

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, December 24, 2023

Passage: Luke 2:8-14

Memory Passage: Luke 2:13-14

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:1-7.** Our sermon text this week will be vs. 8-14, but we'll start our study in v. 1. What does the phrase "in those days" suggest about Luke's knowledge of the exact year of Jesus' birth (note the exact dating in 3:1-2; cf. 3:23)?
- (b) For what purpose did "all the world" need to be registered?
- (c) Why did Mary & Joseph go to Bethlehem according to Luke 2:4? Why did they go according to Micah 5:2? Explain why there is no conflict between these two passages of Scripture.
- (d) What could you teach your children or grandchildren, or perhaps a co-worker or friend who needed Christ, about the peace that can be found in seeing and savoring the truth of God's sovereignty as he acted in Luke 2:4 to carry out Micah 5:2?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:8-14.** Shepherds were considered the very lowest class of people in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, so much so that they were not even allowed to give testimony in court. Why does God announce such an important event to such a lowly group?
- (b) What do you learn about Scripture's view of shepherds from the following verses: Ex. 3:1; 2 Sam.5:2; 78:70-72; Is. 63:11; Amos 1:1; Ez. 37:24.
- (c) What do you learn about the character and work of God as our Shepherd from the following verses: Gen. 48:15; 49:24; Ps. 23:1; Jer. 31:10; Mic. 5:4.
- (d) Consider John 10:1-21 in light of his birth in Luke 2 and write a Christmas poem/hymn of praise to Christ.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:8-14.** What is the significance of "the glory of the Lord" appearing with the angel of the Lord?
- (b) What visible form did the Lord's glory take?
- (c) Angels often start their messages with "Fear not!" Why would the content of his message alleviate fear ("Fear not, *for*")?
- (d) Explain each phrase the angel uses to describe the message: good news, great joy, & for all the people. Think through their meaning, reception (after 400 years of prophetic silence!), connection to the OT expectations, etc.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:8-14.** Explain the angel's description of Jesus as "Savior" (the word's meaning, usage, importance, etc.).
- (b) Explain the angel's description of Jesus having the title "Christ" (the word's meaning, usage, importance, etc.).
- (c) Explain the angel's description of Jesus being "the Lord" (the word's meaning, usage, importance, etc.).
- (d) How did these names and titles shape the church's preaching in Acts? Of Paul? How should they shape yours?

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 2:8-14.** Why should angels, who won't receive this salvation, be so overjoyed about the birth of the Savior?
- (b) What is inherent in the birth of this child that warrants the highest glory to be given to God? Think deeply about this because you could, and probably should, write a book! Think of what Jesus accomplishes, how his life brings God glory, the outcome of His life, death, and resurrection, the wisdom & justice of God displayed in this birth, and much, much more.
- (c) Explain the peace that is promised by the angels and who has hope of receiving it. Is it a general pronouncement of peace, or does it have specific parameters? How does this expound upon the "good news of great joy" this message brings?
- (d) **Read vs. 15-20.** In what specific ways next year will you "come and see," "go and tell," and go forth "praising God?"

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*Glory to God in the Highest!*