

HISTORY IS HIS STORY

Investigating Jesus #2

Luke 1:5-25

ICE BREAKER What event in history would you have liked to experienced first hand?

BACKGROUND Luke is laying out the historicity of our faith, not based on philosophy or a fairy tale. It is rooted in the facts of history.

THE BIG PICTURE God still steps into real times and into the lives of real people with real struggles to invade those impossible situations and bring real life. No matter what we face, He is with us and in control. The circumstances of life do not change the faithfulness of God.

DIGGING DEEPER

Introduction: The Prophecy

Read MALACHI 3:1. Underline the words that prophesy about the messenger.

Read MALACHI 4:5-6. Underline the words that prophesy what the messenger will do.

These Events Happened in History - This is a Real Story: Read LUKE 1:5-25

These Events Happened in a Real Time: LUKE 1:5 In the days of Herod...

What do you know about this specific time in history? Who was Herod the Great? What kind of person was he? Why did Luke mention this time in history?

These Events Happened at a Real Place: LUKE 1:5 king of Judea...

Where is Judea located? Later in this passage, Luke writes of the Temple and the altar of incense. What do you know about the Temple? Why are these locations important?

These Events Happened to Real People: LUKE 1:5-9 Zechariah and Elizabeth

What stands out to you about Zechariah and Elizabeth? God chose this ordinary couple to do something extraordinary. What does that say about God?

These Events Record Real Life/Struggles: LUKE 1:5-7

To be childless was heartbreaking and a social disgrace. How did Zechariah & Elizabeth choose to live in spite of their situation? What can we learn from them?

These Events Show God Was Guiding the Events of History: LUKE 1:8-25

How did God show He was in control of His story?² Since so few priests were chosen for such a grand service, what do you think Zechariah was thinking/feeling as he was preparing for it? What does it mean to you to know God hears our prayers? How did Zechariah react after hearing the angel's words? Why do we sometimes doubt God's desire to fulfill our deepest longings? What can we learn from Elizabeth's words?

Conclusion: God is in Control of History and Actively Involved in Each of our Lives

What comfort does this message offer to you when you find yourself in seemingly hopeless situations? How will this message make a difference in your life?

² Examples: (1) There were around 20,000 priests so it was a *big* deal when Zechariah was chosen by lot. (2) An angel appears and says, "Your prayer has been heard." (3) Zechariah would have recognized the prophecy was from Malachi.