

## *Day 1*

*April 16*



*Pray | Praise God for his love*

HUMBLE is how the birth of Jesus is often described. The days leading up to his birth are no exception.

God has a history of repeatedly using other nations and people in power, often those who do not believe in him, to accomplish his goals and mission. Through Jesus' humble birth, God demonstrates his magnificent power. He demonstrates that anything is possible through him.



*Read | Luke 2:1-7, Micah 5:2*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

If you have been following the Gospel Project, you know that God always keeps his promises. He often accomplishes his mission in unexpected and ironic ways. God fulfilled a prophecy about Jesus from Micah 5:2, by using Roman power and law to place the birth of our Messiah in the city promised, Bethlehem. Why do you think God set up the birth of Jesus in this way?

In what ways have you humbled yourself for the glory of God?

Being humble is often a redeeming quality in people. If you think of some of the people you admire most, it is very possible that being humble is one of their traits that draws you to them. Why might this be?

## *Day 2*

*April 17*



*Pray | Tell God how grateful you are for his grace*

JESUS WAS BORN for everyone.

The angels announced the birth of the Messiah to a group of humble shepherds. Today's scripture verses are yet another example of God working in unexpected ways. Salvation through Jesus is available to anyone. Why were a group of shepherds chosen for the birth announcement of the savior of man? Why wouldn't God choose a group of great religious scholars or a world leader for this birth announcement?



*Read | Luke 2:8-20, Isaiah 7:14*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

If you do not follow Jesus, take some time to reflect on today's introduction and scripture verses. Know that God loves you and has made Jesus available to anyone. It does not matter what you were in the past.

Today's scripture reading indicates God was working in the same way in which he often had in the Old Testament; bringing glory and salvation to his people through ordinary and unexpected ways, with ordinary people. How have you been a witness for God in unexpected or ordinary ways?

How might today's scripture verses challenge the way in which we, as humans, value importance and worth?

## Day 3

April 18



*Pray | For Jesus to open the hearts of all to his love*

JESUS TRANSCENDS all races, cultures, and nations.

Yesterday's scripture verses indicate Jesus was born for everyone as individuals. Today's scripture verses indicate Jesus was born for all nations of the world.

Even though Israel was God's chosen nation throughout the Old Testament, he often used non-Israelites to accomplish his mission...even showing them favor at times. The Magi, otherwise known as the wise men, were a mysterious group of people from Persia called by King Herod to confirm the birth of Jesus.



*Read | Matthew 2:1-16*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

The Magi sought out the King of the Jews and provided him valuable gifts. Are you a person who worships and seeks God like the Magi, or do you wait for God to reveal himself to you?

Not everyone is comfortable with Jesus being a king. It sometimes disturbs people. The concept of Jesus being capable of being the savior of the world for every nation is difficult both for those who do not have a relationship with him and for those who do. Jesus made King Herod very uncomfortable, to be sure. What are some ways that Jesus makes you feel uncomfortable for disturbed? Spend some time in prayer and share your thoughts with God.

The birth of Jesus caused drastic reactions for those who knew what he represented at the time. Reflect on the reaction of King Herod or the Magi making what was probably a long and difficult journey just to see this one small child. The Magi also were most likely risking their lives by avoiding having to report back to King Herod. What are some life changes or drastic reactions that Jesus has caused in your life?

*Day 4*  
*April 19*



*Pray | Praise God for keeping his promises*

JESUS WAS repeatedly promised as a savior to the world long before his birth.

God's ancient promises and covenants represent his love for all the people of world. He sent Jesus to the earth in the most humble and vulnerable of human forms, a newborn baby, to fulfill his mighty promises of old.



*Read | Genesis 15:1-4, 2 Samuel 7:12-16*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

God's love is so great and unfathomable. Reflect on the fact that he has kept his promises and fulfilled his covenants out of his love for billions and billions of people. Is there anything God is prompting you to do today to share his love with God's people in your life?

People make many promises and oaths. It can often be difficult to keep to all the terms of just a single promise. Reflect on any promises you have made in recent years, why you made them, to whom you made them, what purpose they served, and what you may have sacrificed to keep them. Now think about the promises God made and kept in the passages you read today. How does the weight of God's promises affect your attitude toward making and keeping promises?

Our God makes and keeps big promises. Spend some time talking to God about how this impacts your prayer life. If you haven't thought about this before, ask God to let his promises shape your prayer life.

## Day 5

April 20



*Pray / Ask God how you can demonstrate hope to others*

JESUS IS eternal.

Much of this week's subject matter has covered Jesus' birth, promises and events leading up to it. Jesus has always been in existence and always will be. In this way, God, once again, demonstrates great love and hope for humanity beyond comprehension.



*Read | John 1:1-14*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

John 1:1-14 introduces Jesus in a very different way from that of Luke or Matthew. John describes Jesus as having existed all along, even before he was born. While this concept may be difficult to comprehend, these verses offer so much hope because they describe Jesus as being a light for all of humankind. Jesus was born as a baby for everyone, and he is also eternal for everyone, but everyone hasn't had the opportunity to know Jesus. How do you introduce Jesus to others?

Christians often describe Jesus in the past tense. "Jesus was," "Jesus did," "Jesus performed..." Focus on being more intentional about speaking of Jesus in the present tense the next time you speak of him. Reflect on how this practice might open you up to a deeper relationship with him.

Unless indicated otherwise, all Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® (NIV®). Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.