

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

## "THE ROAD OF WONDER" | LUKE 2: 8-20 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

### WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is it about Christmas that can create a sense of awe or wonder?

### ***"Wonder Interrupts Our Ordinary" Luke 2: 8-9***

Shepherds were out doing their jobs when an angel of the Lord appears to them, overwhelming them. **How can an interruption into the ordinary become a moment of awe? Why do many people miss those opportunities of awe and wonder?**

### ***"Wonder Awakens Through God's Good News" Luke 2: 10-14***

The angel shares that a savior, a king has been born in Bethlehem and that this is great joy for all people. Then many angels appear praising God. **How can the gospel create a sense of awe?**

### ***"Wonder Moves Us Toward Jesus" Luke 2: 15-16***

The shepherds were so inspired and curious they had to go find this baby in a manger. **Why is seeking a sign of true wonder? How does God inspire awe to bring people searching for Jesus today?**

### ***"Wonder Flows Out as Worship and Witness" Luke 2: 17-20***

When the shepherds find the baby, they are excited and return to the fields praising God. **How can sharing a sense of awe with others be a way to experience more wonder? Why is worship a common outcome of awe at what God has done?**

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Shepherds were doing their very ordinary jobs when angels come to them, sharing the good news of the birth of the Savior, Jesus. They are filled with wonder and seek Jesus, and after finding him, return to the fields praising God. God's good news creates wonder in a way that leads to Him and results in worship. **How has God inconvenienced you to get your attention? Has the gospel given you a sense of awe lately? Have you taken the time to search more of what God wants to show you? How can you make time to worship and praise Jesus in your life? Praise God for His good news this week.**

# The Road to Bethlehem

12-14-25

## 5 The Road of Wonder

### I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those watching online (2nd).
- B. Slide1 Christmas Eve *all Church Service*: at either 1, 3, or 5:00pm.
- C. Slide2 FHC (Fostering a Hope Community): Our foster and adoption support group.  
If you are currently fostering or have adopted children, our Team would love to meet you and offer any support they can. They meet on the 3rd Wed of each month, 6:30pm, in the Agape room. (fun week to come/visit/meet the team. snacks - fellowship)
- D. Slide3-16 Nesting Dolls are available for purchase TODAY. Please welcome up Jeff Thompson w/Mercy Projects, to give us an update on Ukraine, Armenia farm, & how to purchase stacking dolls.
- E. Slide17a Building Update: read
- F. Prayer: May we hear Your Word clearly, feel it sensitively, and ponder it deeply.

### II. Intro:

- A. Slide17b The Road of Wonder - *The Shepherds' Night of Glory*.
  - 1. God often reveals His glory to *the humble, the ordinary, and the overlooked* - because wonder begins with awe, not status.
- B. The wonder of Christmas is not in what we bring to God, but what He brings to us.
- C. How do we Recapture Wonder?
  - 1. Children don't struggle to be impressed - but we do. Christmas season 2025 is an invitation to recover Awe again.
  - 2. Picture a night sky filled with stars - like, well, a silent night, a holy night where all was relatively calm - until it wasn't! When Heaven ripped open!
    - a) So it was a quiet, ordinary, nothing special kinda night - that turned into a night of Glory. A night of Wonder. [from Silent night to Blinding light]
  - 3. The shepherds show us that wonder is the doorway to worship.

D. Remember, There's only 2 ways all religions explain *how to connect with God*. The Bible's way and every other way.

1. The distance between us and God, *mostly because of sin*, is closed by (many think) **us ascending unto God** through: *morality, reincarnation, good works, paying off our karmic debt, trying harder, or doing better*.
  - a) **It's pride!** Us rising up to God, us becoming closer to God, or more like God, because of **our** effort?
2. Christianity is about God **coming down** to be with us. It is **not** about pride but it's about **humility**. It's **not** about what **we do** it's about what **He's done**. It's not about the favor we merit, but the **grace** He gives!

E. Slide18 Read Luke 2:8-20

### III. Slide19 1 **WONDER INTERRUPTS OUR ORDINARY** (8,9)

A. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them....

B. **Shepherds were Living their Normal, Unnoticed Lives.**

1. **Bottom** of the social ladder, *overlooked, stuck doing night shift*.  
 "They were distrusted, a wild bunch, rural nomads, a despised class, considered unreliable, and considered **unholy** because they worked on a Sabbath. And God says, **I choose you guys!** [Chosen for the 1st birth announcement]"
2. Yep, the baby is revealed to, *"those shepherd types"*. A large God for little people!

C. **These Interruptions are also Inconvenient.**

1. **Jesus** is many things but **He's** isn't **convenient**.
  - a) He makes a very pregnant teenager, do an 80 mile trip south? - You and I consider any **inconvenience** to our lives, a nasty negative.
  - b) When God's agenda **conflicts** with ours - we have a **choice to make**:
    - (1) **Get mad** at being inconvenienced, or **Surrender** our expectations to God, and ask Him to give us **His agenda** for our lives.

