

Discussion: Luke 2:1-20

- Give a brief account of your birth...names of parents, where, when, who was president
- What impresses you the most about Joseph and Mary in this account?
- Why do you suppose the Savior of the World was born in an obscure village and laid in a manger?
- Why do you think God chose to announce the birth of his Son to the shepherds?
- What effect did these night time events have on the shepherds?
- What do you think the shepherds were most excited about telling other people?
(Angel chorus, wait for messiah was over, seeing the baby, God's plan for salvation, that the angels were right, etc.)
- How well do you think Mary and Joseph understood the significance of the child they had just brought into the world? What do you think
- God had a message for Mary and the shepherds when they were just doing their jobs...being themselves. What does this imply about being "spiritual"? How has God spoken to you in the normal everyday flow of life? How has He spoken to you this week?
- What effect has the birth of Christ had on you?

Luke 2:1-21

1In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3And everyone went to his own town to register. 4So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

8And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." 15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and

praising *God* for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.