

Leader Guide Session 2

Watch

Play the video segment for session two (see the streaming video access provided on the inside front cover). As you and your group watch, use the following outline to record any thoughts or concepts that stand out to you.

NASA's Mercury missions were to prove that we could get a human into space. The Gemini missions were to test if two vessels could rendezvous in orbit and dock back together. All these missions had to be proven, perfected, and tweaked before the Apollo missions could even be attempted.

Similarly, when we read about God sending Jesus into this world on his rescue mission, we find that Christ was on the earth for the first thirty years without doing anything that we know about. It took a number of years before we reach what Paul says is "the fullness of time" [see Galatians 4:4)

Everybody assumed that when the Messiah came, he would be a great political ruler who would crush the Roman Empire and free Israel from captivity. But Jesus comes as a baby.

Joseph and Mary gave the offering of the turtle doves at the temple before God supplied the chest of gold. Even the Christmas song will tell you that two turtle doves come before five golden rings. Translation: they had to step out in faith before they could watch God provide for them.

The story of Jesus being found in the temple at twelve years of age reinforces that he had developed a regular habit or regular routine of daily putting God's Word into his heart. In the Gospels, we find that Jesus had a way of sneaking off to spend time with God and get a little bit of Scripture into his heart. could it be you need a routine of putting some positivity into your heart?

Journey CHURCH

Pastor James Greer

James@jcpineville.com

www.jcpineville.com



Jesus passed the tests in the wilderness when tempted and successfully did what Adam and Eve, our first parents, had not been able to do. The time alone that Jesus spent with the Father, and the time of preparation in Scripture and in prayer, gave him the strength to do the things that he did.

Have you put a morning routine into place where you are spending time with God every day? Are you in a small group of other Christians where you can be vulnerable? Are you plugged into a local church so you can deny yourself, pick up your cross, and follow Jesus along with his other disciples?

Discussion

1. The astronauts had to trust NASA's timetable for their mission. How is this the same when it comes to trusting in God's timetable for our lives?
2. Mary and Joseph offered a sacrifice of doves at the temple before they were supplied with gold from the magi. Have you ever stepped out in faith like this before you saw God provide for you? What was the situation? What happened?
3. Preparation and perseverance were key aspects of NASA's success in landing humans on the moon. Which comes easier for you-preparation or perseverance? Why?
4. One of the few details that we know about Jesus' life from around age twelve to age thirty is simply that he "grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2 :52). How does this verse reveal the ways that Jesus prepared for his mission?
5. Jesus told his followers, "Whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27). What was Jesus conveying to us about perseverance?
6. Great missions always come at great cost. What has following Jesus cost you-whether financial, relational, or in some other way?