

FOCUSING OUR EYES ON JESUS

Luke 2:1-7

Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website www.vcfj.org and listen to it BEFORE you start this small group lesson. It will allow you to take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on our Journey to Greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

THE FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

- o What did the Angel Gabriel tell Zacharias about his prayer request?
- o What was Zacharias' reaction to what the Angel Gabriel told him?
- o What was the spiritual climate like at this time under the rule of the Roman Empire?
- o Discuss how God used Zacharias to fulfill Old Testament prophecy?

THE SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

- o What does **Luke 1:28-33** tell us about what the Angel Gabriel told Mary?
- o What made Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph different than the other people who were under the Roman Empire?
 - What became their total focus?
- o Even though the Angel Gabriel did not make an announcement to Caesar August in Rome, how was God still using him to fulfill prophecy?
- o What type of person was Caesar August?
- o What type of leadership did he have?
- o What was God doing at this time when He had the whole world focusing on "worldly events?"

HOW DOES GOD FULFILL PROPHECY ONE BY ONE?

- o What is the “indescribable gift” that Paul is talking about in **2 Cor. 9:15**?
- o How was God fulfilling the prophecies by this gift?
- o Why were the priests and people studying the prophetic word found in the Old Testament?
- o Pastor shared **Heb. 12:1-2** and mentioned that the first word, “therefore,” connects the content to **Heb. 11**, which is known as the “faith chapter.” Why would chapter 11 be known as the “faith chapter?”
- o How is **Heb. 12:1-2** different from **Heb. 11**?

PROPHETIC WORD FROM ISAIAH

- o What makes Isaiah so incredibly accurate?
- o Read **Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7 and 11:1-5**. Discuss the hidden prophetic words in these verses and how they came about.
- o Read **Isaiah 53:1-12**. What is prophesied about Jesus?
- o Why did God use Old Testament prophecy to tell about the coming of Jesus?
- o Why should our eyes be focused on what we read in **Heb. 12:2**?
- o Read **Gal. 4:4-7** and discuss what these words mean to us today?

APPLICATION

- o Are there times when you get caught up in the circumstances of the world and daily living?
- o What should be the change of your heart when this happens?