

# Christmas at Fellowship

## Christmas Eve 2024- The Shepherd's Story Luke 2:1-20

Check out one of these helpful resources:

**Christmas** – RightNow Media: <https://bit.ly/3lQKhbm>

**Emmanuel** – RightNow Media: <https://bit.ly/4f0dky0>

**Hidden Christmas:** The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ – Timothy Keller:  
<https://bit.ly/3Vo3yOW>

*Allow God to speak to you through his written Word. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow, and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you need to use all the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!*

### **KNOW** (Build Relationships)

- Think of a time when you received unexpected but life-changing news. Where were you, and like the shepherds who went from fear to joy, how did your emotional response evolve through that experience?
- The shepherds were doing their routine night watch when God broke into their ordinary with the extraordinary. Share about a time when God interrupted your normal routine with something unexpected - how did you respond, and what did you learn about God through that experience?
- The shepherds were considered lowly by their society, yet God chose them to receive this magnificent announcement. When have you felt overlooked by others but specifically chosen or valued by God? How did that experience shape your understanding of God's character?
- The shepherds moved from encountering angels to encountering the newborn Jesus, leaving them in awe. Describe a moment in your faith journey that left you in genuine wonder or awe. What made that experience so impactful?
- Like the shepherds who "made haste" to find Jesus, share about a time when you felt compelled to drop everything to pursue something God placed on your heart. What motivated you, and what did you discover through your obedience?
- The shepherds couldn't keep the good news to themselves - they had to share it with others. When have you experienced something so joyful or meaningful that you immediately had to tell others about it? What made that news so compelling to share?



## GROW: (Grow Spiritually)

- Looking at verses 1-3, how does Caesar Augustus's census decree demonstrate God's sovereignty in fulfilling Micah 5:2's prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem? How does this encourage us regarding God's control over world events?
- Verses 4-5 show Joseph and Mary's journey to Bethlehem. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "God travels wonderful ways with human beings, but he does not comply with the views and opinions of people." How does their difficult journey challenge our expectations of God's plans?
- In verses 6-7, Jesus is born in humble circumstances. Consider Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 8:9: "Though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor." What does this reveal about God's character and His approach to salvation?
- Verses 8-9 describe God's announcement to shepherds - considered lowly in their society. How does this choice reflect Jesus's later words in Matthew 11:25 about God revealing truth to "little children"?
- The angel's proclamation in verses 10-11 uses specific titles: Savior, Christ, Lord. How do these names connect to Old Testament prophecies, particularly Isaiah 9:6-7?
- Verse 12's sign of a baby in a manger seems paradoxical for the King of Kings. How does this humble sign challenge our expectations of divine power?
- Consider verses 13-14's sudden appearance of the heavenly host. How does their praise reflect themes found in Psalm 148 about all creation glorifying God?
- The shepherds' immediate response in verses 15-16 demonstrates active faith. Martin Luther wrote, "Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace." How does their example challenge our own response to God's Word?
- Verses 17-18 show the shepherds becoming evangelists. How does this parallel the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20?
- Mary's treasuring and pondering these things (v19-20) provides a model of spiritual reflection. How does this connect with Psalm 119:11 about storing up God's Word?



## SHOW: (Live on Mission)

- The shepherds both sought Jesus and shared about Him with others. What specific step will you take this week to deepen your time with Christ, and who is one person you feel prompted to share your faith journey with?
- Jesus entered the world in humble circumstances, and the shepherds responded with worship. How can you practice both humility and praise in your daily routine this week? Be specific about one way you'll intentionally express each.
- Mary treasured these events in her heart, while the shepherds spread the word to others. How will you balance personal reflection and public witness this week? What spiritual practice will you develop to help you both ponder and proclaim God's work in your life?
- The shepherds' encounter with Jesus transformed them from overlooked members of society to bearers of the greatest news. Who in your community might feel overlooked or marginalized, and what tangible step will you take to serve and encourage them this week?