

# Advent: A Savior for All People

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Leader's Guide

# Be Prepared

Are you ready to receive what God is offering this Christmas?

*Some of us may have written off Christmas. Maybe it brings up too many old issues for us. Maybe we're sick of the commercialization of it all. Maybe we feel every day ought to be a celebration of the birth of Christ, so why make such a big deal out of December 25? But as creatures bound in time and space, we need real time and space markers that remind us of the great events that define our faith. If our Christmas is to be spiritually successful, however, we're going to have to fight for it. And the way to do that is through preparation.*



Scripture: Luke 1:1–25

Based on: The sermon series "A Savior for All People," by Mark Mitchell, PreachingToday.com

## Part 1 **Identify the Current Issue**

*Note to leader: At the beginning of the class, provide each person with the Participant's Guide, included at the end of this study.*

### **Ice Breaker**

## **Taking a Journey**

*Imagine that you are preparing to go on an adventure across the country. If you could only take three of the following items, which would you choose?*

*—Snacks, Bible, Hiking boots, First Aid Kit, Road maps, Books, Vitamins, Deck of cards, Favorite CDs, Pillow, Journal/pen, Camera.*

*Leader: Add different items to match the hobbies/lifestyles of your group members. You can collect these items and put them out in the middle of the room so that everyone can see them, or simply make a list from which they can choose their three items.*

Advent is all about preparation. Sometimes we forget that before God sent his Son into the world, he prepared the way. Jesus arrived on the scene after 400 years of silence from God—preparation. He arrived after an angel named Gabriel visited numerous people—preparation. God even saw fit to prepare the way for his Son by sending a man named John to call people to repentance. God is into preparation.

The Gospel writer who focused most on preparation was Luke. Maybe it was because he was a physician. We all know the amount of preparation it takes to become a doctor. Or maybe it had something to do with the purpose of his writing. Luke was a prolific writer. He wrote more of the New Testament than anyone else, including Paul.

Luke tells us of his purpose in the opening of his Gospel (Luke 1:1–4). He wrote so that a man named Theophilus would know the exact truth about Jesus Christ. Theophilus was probably a Gentile who had become a Christian, and Luke wanted him to get the straight scoop. Luke himself was a Gentile who had never seen Jesus, but he wrote down the accounts of those who were eyewitnesses of Christ. He investigated everything carefully, and laid it all out in logical order. It was a two-volume work: Volume 1 is his Gospel; Volume 2 is the Book of Acts.

In a day and age of best-selling books on lost gospels, it's good to know that someone—a very well-educated, thorough researcher—did his homework. And so, in keeping with his purpose, Luke carefully chronicled what happened before Christ was born. It was all about preparation for the coming of Christ.