

HIStory – Week 1

Day 1 – Jesus’ Birth: Jesus’ humanity

Read Luke 1:26-37 and Luke 2:4-7

Jesus was born as a human baby; therefore, he was reliant on his parents. Just because he was conceived by the Holy Spirit doesn’t mean that when he was born that he could immediately start walking, talking, and preaching.

1. Have you ever thought of Jesus as a helpless baby?
2. What impact do you think it had on Mary and Joseph?
3. Because Jesus came to Earth as a baby and not came down with an army of angels singing His praises and vanquishing His enemies do you think that it would have an impact on His message?
 - a. What impact and difference is there?

Day 2 – Jesus speaks with the Religious Teachers

Read Luke 2:41-52

“Mary had to let go of her child and let him become a man (at 12, Jesus was today’s equivalent of being 17) God’s Son, the Messiah. Fearful that she hadn’t been careful enough with the God-given child, she searched frantically for him. But she was looking for a boy, not the young man who was in the temple astounding the religious leaders with his questions. Letting go of people or opportunities is difficult. It is both sweet and painful to see our children as adults, the people we mentor as leaders, or our ideas and dreams becoming successes and taking on a life of its own. But when the time comes to step back and let go, we must do in spite of uncertainty. Then our protégés can take flight and soar to the heights that God intended for them.”

1. How hard is it to know when to step back a bit?
2. What does it look like when we give the things that we have been holding onto a little more space?

Day 3 – Jesus is Baptised

Read Mark 1:4 and Mark 1:9-11

If John’s baptism was for the repentance from sin, then why was Jesus baptised? Jesus didn’t need to repent because he hadn’t committed a sin so with that in mind, Jesus was baptised for the following reasons:

1. Jesus’ leadership style was always about leading by example; he never expected us to do something that he never did.
2. to identify with our humanness and sin.

What other examples from His ministry can you identify with and follow?

Day 4: Temptation in the Wilderness

Read Matthew 4:1-11

When it comes to temptation Satan knows what to do. As children, we see in cartoons that the devil is depicted as this red man with horns, a pointy tail, and a pitchfork but that is not true, he can look like everything you have ever wanted. The devil's temptations were in 3 areas: 1. Physical needs and desires, 2. Possessions and power, and 3. Pride. But Jesus did not give in.

Read Hebrew 4:15.

1. Is there anything from this story that we can learn about Jesus' humanity?
2. Would you have done the same thing as Jesus (if you were physically capable of not eating for 40 days)?
3. Does the fact that Satan himself tempted Jesus change your perception of Jesus?

Day 5: Turning Water into Wine

Read: John 2:1-11

Jesus was on a mission to save the world. Yet he took the time to attend a wedding and take part in the festivities. The weddings back then did not last for a couple of hours, but rather would be a weeklong festivity. We may be tempted to think we should put off attending social events when we are in the middle of "important" work but maybe these social occasions are part of our mission. Jesus valued these events because they involved people and Jesus came to be with people. Our mission can often be accomplished in joyous times of celebration you just need to find the right balance.

1. How often do you take time out during your ministry work to socialize and relax?
2. Do you need more balance or are you focusing too much on work, or too much on socializing?

Day 7: Jesus chooses His 12

Read Mark 3:13-19

Jesus did not choose these 12 because of their faith, since their faith often stumbled. He didn't choose them because of their talent and abilities; none of them had any outstanding abilities (unless you could Peter's ability of speaking before thinking). The disciples represented a range of backgrounds, and life experiences. The one characteristic that they did share was the willingness to follow and obey Jesus. After Jesus ascended to heaven, the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to carry out special roles that oversaw the growing early church.

We should not disqualify ourselves from service to God because we do not have the expected "credentials". Being a disciple is simply following Jesus with a willing heart.

1. What do you think it means to get a 'call' from God?
2. Have you ever felt that there is something that "disqualifies" you from being a disciple of God?