

## “Scrapbook Jesus”

Series: “What happened after Christmas”

(Part 1 of 2)

**Open:** Now that Christmas is over, what are you looking forward to in the New Year?

**Explore:** Read John 1:1-18.

The Gospel of John begins not with the birth of Christ, nor does it begin at the start of Jesus’ ministry; instead, the book of John begins at the very beginning of the universe.

1. What is the relationship between the Word and God (vs. 1-5)?
2. What was John the Baptist’s role in relation to the life of Jesus (vs. 1:6-9)?
3. How does the Bible say the world received Jesus (vs. 10-13)? What right do those who receive and believe in Him have?
4. Why did John the Baptist say that Jesus has, “surpassed me” (vs. 14-18)? Where is Jesus today?

**Reflect:** Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. When it comes to your view of Jesus what image(s) come to mind (i.e., creator of the world, infant, miracle worker, great teacher, on the throne in heaven)?
2. Jesus came to the earth with a singular focus – to redeem a lost world. When did you first realize your need for a savior?
3. Jesus was raised in a Jewish home – and was therefore dedicated to the Lord by His parents in the temple. Why is it important that we publically dedicate our lives to God (i.e. baptism, church attendance, acts of service)? Would you say people know or do not know about your faith? Explain.
4. Although Joseph and Mary had been told Jesus was the son of God, they marveled when others (Simeon) confirmed this truth. Why is it that we sometimes lose track of the fact that God is working in the world and in our lives? How can we increase our awareness of what God is doing in our lives?
5. Jesus knows what it’s like to be human. He has experienced everything we experience; he was fully human, yet fully God. How can this truth encourage you in the weeks and months ahead?

**Live:**

As a group: The most important decision anyone can make, is the decision to let Jesus be their Savior. Once we have received Him and accepted His grace, it is time to let Him be Lord of our lives. How are you doing in this area? How can we pray for you?

On your own: Read Luke 2:52. In what four areas did Jesus continue to develop? In which area would you like to grow to be more like him in the weeks ahead?

## Listening Guide Notes

**Snapshots of Jesus...**

**Picture 1:** His identification.

“On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived.” –**Luke 2:21 (NIV)**

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” –**Matthew 1:21 (NIV)**

**Picture 2:** His dedication.

“When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.” –**Luke 2:22 (NIV)**

**Picture 3:** His affirmation.

<sup>[28]</sup> “Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: <sup>[29]</sup> ‘Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace.’” –**Luke 2:28-29 (NIV)**

**Picture 4:** His independence.

<sup>[46]</sup> “After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>[47]</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.” –**Luke 2:46-47 (NIV)**

<sup>[48]</sup> “When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, ‘Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.’ <sup>[49]</sup> ‘Why were you searching for me?’ he asked. ‘Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?’ <sup>[50]</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>[51]</sup> Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>[52]</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” –**Luke 2:48-52 (NIV)**

<sup>[2]</sup> “When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. ‘Where did this man get these things?’ they asked. ‘What’s this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! <sup>[3]</sup> Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son...?’” –**Mark 6:2-3 (NIV)**