



NAC-USA  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

The Birth of  
Jesus

# MIDWEEK GUIDE

The Life of  
Jesus

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**2016**

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December

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*In the month of December, there are two Wednesdays available for small group sessions and two Wednesdays for divine services, which includes December 28th as the year-end service. Please refer to your local calendar for your congregational schedule.*

## 2016 December MIDWEEK GUIDE

### Session 1: The Birth of Jesus: Fulfillment of the Prophecies

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#### Bible References

Isaiah 40:5

Isaiah 53:7, 11

John 1:29

1. How is the entire Bible the story of Jesus?

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2. How does the season of Advent serve as a reminder of God's promise to send a Light to the world?

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3. In the video, you heard how John the Baptist recognized Jesus as the Promised Savior. From what we know about the life of John, he started to doubt this later in his life, asking Jesus, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" How do you think that someone so confident in the promise of Jesus could start to doubt?

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4. What can you do this Advent season so that you aren't distracted from the promise of Jesus?

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### ***Handel's Messiah***

Read Isaiah 40, verses 1 through 5. Now listen to the following clips of the Messiah.

#### **Comfort Ye My People:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RmknWYFr6Xk>

a. How does this song make you feel when you listen to it?

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b. Does this music help you understand Isaiah's words differently? How?

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#### **Ev'ry Valley Shall be Exalted:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlklw1wz7A>

a. How does this song make you feel when you listen to it? How is it different from the first example?

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b. Does this music help you understand Isaiah's words differently? How?

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#### **And the Glory of the Lord:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROBTXWJMOWc>

a. How does this song make you feel when you listen to it?

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b. Does the music help you understand Isaiah's words differently? How?

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c. If you were familiar with this song before tonight, does putting the music in the context of the Bible change the meaning for you?

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Why would Handel (and many other artists) set Bible verses to music? What impact does it have?

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## Session 2: The Life of Jesus: Fulfillment of God's Promises

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### Bible References

Matthew 27:54

1 Timothy 2:4

**1. Video excerpt:** *Mary, the biological mother of Jesus. What an incredible faith she had in the promise of the angel! Then there is Simeon, who waited such a long time in the temple. He finally could say: "Now, my eyes have seen your salvation!" How about Peter and the disciples when Jesus asked them: "Who do you think I am?" and Peter could say: "You are the Christ!" Even a Gentile, the Roman centurion at the cross, who was not a follower of Christ, recognized that Jesus was the Son of God.*

In these instances, what do you think made it possible for these people to see their part in God's plan of salvation? What challenges could've stood in their way?

a. Mary

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b. Simeon

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c. Peter

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d. The Roman Centurion

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2. How do you know that you have salvation?

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3. How can you experience Jesus through the apostles?

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4. From the beginning, with Adam and Eve, God has always given humans a choice. Why do you think we so often pick the wrong path?

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5. Even with our history of faulty decisions, God has always made a way for us to come back to Him. How does this make you feel?

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6. Why have you chosen salvation in Christ? Is this a choice you make only once?

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