



**Nazareth the Place of Life Purpose Change**

December 11-17, 2011

**PRAYER: Begin with a few moments of sharing thanks and praises in prayer.**

Leaders, it's your call; you may choose to incorporate more information/scriptures as time allows for your small group lesson. Reflection: Luke wrote this record of Jesus' life for a Gentile audience. Luke is the longest book in the NT. While much of the same material is used in Mark and Matthew, Luke adds his own distinctive flavor to the story. This Gospel is marked by joy, songs of praise, and an interest in the relationship of Jesus with people considered outcast by his fellow countrymen. This week we'll discover that God became man (the Incarnation) is the miracle of all miracles. He didn't come as a powerful, invincible warrior (as the Jewish people had expected), but as a little baby crying in a stable.

**Opener:**

What have you been told about the events surrounding your birth??

If an angel told you (or your parents) that you were going to have a child this year, how would you react?

**Read:** Luke 1:26-34

**Discuss:**

If you had been Mary, what would have been hardest to comprehend? (Being favored by God; getting pregnant as a virgin; who her child was going to be; how to explain her pregnancy to others; especially Joseph and her family?)

What do you learn about Jesus Christ from the angel's announcement? (vv. 30-33)

How do you think Mary felt about giving birth to the Messiah? (sacred; honored; burdened; overjoyed; lonely; clueless)

**Read:** Luke 1:35-38

**Discuss:**

**Why do you think** the angel Gabriel told Mary about Elizabeth's condition? (to prove God's power; to encourage her; to give her something else to think about; other?)

If an angel today were to reveal God's plan for your life, what would you do? (Ask a lot of questions, wonder if I had any say about it; rejoice that God could use me; worry about my ability to do it; run away scared; gladly obey; other?)

What about this story stands out most to you? (His conception – by the Holy Spirit and a virgin; his humanity – as a man who can relate to us; His deity – God's Holy Son)

**Plan for Action:**

Has there been a time recently that you felt fearful but believing?

How did God meet you?

How did you come to an understanding of who Jesus is?

In what area of your life do you need to believe that nothing is impossible with God?

How would you describe your relationship with Jesus Christ now?

How can this group pray for you this week?

*To view the complete teaching from the Sunday services go to [www.centralcommunity.org/media/index.html](http://www.centralcommunity.org/media/index.html)*

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Our Mission is Changing Lives: *Turning uncommitted people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.*

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