

sunday supplement



Sunday 4 December

Walk on the Wild Side

From Heaven to Earth

Luke 2 v 1-7 Earthbound

Luke 2 v 8-20 Heaven breaks in

Luke 2 v 12 This shall be a sign to you

Straight Through Isaiah

Isaiah chapter 54 this week. A key verse to start with, then some reminders of God's love for you, and some practical advice for victorious living.

Day 1: Isaiah 54.1-3

Familiar? Look back at the past year and ask God to remind you of ways in which these promises have been fulfilled for you personally and for the Church. In what ways are they yet to come to pass?

Day 2: Isaiah 54.4-8

Are there aspects of your past that you would like to forget? Bring them to God and read these verses over them. Focus on the promises God makes to you as his child.

one-to-one



Walk on the Wild Side

This week, we come to the central character of the Luke story; the one who would uniquely walk on the wild side. Not just nine months, but centuries of waiting had passed, then.....

'This is That' on a huge scale! The most significant event since the Creation of the Universe. Is this statement 'over the top'? Or is it totally inadequate?!

Day 1. Luke 2:1-5. Fulfilling prophecy.

All the 'This is That' needed to organise Jesus' birth in Bethlehem – 75 difficult miles from where his family lived. How was that achieved ((1-4)? Totally inconvenient, even dangerous; but sometimes God needs to re-arrange our lives to achieve His purpose. Don't worry; He always gets it right!

Day 2. 6, 7. It's a boy!!

Surprise? 50:50 chance? Not at all – see 1:31-33. And what a boy! What was He to become? How does that fit in with 70? God in a dirty nappy! But even this was significant (12).

Day 3. 8-12. Angels again.

Imagine the cold, boring, silent scene. Then,.....! Who was this visitor? What happened and with what effect? What were the key points of his message (11, 12)? What was important about "to you..." (11)?

Day 4. 13, 14. Hallelujah chorus.

Amazing campfire singing that night! This event was big and it justified taking the full choir. Again, what are the key points in 14? What did they mean? How do they apply now?

Day 5. 15-20. Action!

Things had changed for those shepherds – big time. What did they do (16, 17, 20)? With what result? Who looked after the sheep??!! What was Mary's response? What is going on in your heart this Advent? Will you get just a little bit excited?!

Bible Study Groups

We are hoping to run some Bible Study groups in the New Year. If you are experienced or interested in leading such groups please have a word with Martin Young or Peter Edwards and come to a meeting to explore the ideas on Tuesday 13th December at 8pm.

groups

Here are some questions that will stimulate honest discussion and prayer. Feel free to use some or all of them to explore the topic. Remember to give time for friendship and socialising, as well as prayer and letting the Holy Spirit guide your time together.

Read Luke 2 v 1-7 In what ways does this reflect our world/nation/community? What are the circumstances that contain and dictate what you do and how you live? (Politics, culture, finance, relationships, health, work, background etc)

Read Luke 2 v 8-20 When have you been surprised by heaven/Jesus/spiritual reality? Describe the joy, confusion, fear, wonder of those events.

Have there been times in your life when this kind of event has led you to influence others for good; or when an event like this in someone else's life has affected you?

Read Luke 2 v 12 (in a traditional version) What signs of the kingdom are you aware of right now? Are they supernatural/extraordinary or very natural/ordinary. Pray for each other to see the kingdom of heaven and to make heaven to earth connections.

Straight Through Isaiah cont...

Day 3: Isaiah 54.9-10

On what basis does God make these promises to you? What should your response be – both your immediate response, and the longer-term life changes you need his help to make?

Day 4: Isaiah 54.11-15

Listen to the love of God speaking to you through these verses. In what ways do they show his love? How have you experienced that love in the past week or two? (Try to be specific!)

Day 5: Isaiah 54.16-17

Read Ephesians 6.10-18 to explore what weapons may be forged against you, and what power God puts at your disposal for your protection. Then read v.17 again.

prayer



- Please continue to pray for Sue and Dave Jinks and family following Josh's funeral on Wednesday.
- Ian Nash-Smith is receiving intensive rehabilitation in Birmingham, which is very tiring. Please pray for strength and stamina during this time and that he will regain his speech.
- Chris Holland and Anne Hines are both recovering from viruses. Please pray for their continuing recovery and that they will both regain full health.

rising brook church focus

- As we pray for signs of the kingdom of God to be visible on Earth, dare we pray boldly for God's will to be seen in our town, our country, and across Europe?
- Dare we allow the fullness of the gospel of the Kingdom to radically change our lifestyles and to transform our church?
- Pray for our church to be open to changes consistent with her biblical roots and at the same time to be relevant to twenty first century.