

### **Luke 2:1-20**

**1** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** And all went to be registered, each to his own town. **4** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **5** to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. **6** And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**8** And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. **10** And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

**15** When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." **16** And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. **17** And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. **18** And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

How is everyone doing with the Resolve 2021 goals? How is your time in prayer, Bible, and Christian community going?

Read Luke 2:1-20. In Jewish society, shepherds were social outcasts. Why do you think people looked down on shepherds?

Who are the social outcasts in society today? Why?

What feelings come with living as a social outcast? What role does shame play?

How do you respond to the truth that "there is no one undesirable in God's eyes"?

Read Matthew 9:10-13. What is happening in this passage? How does Jesus respond to the Pharisees?

The Pharisees thought they were healthy, but they were really sick like everyone else. John shared some of the traits of a sick person who *thinks* he or she is healthy. What are they?

Read Luke 2:17. Like the shepherds, we are not only pursued by a loving God, but brought into His mission to share the news about peace on earth through King Jesus. What stops us from sharing this good news like the shepherds did?

How can your group pray for you this holiday season?

**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?**