

SERMON

LUKE - ACTS

SERIES



LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS



HEAD

- ✚ When you've had a real encounter with the Good News and God's salvation in Christ Jesus, then you will witness, wonder, and worship.
- ✚ The Gospel is for the marginalized and disenfranchised as represented by the shepherds, let us be impartial as we evangelize the nations.
- ✚ The shepherds model for us that going on mission with God is sometimes ridiculous, risky, ritzy in terms of the costs – but may we saddle up and ride away.

– Luke 2:1-20 –



HEART

- ✚ What does God's choice to announce Jesus' birth first to marginalized shepherds rather than religious or political leaders reveal about the nature of the gospel?
- ✚ How does the reality that Mary could have died during childbirth deepen your appreciation for her willingness to say yes to God's plan?

– Luke 2:1-20 –



HEART

- ✚ In what ways do we sometimes prefer sensational myths about our faith over the simpler, more ordinary truth of how God works?
- ✚ The shepherds immediately left their livelihood at personal cost to seek Jesus. What would it look like for you to respond to God with that same urgency and sacrifice?

– Luke 2:1-20 –



HEART

- ✚ Why is it significant that Luke uses three titles simultaneously for Jesus in verse 11: Savior, Christ, and Lord, and how does each title shape our understanding of who He is?
- ✚ Mary treasured and meditated on the overwhelming events surrounding Jesus' birth rather than arriving at quick conclusions. How can we cultivate this same reflective patience when God's work in our lives is confusing?

– Luke 2:1-20 –



HEART

- ✚ How does knowing that shepherds were considered unreliable witnesses yet chosen by God to testify about Jesus challenge our assumptions about who is qualified to share the gospel?
- ✚ Following God required the shepherds to do something that seemed ridiculous and risky, knocking on doors throughout the night in a small village. When has God called you to do something that seemed foolish by worldly standards?

– Luke 2:1-20 –



HANDS

✚ This Week's Challenge (Choose One):

✚ Option 1: Witness

✚ Share the true story of Jesus' birth with someone this week. Focus on the humility of God entering the world in an ordinary way for ordinary (and marginalized) people.

– Luke 2:1-20 –



HANDS

✚ This Week's Challenge (Choose One):

✚ Option 2: Wonder

✚ Start a "treasure journal" like Mary. Write down things God is doing in your life that you want to meditate on and understand more deeply.

– Luke 2:1-20 –



HANDS

✚ This Week's Challenge (Choose One):

✚ Option 3: Worship

✚ Like the angels and shepherds, spend intentional time this week praising God for who Jesus is: Savior, Messiah, and Lord. Consider what each title means personally to you.

– Luke 2:1-20 –



HANDS

✚ This Week's Challenge (Choose One):

✚ Option 4: Count the Cost

✚ Identify one area where following Jesus is costing you something (time, money, reputation, comfort). Pray about whether you're willing to pay that price, and ask God for strength to follow Him anyway.

– Luke 2:1-20 –



FIVE DAY DEVOTIONAL



Day 1: God Uses the Ordinary for the Extraordinary

Reading: Luke 2:1-7

✚ Devotional: God orchestrated the birth of His Son not in a palace but in an ordinary Palestinian home, using a Roman census to fulfill ancient prophecy. Jesus arrived without fanfare, wrapped in simple cloth, laid in a feeding trough built into a family's living space. This wasn't poverty or rejection—it was intentionality. God chose the ordinary to reveal the extraordinary. Your life may feel mundane, your circumstances unremarkable, but God specializes in using ordinary vessels for His glory. The feeding trough that nourished animals became the first bed for the Bread of Life. What ordinary aspects of your life might God be preparing to use for His extraordinary purposes? Don't despise humble beginnings—God often works most powerfully in the simplest settings.

– Luke 2:1-20 –



Day 2: The Gospel for the Marginalized

Reading: Luke 2:8-14

✚ Devotional: The first witnesses to Christ's birth weren't religious leaders or royalty—they were shepherds, society's outcasts. Considered unclean and untrustworthy, disqualified from testifying in courts, these men received heaven's announcement first. God's pattern is clear: He reaches the marginalized, the overlooked, the rejected. The angels proclaimed "good news of great joy for all people," beginning with those most people ignored. This is the heart of the gospel—Jesus came for sinners, for the disenfranchised, for those on society's fringes. If you feel unqualified, unworthy, or unwanted, you're exactly who God seeks. The shepherds didn't clean up before meeting Jesus; they came as they were. God's invitation to you is the same—come as you are.

– Luke 2:1-20 –



Day 3: Faith That Costs Something

Reading: Luke 2:15-16


✚ Devotional: The shepherds' response to God's message reveals authentic faith: they went "quickly" to Bethlehem. But this wasn't free. They had to hire others to watch their flocks—their entire livelihood. Following God required immediate action and personal sacrifice. They moved with faith (believing the message), paid a fee (hiring help), and acted fast (hurrying to find Jesus). True discipleship always costs something. It demands we leave comfort zones, invest resources, and prioritize God's mission above our security. What is God asking you to leave behind to follow Him more closely? The shepherds show us that encountering Jesus is worth any sacrifice. Faith without action and cost is merely intellectual agreement, not transformative belief.

– Luke 2:1-20 –



Day 4: Treasuring God's Word in Your Heart

Reading: Luke 2:19; Psalm 119:9-16

 Devotional: After the overwhelming events of Jesus' birth and the shepherds' visit, Mary "treasured all these things in her heart and meditated on them." Exhausted and overwhelmed, she didn't try to immediately understand everything. Instead, she stored these experiences away for later reflection. This is wisdom for our spiritual lives. Not every divine encounter makes immediate sense. Sometimes God asks us to hold His promises, His words, His works in our hearts—treasuring them through seasons of confusion until understanding comes. Like Mary, we need contemplative faith that meditates on God's word and works. What has God shown you that you need to treasure and ponder? Create space for reflection, allowing the Holy Spirit to illuminate truth over time.

– Luke 2:1-20 –



Day 5: Witness, Wonder, and Worship

Reading: Luke 2:17-20; Psalm 96:1-9

✚ Devotional: The shepherds' encounter with Jesus produced three responses: they witnessed (told everyone), wondered (were amazed), and worshiped (glorified and praised God). This is the natural progression of authentic faith. When we truly meet Jesus, we cannot stay silent—we become witnesses. The gospel fills us with wonder—astonishment at God's grace. And this leads to worship—glorifying God for His salvation. Notice the shepherds returned to their ordinary work, but they returned transformed, praising God. Your mission field may be your regular job, your neighborhood, your family. You don't need a dramatic change of location; you need a transformed heart. How are you witnessing, wondering, and worshiping in your daily life? Let your encounter with Christ overflow into testimony, amazement, and praise.

– Luke 2:1-20 –



Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer: Thank you God for entering our world humbly, as one of us. Help us see and reach the “shepherds” in our world. Please Abba, give us courage to witness, curious hearts that wonder, and compelled spirits that worship. Cultivate in us a relentless willingness to pay whatever cost comes with following Jesus. In Your name, Amen.



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