of that vow in the literal sense like the other 3. He drank wine, he touched dead bodies, he mingled with the unclean every day, yet he was the epitome of what the vow was intended to imply - “Holiness unto the Lord”. Jesus was the perfect fulfillment of that vow, but this passage is not the focal point of that type.

The implication of this passage has its roots in the city itself. A city despised, rejected, hated among Israel. ‘Nazareth’ in the Greek means “despised one” or “bleak”

- 111) Matt 2:23 – Jesus dwelt in the city of Nazareth – so that he was called a Nazarene.
 a. The prophecy fulfilled by this verse is commonly believed to be **Isaiah 53:1-3**. What does this passage tell you about how Jesus would be welcomed or treated?

- b. Review the passages below about Nazareth. Explain what each passage might tell us about how Nazareth (and the country of Galilee) might have been viewed.

Passage	The quote	What it tells us about Nazareth or Galilee
John 1:46		
John 7:52		
John 19:19		

Presenting Jesus at the temple - Luke 2:21-39

- 112) The circumcising of Jesus.
 a. Where did God first request that a male child should be circumcised? (Give a Bible verse)

- b. What was circumcision supposed to represent? (hint: Deut. 30:6)

- c. Circumcision is no longer necessary – Why? (hint: Rom. 2:28-29)

- 113) What does the name Jesus mean?



114) Mary and Joseph had to offer two turtledoves for Jesus' dedication to God.

a. What does this tell us about their possible financial situation?

b. Find where in the Law this was required?

c. What other animal could have been offered? Is there another reason, other than the financial cost, that this particular animal wasn't offered? (Hint: think about whose behalf they were offering for.)

115) Simeon's name means "to listen" and it says he was waiting for the "Consolation of Israel"

a. What does the word **Consolation** mean?

b. What was Simeon listening for?

116) Simeon was a very old man, it seems, who was, it seems, not **allowed** to die until he had seen the anointed. The word in verse 26 "revealed to him" is better translated "warned of God". Does this change how the story of Simeon reads? (see vs. 29 for another clue)

117) Luke 2:32 – It is an amazing thing that Simeon, a devout Jew, who could have mentioned 1,000 other references quotes Isaiah 42:6-7 about the Gentiles! Turn to **Isaiah 42:6-7** and answer these questions:

a. Who are 'the blind' that Simeon might be thinking of in his day?

b. Who are those 'prisoners' that sit in prison?

c. What does it mean to 'sit in darkness'?

118) Luke 2: 34. What do you think Simeon meant when he stated that Jesus would be "destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel"(NKJV)?

119) How would Jesus be a "sign to be opposed" (NASB), or "a sign spoken against"? (Hint: Matt 16:4 and Luke 2:35 – the phrase "That the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" is a reference to verse 34.)



120) How would a sword pierce through Mary's soul? What event is this referring to?

121) Anna was also very old and had waited a long time for Jesus to come. From the numbers given in verses 36 & 37, how old, at the very least, was she? (Assume for this exercise that she was about 18 when she was married).

122) It is interesting that in the story of Luke 1 & 2 there are 6 primary faithful characters (excluding the children) that were very, very old and weren't going to live much longer. Does this tell you anything about the state the ecclesia was in when God sent His son?

- 123) Romans 5:6 tells us more about what he saw in the world just before he sent His son.
a. Are there any comparisons to our day today?

- b. Where do people in the world think their strength comes from?

- 124) Anna was diligent in prayer and was in the temple fasting night and day. Another famous woman in the bible was named Anna. Can you think of any comparisons to this other Anna?

- 125) What does Anna's name mean and how is this similar to another character in this story? (You will need to trace her name back to its Hebrew meaning).

- 126) Anna preached about the redemption of Jerusalem. The word redemption means "deliverance". What did Jerusalem need to be redeemed, or delivered from?

Jesus at 12 – His journey to the temple - Luke 2:40-52

- 127) Jesus grew strong and was full of *wisdom*. We know Jesus had lots of "book smarts" (it seems that he had memorized the Old Testament!).
a. What is the difference between *wisdom* and *knowledge*?

- b. Do you have to have a lot of *knowledge* to be counted *wise*?

128) There are some amazing comparisons on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem as a 12 year old boy and his final Passover journey. Find at least 3 similarities between the two events.

129) Mary and Joseph assumed that Jesus would want to be in the company of his natural family and friends. Jesus preferred to be around those who discussed God's Word. What does that teach us about who we should want to associate with?

130) They were missing Jesus for 3 long days.
a. When did Jesus go missing for 3 days again later?

b. Compare the reactions when he was 'found' on *both* occasions.



131) Verse 46 says that Jesus was both *listening* and *teaching* the doctors of the Law. What does this tell us about Jesus' character and how he gained his great wisdom?

132) It says the doctors were **astonished** (Strong's #1605) at his doctrine. The word means "to be struck with amazement", but it also means "to expel with a blow, or to push away from you". What kind of picture do you get of how excited these men were, and how they reacted when this young man "wowed" them with this knowledge?

133) It seems from what Mary said to Jesus that she felt Jesus had dishonoured his parents. Had he? Who was his real father?

134) There is another time in Jesus' ministry that his family questions his loyalties.
a. Find a verse where his natural family is also upset at him.

b. What was his answer at that time?

135) What does it mean that Jesus was subject unto his father and mother?

136) Jesus was subject unto Mary and Joseph's guardianship. What does this tell you about the characters of Mary and Joseph that Jesus would obey them in everything?



137) Verse 52 says Jesus 'grew in favour with God and man'. What does favour mean? How can we be both in favour with God and man in the same way Jesus was?
