

Jesus, His Early Life

The Influence of Godly People

Lesson 1

Introduction

1. Jesus asked His disciples, “*Who do people say the Son of Man is?*” (Matthew 16:13) What does the title “Son of Man” convey to you?

Jesus' Early Life

Everyone is influenced by the people in our lives. As we look at the life of Jesus, we will see how important these people were in His early life.

Jesus' Mother Mary

The gospel of Luke was based upon interviews with those who were eyewitnesses to Jesus' life. (Luke 1:1-4) Mary explained to Dr. Luke how she learned she was to become a mother.

2. According to Luke 1:28 - 38, what do you learn about the character of Mary?

Jesus' Earthly Father, Joseph

The gospel of Matthew gives insight into how Mary's fiancé Joseph responded to the news that Mary was pregnant and it was not his child.

3. According to Matthew 1:18 - 25, what do you learn about the character of Joseph?

Jesus' Aunt and Uncle

Matthew's genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17) reveals that Joseph was from the tribe of Judah, King David's tribe. Luke 1:1-26 reveals that Mary was from the priestly line of Aaron of the tribe of Levi. When Mary first learned that she was pregnant, she went to visit her aunt Elizabeth who was also pregnant.

4. What does Luke tell us about the character of Elizabeth and her husband, Zechariah?
(Luke 1:5-25)

5. Write down the words of Deuteronomy 6:4-7.
 - What importance does God place on teaching our children His ways?
(Deuteronomy 6:6, 7)

Reflect

6. As you look over that list of people who were important in the life of Jesus, who stood out to you and why?

7. How important do you think their influence was in Jesus' life?

8. Think about your own life. Make a list of people who influenced your spiritual growth and add them to your personal timeline on page 4.

Putting Feet to Remembering the Godly People in Your Life

- From your list, take the time to write a thank you letter to someone who has influenced your life. Explain the importance of their influence to your spiritual life.
- Do you have someone in your life today, a godly mentor, prayer partner or someone who holds you accountable, who helps shape and influence your spiritual life? If not, pray that the Lord would reveal that person to you.
- Perhaps you also think of those who have influenced our lives spiritually who may no longer be alive. Write a note or just their names and tuck it into your Bible.
- Are you a godly influence in the lives of your children, grandchildren or friends? Will they be able to add your name to their personal spiritual timeline one day? It is never too late to start influencing someone, don't wait until it is too late!

TIMELINE OF SPIRITUAL INFLUENCES IN MY LIFE

