



PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE—YOUTH

Lesson 1: The Birth of Jesus, A King—Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2

ENCOUNTER—Community Discussion

After reading the passage, take time to journal through the questions below. Don't feel like you have to answer all these questions. Wrestle with the text, and be prepared to share with your community.

*How is this God's story?
How is this others' story?*

*How is this my story?
How is this the world's story?*

PRAYER

Jesus, You suffered for us in total submission, showing us the way to a new kind of living. Under the direction of your Father, until the very end and through the very beginning, You fulfilled the perfect plan of redemption.

Teach us, we pray, the meaning of submissiveness, our wills consistently submitting to our Heavenly Father.

Remove our desire for and weaknesses of disobedience, shaping us to do the will of God alone. Guide us on the road of submission, casting our souls into total obedience and surrender.

Teach us to walk in the path of virtue, Hand in hand with Jesus and with one another.

Amen.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Before your group gathers next week, find time to develop a list of areas in your life you are unable to submit to God. After you develop this list, share it with one of your friends. Ask this person to follow up with you in a couple of weeks and ask you how you are doing. The best thing to do is set up a time to meet either in person or by phone and discuss how you are doing. You will be surprised how well it will help you to know that someone else is aware of your areas of rebellion or disobedience.

BECOMING MY STORY

James 4:7

Romans 8:7

Proverbs 3:5-6

Exodus 20:5

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above scriptures. Reflect on how the passage is God's story, my story, others' story and the world's story. In the context of Matthew 1-2, Luke 1-2, consider the following questions:

How are they related to Matthew 1-2, Luke 1-2?

In what ways are they different and do they shed light on Matthew 1-2, Luke 1-2?

Consider other passages you might know related to Matthew 1-2, Luke 1-2 and read them this week, journaling as you go.