

Group/Individual Study

Series: Christmas Hope Wherever you are : Unaware in Rome

Passages: Luke 2:1-7

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 12/10

1. Read Luke 2:1-7 It's easy to rush straight to the manger and the beautiful scene of Mary and Joseph and their newborn son, Jesus. But before we do that, let's step back and consider all the hurdles Mary and Joseph had to clear to get to that amazing moment. List as many as you can. What do you think sustained them through those hardships?
2. When Caesar declared a census for the entire Roman world, that meant that people all the way from England to India were all having to trek to their hometowns to be counted. What do you imagine the 90-mile journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem was like for Mary and Joseph when Mary was so close to delivery?
3. Though we don't have a worldwide census to contend with or miraculous pregnancies to get our minds around, there's an amazing amount that goes on in December that can obscure our vision of Jesus and hamper our experience of Him. Which parts of the season do you enjoy? Which parts are hard for you? What draws you near to Him? What can get in the way?
4. Have you ever had a Christmas where hardship in your life made the season more depressing than uplifting? How can people reach out and find comfort in Jesus in a Christmas like that? What advice would you give to someone who's facing that type of Christmas season this year?
5. Have you ever had a Christmas season that was so busy, Jesus almost got lost in the shuffle for you? How can a person step out of the hubbub and refocus on Jesus? Have you ever had success at doing this? How so?
6. Describe some of the most spiritually significant moments you've had at Christmas times in the past. What made them so special? What could you do this Christmas to give God space to create spiritual moments like that this year? What do you want to thank God for as you remember Jesus coming into the world?