



# Digging Deeper

*Putting your faith in ACTION!*

This morning let's not be just 'hearers' of the Word, but 'doers of the word. Take some time at lunch, dinner, or bedtime to DIG DEEPER into the today's lesson and story. Take a few moments to apply today's lesson to our lives.

## ASK MYSELF...challenging questions for the heart:

1. God came amidst the frustration, anger, disappointment, fear, and stress of mankind and brought us good news. How does that shape your view of Christmas this year?
2. God offers the hope of redemption through Christ, what does this speak to you?
3. What *praise* will you offer Christ this Christmas?

## FOR THE FAMILY...challenging questions for family life:

1. Read Luke 2:1-20 together.
2. Discuss the fact God chose to share His Good News with shepherds.
3. As a family, discuss how you can rise to the complete Project D.
4. Take some time pray together.

## DEVOTIONS FOR THE SEASON...scan code for Advent inspiration:



The first message in our series speaks to the first call of Christmas being that of *a call to prepare*. What better way to daily *prepare* our hearts than to meditate on God's great gift to us this season. You'll enjoy this 31 day devotional guide as you focus on Christ this season.

<http://bit.ly/2gy54JI>



## Today's Service

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### Part 4

## "Shepherds: A Call to Praise"

Pastor Brian Stanley



## Luke 2:1-20 (NLT)

<sup>1</sup> At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was the governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, <sup>10</sup> but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. <sup>11</sup> The Savior – yes, the Messiah, the Lord – has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! <sup>12</sup> And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others – the armies of heaven – praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." <sup>15</sup> 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." <sup>16</sup> They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. <sup>18</sup> All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, <sup>19</sup> but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. <sup>20</sup> 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.

NOTES:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.