

“REGARDLESS OF WHAT ANYONE MAY PERSONALLY THINK OR BELIEVE ABOUT HIM, JESUS OF NAZARETH HAS BEEN THE DOMINANT FIGURE IN THE HISTORY OF WESTERN CULTURE FOR ALMOST TWENTY CENTURIES.”
(JAROSLAV PELIKAN, *JESUS THROUGH THE CENTURIES*)

“The Early Years of Jesus’ Life”

1. Review

- Luke 1:1-4 – “an orderly account”

2. Purpose of the birth narratives

3. Luke 1:5-25 – The announcement of John’s birth

- Herod the Great: 37-4 B.C.

4. Luke 1:26-38 – The announcement of Jesus’ birth

- Marriage: three step process:
 - Engaged (informal agreement)
 - Betrothal (legal commitment)
 - Marriage (relationship not consummated until marriage)
- Importance of the Virgin Birth
- Review titles:
 - 1:17 – the Lord
 - 1:32 – most high
 - 1:35 – Son of God
- Mary as model of discipleship
- **DISCUSS: What do we learn from Mary’s example of discipleship?**

5. Luke 1:39-45 – Mary visits Elizabeth

6. Luke 1:46-56 – The Magnificat (“glorifies”)

7. Luke 1:57-66 – Birth of John the Baptist

8. Luke 1:67-80 – The Benedictus

Matthew’s Account

1. Introduction: Matthew 1:1-17

2. Matthew 1:18-25 – The announcement to Joseph

3. Matthew 2:1-12 – The Wise Men

4. Matthew 2:13-18
 - Prophecy as fulfillment vs. prediction

DISCUSS: What do we learn from Joseph’s example of discipleship?