

Luke 2:1-12 The shepherds, Mary, and Joseph

12/23/18

Read the passage each day and take one question to hear from God.

1. In these weeks leading up to Christmas, we've taken 3 weeks to look at the experiences of the shepherds, of Mary, and of Joseph around the birth of Jesus. Whose story has inspired you the most this year? Why?
2. If you are a woman, what do you think it would have been like to be right at the point of birth in a strange town without knowing where your baby would be born? If you are a man, what do you think would be going on for you trying desperately to find a safe, clean place for your baby to be born?
3. In the end, Mary gave birth to the Savior of the world in a barn and Jesus was first worshipped by people whose jobs left them so "dirty" that they couldn't enter the temple without a time-consuming cleansing process. Given what you know about Jesus, why does this seem a fitting start to His life and ministry?
4. Read verses 10 and 11. Where and how have you seen this news "cause great joy for all people?" Have you seen this happen for rich people? For poor people? For people of different cultures? For people in great distress? For people who outwardly have no reason for joy? Tell about any of these you feel led to share about.
5. The Christmas Eve message has an emphasis on Jesus satisfying our deep longings. How do you think the birth of Jesus satisfied the deep longings of the shepherds, Mary, and Joseph? During this season or upcoming year, what deep longing(s) in you are you needing Jesus to satisfy?

Weekly Family Activity

Families with Younger Children (PreK-2nd Grade)

Have them draw out this scene on paper in their own design. Ask them to "re-tell" the story once they're done drawing it up. It gives you as a parent the chance to see what they remember and can see their artwork in full display. Legos, playdough or other resources can be used as well to help with this idea. Get some noisemakers. Give them 30 seconds to record a GREAT NOISE FOR ALL PEOPLE.

Later Elementary to Early Middle School (3-6th Grade)

Get some noisemakers. Give them 30 seconds to record a GREAT NOISE FOR ALL PEOPLE. Jesus is GOD WITH US, Emmanuel. Where in life is it most comforting to know Jesus is with you? Write down three scenarios on a slip of paper (Friends, Family, Crime, Schools, Homelessness, etc). Have your student pull a slip of paper and communicate how they would like to see Jesus use them to bring GOOD NEWS to that situation.

Middle School to High School (7-12th Grade)

Get some noisemakers. Give them 30 seconds to record a GREAT NOISE FOR ALL PEOPLE. Post it to social media as a family with the line...WE BRING THE NEWS OF JESUS THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON. Jesus is GOD WITH US, Emmanuel. Where in life is it most comforting to know Jesus is with you? Write down three scenarios on a slip of paper (Friends,

Family, Crime, Schools, Homelessness, etc.). Have your student pull a slip of paper and communicate how they would like to see Jesus use them to bring GOOD NEWS to that situation.