

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 28, 2024

Passage: Luke 2:1–20

Memory Passage: Luke 2:13–14

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:1–20.** What does the phrase “in those days” suggest about Luke’s knowledge of the exact year of Jesus’ birth (note the precise dating in 3:1–2; cf. 3:23)?
- (b) For what purpose did “all the inhabited earth” (v. 1) need to be registered?
- (c) Why did Mary & Joseph go to Bethlehem according to Luke 2:4? Why did they go according to Micah 5:2? Explain why there is no conflict between these two passages of Scripture.
- (d) What could you teach your children or grandchildren, or perhaps a co-worker or friend who needed Christ, about the peace that can be found in seeing and savoring the truth of God’s sovereignty as he acted in Luke 2:4 to carry out Micah 5:2?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:1–20.** Shepherds were considered the very lowest class of people in the 1st century, so much so that they were not even allowed to give testimony in court. Why does God announce such an important event to such a lowly group?
- (b) What do you learn about Scripture’s view of shepherds from the following verses: Exod 3:1; 2 Sam 5:2; Ps 78:70–72; Is 63:11; Amos 1:1; Ez 37:24.
- (c) What do you learn about the character and work of God as our Shepherd from the following verses: Gen 48:15; 49:24; Ps 23:1; Jer 31:10; Mic 5:4.
- (d) Consider John 10:1–21 in light of his birth in Luke 2 and write a poem/hymn of praise to Christ.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:1–20.** What is the significance of “the glory of the Lord” appearing with the angel of the Lord (v. 9)?
- (b) What visible form did the Lord’s glory take?
- (c) Angels often start their messages with “Do not be afraid” (v.10). Why would the content of his message alleviate fear (“Do not be afraid, *for ...*”)?
- (d) Explain each phrase the angel uses to describe the message: “good news,” “great joy,” & “for all the people” (v. 10). Think through their meaning, reception (after 400 years of prophetic silence!), connection to the OT expectations, etc.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Luke 2:1–20.** Explain the angel’s description of Jesus (v. 11) as “Savior,” “Christ,” and “the Lord” (each word’s meaning, usage, importance, etc.).
- (b) How did these names and titles shape the church's preaching in Acts? Of Paul? How should they shape yours?
- (c) Why should angels, who won’t receive this salvation, be so overjoyed about the birth of the Savior (vs. 13–14)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Luke 2:1–20.** What is inherent in the birth of this child that warrants the highest glory to be given to God? Think deeply about this because you could, and probably should, write a book! Think of what Jesus accomplishes, how his life glorifies God, the outcome of His life, death, and resurrection, the wisdom & justice of God displayed in this birth, etc.
- (b) Explain the peace that is promised by the angels and who has hope of receiving it. Is it a general pronouncement of peace, or does it have specific parameters? How does this expound upon the “good news of great joy” this message brings?
- (c) How did the shepherds’ pronouncement affect those who heard it (vs. 17–19)?
- (d) In what ways will you live “make (Jesus) known” and live “glorifying and praising God” (vs. 17, 20)?

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Glory to God in the Highest!