

1. Luke described his methodology in 1:1-4. How does he demonstrate his reliability as a historian in the first paragraph of ch. 2 & 3?
2. How much power does God have over the events of this world? Answer the question from 2:1-5. How is this encouraging to you?
3. How did Joseph and Mary end up in Bethlehem? Why is this an important detail in terms of God's plan of salvation? (See Micah 5:2 & Isaiah 11:1-9)
4. Who did the news of Jesus' birth first come to and why is this significant?
5. What are the Shepherds told about this baby that has been born (v11)?
6. How does the song of the angels also help us to see what the arrival of this baby means for the world (v14)?
7. Now, think about your answers to questions 5 & 6 – what would you expect to find if you went to visit a baby like this? Instead, what do the Shepherds discover and what does this tell us about Jesus?

8. What impact does their meeting with Jesus have on the Shepherds (v17-20)? How is this a challenge to us in our relationship with Jesus?
9. What do we learn about Simeon and Anna (v25-38)? What do they each say about Jesus?
10. V41-52 is the only story that we have from Jesus' childhood. Why do you think Luke includes it?
11. In ch. 3, we return to Zechariah's son. Who was he and what role should we be expecting him to fulfil (v4-6, see 1:76-80)? (Also see Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6)
12. What is he doing here in chapter 3? Where is he situated and what is the significance of that?
13. What does John say to those who come out to hear him? Why?
14. According to John, what is the "one who is to come" going to do? How do you make sense of this in the light of all that was said about him in ch. 1-2?
15. What is John's warning to us today? What should we do about it?