

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, December 23, 2007

Passage: Luke 2:1-20

Memory Passage: Luke 2:11

**TODAY:** From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:1-7.** Where did Joseph and Mary reside? Why was it important that Jesus be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)?
- (b) Read the prophecy in Micah in its context (Micah 5:2-4). What phrases in this prophecy indicate that the one spoken of is not an ordinary man?
- (c) What will this one do for his people? How does Jesus fulfill this prophecy?
- (d) What occasion makes them go to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-5)? What was unusual about this census?
- (e) What does verse 7 tell us about the conditions into which Jesus was born? What is important about the mention of this (compare Philippians 2:8; and 2 Corinthians 8:9)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 2:1-7 and talk about the fulfillment of prophecies for the birth of Jesus. Were they specific? How specific? Why would this matter? Give thanks for the prophecies that pointed to the coming of Jesus.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:8-13.** What in verse 8 might indicate that the birth of Christ did not occur in winter?
- (b) What kind of a message did the angel bring (vs. 10)? Who was it for? What prophecies does this fulfill?
- (c) How is this baby described in verse 11? What do each of the titles given him indicate about him?
- (d) What sign does the angel give to the shepherds? Why would this sign be necessary?
- (e) What might they have thought about this baby if the angel had not given the sign (consider Isaiah 53:2)?
- (f) *Family:* Luke 2:8-13 and discuss the other signs that God gave to the shepherds. How were these both practical and relevant? How did this sign reassure the shepherds that this was really the Messiah? Talk about some ways that God reassures us today. Thank God for not leaving us without evidences that we can trust.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:13-14.** What was the focus of the song of the angels at the birth of Jesus?
- (b) What should Christmas remind us of (John 17:1-5; Philippians 2:5-7)? How does the emphasis on the “little baby” often obscure the real message of the incarnation?
- (c) How is God glorified according to Hebrews 13:15-16? How did the shepherds glorify God (vs. 20)?
- (d) What is the response of the magi when they encounter the child (Matthew 2:11)?
- (e) What do each of these responses tell about who Jesus is?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 2:13-14 and John 17:1-5. How is Christmas really about “the glory of God?” What are some ways that God is glorified in Christmas? How should we worship Jesus as the glory of God? Pray that your celebrations might always give glory to God this season.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:13-14** again. What kind of peace did Jesus come to bring (John 14:27; 16:33)?
- (b) How does this differ from the type of peace that most speak about during the Christmas season? Which type of peace were most Jews expecting in the coming of the Messiah? How did that false expectation cause them to mistake the coming of Jesus?
- (c) What do Romans 5:1 and Ephesians 2:14-18 tell us that Jesus came to provide? How does this help us understand the meaning of the song of the angels?
- (d) Read Luke 2:15-20. What was the response of the shepherds?
- (e) How does their response differ from that of the religious leaders in Matthew 2:4-8? What does this tell us about the nature of true faith?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 2:13-14 again and Matthew 2:4-8. Why didn't the religious leaders go to see the baby? What makes real faith different from false faith and religion? Pray for someone who does not know the Lord as savior.

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

- (a) **Read Luke 2:16-20.** After they had seen the child, what did they do? What responsibility has been given to those who have come to Christ (Matthew 28:18-20)?
- (b) What is Mary's response to all that occurs? What does "pondering" indicate? How does she do so? What time have you spent "pondering" what took place in the incarnation?
- (c) How does Paul describe this "gift" of Jesus that has come through the incarnation (2 Corinthians 9:15)? What is our appropriate response to this gift?
- (d) How did Mary (Luke 1:46-47), Zacharias (Luke 1:68), the angels (Luke 2:13-14), and the shepherds (Luke 2:20) respond to the gift of Jesus? How do you respond?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 2:16-20 and talk about the giving and receiving of gifts at Christmas. Which is Christmas about: giving or receiving? Could it be both? Talk about some ways that your family can be involved in giving to others this season and how you can tell others about Christ. Pray for opportunities to talk about Jesus.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Luke 2:1-20. Why were the prophecies important to knowing who the Messiah would be? What other "signs" did God give to point out the Messiah? What is the essence of the song of the angels? How is the glory of God the focus of Christmas? Pray that God might be glorified as you celebrate Christmas together tomorrow.

**DATE:** December 23, 2007

**PASSAGE:** Luke 2:1-20

***The Song of the Angels***

*"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*