(2) When we do, we find *the JOY of obedience* in the midst of being *inconvenienced*.

- c) Has the Lord inconvenienced **you** lately? How did you **respond**? How will you respond in the **future**? What steps can you take to **remain joyful** when you're inconvenienced?

#### D. God Loves Showing Up Where no one Expects.

1. Christmas *interrupts* the routine.
2. Many of God's greatest works begin as **holy interruptions**.
  - a) Make God's interruptions - invitations to **Wonder**.
3. God sees you where you are **and** meets you in the ordinary.

### IV. Slide20 2 WONDER AWAKENS THROUGH GOD'S GOOD NEWS (10-14)

A. Fear not... I bring you good news of great joy for all people.

#### B. The Message Begins with Grace.

1. Fear not - God comes **for us**, **not** against us.
  - a) Fear not! *Why not?* because - there is **fresh hope**, and **great joy**, and **good news**. **And** a baby, a Savior, the Christ, the Lord.
2. Good news - **not** advice, **not** demands, **but** a gift.

#### C. The Message Centers on a Savior.

1. **Not** a political figure, **not** a philosopher - **a Deliverer**.
2. Born **not** in a *palace*, **but** a **manger** - **humility wrapped in glory**.
3. **Baby God: Helpless** and **Homeless**. **Helpless** (they *wrapped him and swaddling cloths*, feeble, helpless. Jesus' royal privilege stopped at **conception**. His mother must nourish and care for him, **or He** will die from hunger. He must be wrapped in *strips of cloth*, unless **He** freezes to death). **Homeless** (lying in a feeding trough - His bassinet/crib).
  - a) What do these **2 signs** teach us? God, the eternally **wealthy** and **mighty** God, *enters into the most extreme poverty imaginable*.

- (1) No man is **so weak and helpless** that God does not come to him in Jesus Christ, *right in the midst of human need*. And ...
- (2) No man is **so forsaken and homeless** in this world that God does not seek him, *right in the midst of their human distress*.

#### D. Heaven Explodes with Praise.

1. A heavenly choir declaring peace on earth. [all wasn't *calm*, but man it's *bright!*]
2. God isn't quiet about His Son. [listen how the writer of Heb *introduces* Jesus]

E. Heb. 1:1-3 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is **the radiance** (a-POW-gazma - the quality of sending out rays of light. As sunshine is of the sun.) **of the glory/doxa of God and the exact imprint** (Gk word *Xar-ek-TEAR*) **of his nature**, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

F. Remember watching a *long* falling star? - *unexpected, brilliant, unforgettable*.

G. **Wonder even grows** when we truly hear *the gospel again* - *fresh, personal, for us*.

### V. Slide21 3 WONDER MOVES US TOWARD JESUS (15-16)

A. Let us go... and they went with haste.

#### B. Wonder Invites a Response.

1. They didn't delay, overthink, or do committee meetings.  
They just went. Wonder produces movement. (like Joe's obedience)

#### C. They Found Jesus just as God Said.

1. **Not a throne** - a feeding trough. **Not power** - vulnerability. **Not us going high ... but** God coming low/*really low*. It doesn't get any lower than being born in a dirty feeding trough. **So He goes low, for the last and the least. He goes low for you and me.** [God turning the world-order upside down. He comes not for the elite but for the poorest of poor]

D. A child running to see *a Christmas tree lighting* - *no hesitation, just delight*.

E. Wonder that doesn't lead us to Jesus is just *nostalgia*. True wonder seeks **Him**.

## VI. Slide 22 4 **WONDER FLOWS OUT AS WORSHIP AND WITNESS (17-20)**

A. They made known... they glorified and praised God.

B. **The Shepherds Can't Keep It to Themselves.**

1. Wonder is contagious - Their story becomes their ministry.

C. **Mary Treasures, the Shepherds Tell.**

1. **Both** are **Worship**.

2. **Both** are ways of responding to **Glory**.

D. **They Return Different than they Came.**

1. That's what encountering **Jesus** does.

2. *Same fields, same jobs - but **changed hearts***. Don't miss, God met them on their job site. *Oh the **Glory of the common place!*** (same today, whether you're punching #'s, chasing toddlers, or knocking on doors).

E. When you've truly encountered Christ, **worship isn't** a task - it's **the overflow**.

F. **Conclusion: WALKING THE ROAD OF WONDER**

G. What other profession would be more excited about *a **Lamb** being born?*

1. Here these shepherds *leave their 99*, to locate this **1 Lamb**. The **shepherds remind us: God comes close to the humble.**

H. The wonder of Christmas is **not about** what we bring... **but** what **God** brings to us.

I. **This week:** Slow down. **Look up**. Let God **interrupt** your ordinary.

1. **Ask Him** to *restore your sense of wonder*. The kind the shepherds *felt*. The kind that leads to **Jesus**.

J. **Prayer:** Lord, interrupt our busy nights with **Your glory**. Help us recover wonder at the **God** who *came close*.

K. Keywords: Wonder, shepherds, glory.