



Week 3: The Angel's Song

The guide follows the usual format: three questions followed by prayer. There are additional questions at the end in italics to further help guide discussion.

Read Luke 2:1-20

In addition to the normal guide (below) that you follow, here are a few questions and thoughts to help guide your time:

- *The beginning of chapter 2 describes the political climate. What's going on and why is that significant? Why do Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem and why is that significant? How do we see God at work in these details?*
- *What are the details that Luke gives us about Jesus' birth? Why does he give us those details?*
- *What is the significance of the swaddling cloths and the manger?*
- *What is the significance of the angels in the birth narrative?*
- *Why are the shepherds afraid? What does this teach us about God? Our culture does not often think about the holiness of God and how terrifying it would be to be in His presence. Why is it necessary that we see, understand and appreciate the holiness of God?*
- *Look verse 11. This is a verse filled with meaning so spend a few minutes discussing it. What do we learn about the birth of Jesus? Who is he and what has he come? What is the significance that the baby is "the Lord", "Savior", and "Messiah"?*
- *Notice the angels excitement about this birth announcement. Why are they so excited? Look at 1 Peter 1:10-12. How does this passage help us understand why the angels are so amazed?*
- *Brian made the statement that if angels are so amazed and excited about our salvation and long to look into it then how much more should we be amazed and long to look into it. Discuss that statement.*
- *Why is peace with God so important?*
- *What do the shepherds do after the angels leave and how is that a model for us this Christmas?*

- *How does the Christmas story amaze you? How will you glorify God this Christmas? How will you tell others about Him?*
- *How are you struggling to find peace? How can the Christmas narrative help you to know peace this Christmas?*

Questions to ask for interpreting and applying Scripture:

What does the text say? In this section we are seeking to make as many observations as we can. I encourage you to mark up the text above you (underline, circle, draw lines connecting verses/words, write short comments, etc).

- Summarize the context...what was said in the preceding verses? How does this fit within Paul's thought process?
- What are key words/phrases in the passage?
 - What are the repeated words/phrases? Why are they significant?
 - What are important connecting words and how do they help us understand Paul's point?
 - What themes or ideas are being emphasized?
 - What does this passage say about God? Man? Sin?
 - What questions do you have?

What does the text mean?

- Describe Paul's main point in a sentence or couple sentences. What is the big/main idea?
- What are some of the subpoints? Summarize Paul's thought process and some of his supporting points.
- What other passages could be helpful in understanding this text better?

How do I/we apply this passage?

- What are we to think/feel/do?
- What sins does this passage expose in you/us?

Pray

- What is there to praise God for from this passage?
- What sin(s) is there to confess?
- What is there to ask God for?