

**The Promise Kept - Jesus stepped into life to give you life.
Luke 2:1-7; 1:26-35, Micah 5:2**

Read Luke 2:1-7 with your group.

Last week we talked about the promise of Rescuer coming to do battle against sin and darkness. In light of this promise of a Rescuer in Genesis 3:15 and Isaiah 9:1-7, how do you see the circumstances of Luke 2:1-7 fulfilling this promise?

Although the promise was being fulfilled in Jesus' birth, the people of Israel and those who believed the prophecies, had to wait a really long time. In fact, it had been generations since the promise was first given. Around 3500 years. Then more silence after the last prophet for over 400 years.

Imagine being a faithful follower of God during this time. It's been a really long time of waiting. What would you be holding onto for hope? (consider the many times God showed Himself faithful throughout the O.T.)

Try to imagine being a Gentile/nonbeliever during Israel's waiting. How might they have responded to the hope of their Jewish neighbors who were waiting for a Savior to come?

You can imagine there must have been frustration, anger, angst, maybe doubt, and definitely disappointment.

Talk with your group about times of waiting in your life wondering when/if God would show up. Was there ever a doubt that He would?

What did you hold onto or could you have held onto in those times of waiting?

Luke's retelling of the birth of Jesus is a magnificent recording of history. God was orchestrating history to bring about His promise of a Rescuer.

Knowing that the birth didn't take God by surprise and that He was actually in the details, how does the birth story help you to understand God's faithfulness more completely?

God is faithful to bring about His promise. He promised a Savior and He delivered. But He sent Jesus in a way no one would have expected.

Why do you think the King of Heaven came in the flesh and was born in a dirty old stable with animals?

From the promise in Genesis 3:15, God has been passionately pursuing His children to restore a relationship with them. He was concerned about fame and fortune. He cared about you! That's why He came and why He didn't come with a flash.

How does knowing Jesus came for you, change your perspective this Christmas?

JESUS STEPPED INTO LIFE TO GIVE YOU LIFE. MERRY CHRISTMAS!