

## St. Luke 2 Study Questions

1. **Luke 2:7** What was the legal meaning of the term “first-born” in ancient society? What does the Catechism of the Catholic Church say about Jesus’ birth to the Virgin Mary?

Footnote p. 108, 2:7 First-born

**CCC 502** The eyes of faith can discover in the context of the whole of Revelation the mysterious reasons why God in his saving plan wanted his Son to be born of a virgin. These reasons touch both on the person of Christ and his redemptive mission, and on the welcome Mary gave that mission on behalf of all men.

**CCC 503** Mary's virginity manifests God's absolute initiative in the Incarnation. Jesus has only God as Father. "He was never estranged from the Father because of the human nature which he assumed. . . He is naturally Son of the Father as to his divinity and naturally son of his mother as to his humanity, but properly Son of the Father in both natures."

2. **Luke 2:14** What does the word “peace” in the angels’ hymn mean?

Footnote p. 110, 2:14 Glory to God

Philippians 4:4-7 (p. 361) and Footnote 4:7 The peace of God

3. **Luke 2:14** How does the “peace among men with whom he is pleased” apply to you?

Do you enjoy that peace? If so, how can you grow in it? If not, how can you enter it?

John 14:27 (p. 190)

Galatians 5:22-23 (p. 340)

**CCC 2633** When we share in God’s saving love, we understand that every need can become the object of petition. Christ, who assumed all things in order to redeem all things, is glorified by what we ask the Father in his name. It is with this confidence that St. James and St. Paul exhort us to pray at all times.

4. **Luke 2:19** Why would Mary ponder the events surrounding Jesus’ birth and revelation?

What might these events have meant for her?

How have you pondered God’s action in your life and what has it revealed to you?

Footnote p. 110, 2:19 Mary ... in her heart

5. **Luke 2:29–32** How does Simeon’s “Nunc Dimittis” evoke Isaian prophecies?

Footnote p.110, 2:29-32 Simeon's Nunc Dimittis

**Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7** — Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ... I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

6. **Luke 2:34-35** While it may be easy to see how Jesus might be “set for the rise of many”, how might he be destined for their fall?

In what ways has Jesus and his message been a stumbling block for you and how have you surmounted the problems?

Footnote p. 111, 2:34 The fall and rising

**1 Peter 2:6-8** (p. 453) and Footnote 2:6-8 Three OT texts

7. **Luke 2:49** Why do you think Jesus (who had been missing for three days) was surprised that his parents were looking for him and where did he expect they should have looked?

How have you looked for Jesus in the wrong places?

Footnote p. 111, 2:49 Did you not know