



## Too Old for Fairy Tales | December 23, 2015

### Discussion Guide

#### The Scoop

The events surrounding Jesus' birth seem too good to be true. They may even seem like a fairy tale. We tell the story so often through kid's eyes or through beautiful songs that the reality of the story seems distant. Is it true? Were there really talking angels, was there a manger, and a virgin birth?

#### Key Verse

##### Luke 1:1-4 (NLT)

*Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write a careful account for you, most honorable Theophilus, so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.*

#### Discussion

Admittedly, Luke's account is not the most exciting. He wasn't a storyteller like the other Gospel writers, but He says from the beginning in Chapter 1 that he has set out to write an accurate historical account for his friend Theo who has his doubts.

1. Do you have a story from your life that when you tell it, other people don't believe it to be true?
2. What things in history do you find yourself wrestling with or having a hard time believing to be true? Why?

Luke starts Chapter 2 without any fluff and only facts. He provides historical names, places, and events that anchor the story in historical context. Before you know it, Jesus is born...so matter of fact.

##### Luke 2:1-7 (NLT)

*At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.*

3. What pieces of the story of Jesus' birth are the toughest for you to believe? Why?
4. What pieces of the story do find the most fascinating?
5. How does Luke's account change the way you feel about and understand the "story" versions we have been told and continue to tell?

#### What's Next?

This Christmas begin your story time with Luke's account (Luke 2:1-40). Then read Matthew's account and see how the stories align. It is always good to examine why we believe what we believe and, in doing so, consider engaging others in conversation about the birth of Jesus. Reflect, pray, and celebrate the excitement associated with God caring enough about us to send His son to live with us on earth. Just think, this is only the beginning of the story!