

A CHRISTMAS BIBLE STUDY

A Christmas Bible Study

We are all familiar with the Christmas story, perhaps too familiar. Sometimes when we've heard a story over and over through the years we become a little numb to the meaning, let alone some of the details. When we hear stories over and over again, especially in our personal Christian experiences, we often remember the last telling of the story and not the story itself.

As Christians we hear preachers preach Christmas sermons, and teachers teach about Christmas every year. But, do we really know the Christmas story? Or, do we know what we have heard about the Christmas story? It might be the same, but then again it might be different.

There's no better time to start a new Christmas tradition, than this Christmas. What could be better than simply telling the Christmas story to your children and grandchildren? Walking them through it in a way that it becomes theirs forever!

This Christmas take time to study the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke individually, or with immediate and extended family. It just might change your world!

We have written a short study that you can use this Christmas and for many Christmases to come. In fact, it might even become the center point of your Christmas season!

Something to think about

Each year you could have someone else lead the discussion, grandparents, parents even older children. What a wonderful way to prepare the younger ones to keep the tradition going when they have families of their own.

Content

Included in this short study:

Luke 2:1-20

Printed out in the English Standard Version double spaced so you can easily mark it. Use this to do your study; you can mark it and everyone will have the same translation.

Directions for studying the passage

Discussion questions

A list of what we learned from marking the key players in this story.

Note: This is our list and it simply serves as an example. Your list does not have to look exactly like ours.

A marked copy of Luke 2:1-20.

Note: Again your paper does not have to look like ours; it only serves as an example of how to mark the text.

Relax and enjoy your time in the Word both personally and with your family. Merry Christmas!

Luke 2:1–20

1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

OBSERVE

Since observation is seeing what the text says we are going to read it, not just once, but several times. In fact we are going to ask you as the leader to read these verses aloud each time you mark a new word. This may sound like busy work but in doing so you will be amazed at how much you and your group will remember!

As you come to the keyword we've asked you to mark, have your group say it aloud while they mark it. This keeps everyone focused and on track. (Some may have trouble doing two things at once, so you will want to encourage them if they can only do one thing, mark the word.)

After you finish marking the words discuss what you learned. Ask the questions which have been provided and solicit responses directly from the text. The questions are there to help you with the discussion of the passage. You do not have to use all of the questions. Your goal is for each person in your group to engage with the Word and to simply cover the facts Luke gives us about Mary, the shepherds, the angels, and the birth of Jesus.

Suggestion:

(If you have children who are too young to read, encourage them to listen and when they hear the word you are marking to say it out loud. You may even make up a hand motion for them to do as they say it.)

Now let's get started!

- Read Luke 2:1-20 aloud.
Simply read the passage aloud, do not mark anything at this time.
- Read the passage aloud. Have the group say and mark **Mary** - with a circle, including pronouns.

Ask the following questions:

What did you learn about Mary from Luke 2?

Where were Mary and Joseph from?

Where did they go and why?

What did she do with the baby when he was born? Discuss what that was like.

How did Mary respond to what the shepherds said?

- Read the passage aloud. Have the group say and mark Angel with an underline.

Ask the following questions:

What did you learn about the angel or angels in Luke 2?

How many angels appeared at first?

How is the angel described?

What exactly did the angel say to the shepherds?

What happened after the 1st angel finished speaking?

- Read the passage aloud. Have the group say and mark **shepherd(s)** with a rectangle.

Ask the following questions:

What did you learn about the shepherds in Luke 2?

Where were the shepherds and what were they doing?

How did they respond to the angel?

Where did they go after the announcement?

What did they see in Bethlehem?

Discuss what the shepherds told Mary and Joseph and how it must have impacted them.

After having seen the baby lying in the manger what did the shepherds do?

Application

Discuss how the shepherds responded to the birth of Jesus.

Discuss Mary's response.

Compare the two responses.

What should our response be to the birth of Jesus?

What could you change in your Christmas traditions to have a "Shepherd's" Christmas? A "Mary Christmas"?

Suggestion:

If you have done this study with your children/grandchildren it might be fun to have the children act out the story from what they just learned. This shows you how much they learned and also helps them process the information they just received.

Possible markings for Luke 2:1–20

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2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were filled with great fear.

10 And the angel said to them “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Lists of what you might have seen in Luke 2.

Mary

Betrothed to Joseph. Vs. 5

Was with child Vs. 5

Came to Bethlehem from Nazareth with Joseph. Vs.4-5

While they were in Bethlehem, she gave birth to her firstborn son. Vs. 6-7

Wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger. Vs. 7

Visited by shepherds Vs. 16

Mary treasured up all these things (what the shepherds said), pondering them in her heart. Vs.19

Angel(s)

Angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds. Vs. 9

Said to them,

 Fear not. Vs.10

 I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Vs.10

 Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Vs.11

 this will the sign –Vs. 12

 you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths

 and lying in a manger.”

Multitude of angels praising God and saying, Vs.13

 Glory to God in the highest, Vs. 14

 and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”Vs.14

Angels went away into heaven. Vs.15

Shepherds

Out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. Vs.8

Angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. Vs.9

They were filled with great fear. Vs.9

The shepherds said, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” Vs. 15

Went to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. Vs. 16

Told Mary and Joseph what they had been told concerning their baby. Vs. 17

When they saw it, they told everyone what the angels said. Vs. 17

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God. Vs.20