

JOURNEY TO THE MANGER**Week 2**

December 7-8, 2019

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**Warm-up**

- Which person or group of people in the Christmas story is your favorite? Share what it is about them that most impacts you.

Review and Recap

- What came to mind this week as you thought about what we learned about the story of Jesus's birth in our last session?
- How did you observe Advent or prepare your heart for the season?

Read Luke 1:46-56

- ⇒ What is the main idea of this passage?
- ⇒ What do you know about Mary's story?
- ⇒ What do you think about these ideas Mary expressed?
 - Praise and adoration
 - Who God is
 - What God has done
 - A promise to Abraham
- ⇒ Is there anything you would like to discuss or clarify in this section?
- ⇒ What does this information mean to you personally?

Read Luke 2:1-5

- ⇒ What is the main idea of this passage?
- ⇒ What was the purpose for traveling to this particular location?
- ⇒ Describe when/if you have had to travel at a time that wasn't convenient for you.
- ⇒ Review some of these names and locations to help your understanding of the context:
 - Augustus
 - Quirinius
 - King David
 - Bethlehem
 - Judea
 - Nazareth
- ⇒ Is there anything you would like to discuss or clarify in this section?
- ⇒ What does this information mean to you personally?

Read Luke 2:6-7

- ⇒ What is the main idea of this passage?
- ⇒ If you didn't already, read the passage in the New Living Translation.
 - What is different about this from the Christmas pageants you grew up with?
 - There were no inns in a village as small as Bethlehem. Who do you think Mary and Joseph might have stayed with?

- ⇒ Is there anything you would like to discuss or clarify in this section?
- ⇒ What does this information mean to you personally?

Read Luke 2:8-15

- ⇒ What is the main idea of this passage?
- ⇒ What are your thoughts about these people and concepts?
 - The shepherds
 - The angels
 - What the angels said
- ⇒ Is there anything you would like to discuss or clarify in this section?
- ⇒ What does this information mean to you personally?
- ⇒ Why do you think God announced this to shepherds instead of dignitaries and kings?

Read Luke 2:16-20

- ⇒ What is the main idea of this passage?
- ⇒ Discuss your thoughts on these ideas:
 - What the shepherds did
 - Mary's response
 - The possible reactions of people the shepherds met along the way
- ⇒ Is there anything you would like to discuss or clarify in this section?
- ⇒ What does this information mean to you personally?

NEXT STEPS / ACTION

- ⇒ What are you afraid of when it comes to God speaking to you?
- ⇒ These shepherds were ordinary people who had an extraordinary thing happen to them. What do you think it would take for God to get your attention when he wants you to listen?
- ⇒ The shepherds demonstrated real faith; they believed, and they took action. Where are you struggling with belief or action, and what do you think you need to be able to take a next step?

PRAYER

Pray for those who are discouraged during this holiday season. Ask God to reveal his presence to them and comfort their fears. Pray for the boldness to believe and take action for the sake of Jesus and the gospel of peace and hope.

