

## “The First Christmas” - Luke 2:1-20

Ask - “What is your favorite part of the Christmas holiday season?”

Background - This week we will deviate from our study in Genesis for a special Christmas lesson. This is a familiar and beautiful text that, though we may have read it many times before, never seems to lose its wonder.

### “The Family” - Luke 2:1-7

(v1-3) Why did Joseph return to his hometown? When did this take place? What did he have to do when he arrived?

(v4-5) Where did he depart from and where did he travel to? Who came along with him? How were they related and what was her condition?

(v6-7) What happened while they were in Bethlehem? Describe and discuss the setting of Jesus’ birth.

JOSEPH AND HIS PREGNANT FIANCE MARY TRAVELED TO BETHLEHEM FOR THE CENSUS. WHILE THEY WERE THERE JESUS WAS BORN AND LAID IN A MANGER BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM IN THE INN.

### “The Angels” - Luke 2:8-14

(v8-9) Who appeared to the shepherds? When and where did this happen? How did they initially respond?

(v10-12) What did the angel say to them? What title(s) did the angel ascribe to this Child? How would they recognize Him?

(v13-14) Who then appeared with the angel? What did they say and sing? Take a moment to imagine or visualize what this may have been like.

AN ANGEL APPEARED TO THE SHEPHERDS TO ANNOUNCE JESUS’ BIRTH. THEN AN ENTIRE HOST OF ANGELS APPEARED AND SANG PRAISES TO GOD FOR THIS GLORIOUS OCCURRENCE.

### “The Shepherds” - Luke 2:15-20

(v15-16) After the angels departed. What did the shepherds say and do? Did they find baby Jesus?

(v17-18, 20) After seeing Him, what did the shepherds go and do? How was their message received?

(v19) What did Mary do? How was her response different from that of the shepherds? Discuss.

THE SHEPHERDS HURRIED AND FOUND BABY JESUS IN THE MANGER. AFTERWARD, THEY PRAISED GOD AND WENT TO TELL MANY OTHERS WHAT THEY HAD SEEN.

Application - After centuries of waiting, GOD sent His Son Jesus into the world. The long-awaited Messiah had come to save His people. Yet His arrival came in a humble and unexpected way. The King of kings was born in a small, rather insignificant town to a poor, unknown couple. He was delivered in a stable and laid in a manger because the inn was full. His visitors were lowly shepherds from the nearby countryside. With little fanfare or acclaim, Jesus was born. Sing your favorite Christmas hymn and say a prayer thanking God for the birth of Jesus.