

### **Luke 2:8-20 New Living Translation**

**8** That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. **9** Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, **10** but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. **11** The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! **12** And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

**13** Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

**14** "Glory to God in highest heaven,  
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

**15** When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

**16** They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. **17** After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. **18** All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, **19** but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. **20** The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

### ***Discussion/Journal Questions***

How have you personally changed over the years? Share one or two ways you are different from when you were a teenager.

How is spiritual change evident in our lives?

Read Luke 2:8-20. What stands out to you about the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus? If you were to describe her in one word, what would it be?

Read John 19:25-27. What is going on in this passage?

Read Luke 1:1-4. Luke mentions eyewitness testimony informing his investigation and writing. So it seems likely that Luke spoke with Mary to get her account of Jesus' life. How is Mary telling her story an act of ministry for the gospel?

In the sermon, John said, "Jesus can take the most simplest of lives and change it into a magnificent story." Do you believe that? Why or why not?

John also said, "Jesus wants to do the same for others through your story that He has done for others through Mary's story." Do you believe Jesus can use your story to impact others? Why or why not?

What is stopping you from sharing your story with others? Who has God brought into your life who needs to hear your story?

Pray for each other that God will provide opportunities for you to share your story in a way that highlights Jesus' love and mercy.

**Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**

**Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?**

**Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**