



## (Advent)urous

(Luke 2:1-20)

### Introduction

[Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to amplify the gospel in your life & church, and to impact the culture.

1. If God is the hero of our story, where is He when life hurts?
  - a. There is a loving, adventurous God who takes big risks for enormous stakes on our behalf.
  - b. Advent: The arrival of Christ.
2. Two threads weave together the Bible: Promise (Old Testament) and Fulfillment (New Testament)
  - a. Prophecies: [Isaiah 7:14] Virgin birth of a son; [Micah 5:2] Eternal King from Bethlehem.
  - b. From these promises/prophecies, anticipation is high for the coming Savior hero. They are fulfilled here:

### Jesus became a man [Luke 2:1-7]

1. Incarnation: Jesus came "in the flesh." Contrast of circumstances:
  - a. [2:1-3] Caesar Augustus & Quirinius are sophisticated, rich, powerful, influential (worshiped/revered).
  - b. [2:4-6] Joe & Mary are not; they're rural, poor, powerless, worshipers of God.
  - c. [2:7] Jesus is born into humble circumstances.
2. That means He didn't cheat; He didn't abuse His divine power/authority or skip hardship.
  - a. He became like us to identify with us [Hebrews 4:15-16], including our hurts and temptations.
  - b. Application: When you're hurt, struggling, tempted, talk to Jesus. He sympathizes with us & understands.

### Jesus is God [Luke 2:8-20]

1. Focus: [2:10-11] Good news! Jesus is God, the Hero is here!
  - a. But we have a lot of personal baggage that skews our view of God. 5 worldviews:
2. Atheism: There is no God; this life is all there is.
  - a. When hurt or suffering, there's no one to help.
  - b. Options: Denial, depression, self-medication, suicide.
3. Deism: God made the world, and left.
  - a. When hurt or suffering, God doesn't care; you're on your own.
4. Monism: All is one; everything is God (Pantheism) or a spiritual force is in everything (Panentheism)
  - a. When hurt or suffering, there's no hope or justice because good and evil are two sides of the same coin.
5. Theism: Belief in one God (Monotheism) or many (Polytheism).
  - a. Religion: You have to save yourself by obeying moral law; do better, try harder, or go to Hell.
  - b. When hurt or suffering, God is not coming to rescue you because He is punishing you.
6. Christianity: Truth about Jesus.
  - a. He is eternal Creator God, who made everything (including us, in His image with dignity & value).
  - b. He spoke to us through His Word, to have relationship with us & give moral commands so we might enjoy life.
  - c. We chose sin & death over intimacy with God & life.
  - d. But there's good news!

7. [2:10-11] Jesus is the Savior, the Christ, the Lord.
  - a. He is the Savior: Hero, rescuer, redeemer.
    - i. He takes away our sin through the cross, and gives us new life through His resurrection.
  - b. He is the Christ: Messiah, anointed one, chosen one, King, prophesied in the line of David.
  - c. He is the Lord: Over all religions, nations, peoples. He's God.
  - d. What we think of Jesus determines how we live, suffer and die. It's good news; it causes great joy.

**Worship Jesus, the Savior, Christ the Lord [Luke 2:13-14, 2:19, 2:20]**

1. [2:10] Our response to good news about Jesus is joy.
  - a. Angels [2:13-14]: Mighty ones sing about the coming of the Hero, King, God.
  - b. Mary [2:19]: Contemplative ones ponder & treasure Jesus in their heart.
  - c. Shepherds [2:20]: Lowly ones celebrate the Savior, Christ the Lord.
2. Application: Worship Jesus the hero, king and God, with joy.
  - a. Respond with singing, pondering, treasuring and celebrating the good news about Jesus.