



Part Two
Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor
December 15, 2013

Luke 2:1-20

WHY TELL THE SHEPHERDS AT BETHLEHEM FIRST? (Luke 2:1-8)

- ❶ The image of the Shepherd points to God
(Psalm 23:1-4; Isaiah 40:11; John 10:14-15)
 - ▶ Shepherds live sacrificially to offer their sheep provision, care, guidance, protection, restoration & discipline
 - ▶ Sheep are dirty, not particularly bright, fearful, easily distracted, quick to wander & defenseless (Isaiah 53:6)
- ❷ Israel's Patriarchs were all Shepherds (Genesis 47:3)
- ❸ King David was shepherd from the village of Bethlehem (1 Samuel 16:1)
- ❹ David was called from the sheep pen to shepherd Israel (Psalm 78:70-72)
- ❺ The OT predicts the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)

BIG IDEA: Themes like shepherding & Bethlehem clearly point to the glory days of Israel's past

PRINCIPLE: God is for the underdog!

SHEPHERDS IN THE DAY OF CHRIST

- ❶ Poor & downtrodden
- ❷ Filthy & "disqualified"
- ❸ Despised class of people

THE SHEPHERDS' RESPONSE (Luke 2:9, 15-18, 20)

- ❶ Terrified (v.9b)
- ❷ Listened (v.15)
- ❸ Believed (v.15)
- ❹ Acted quickly (v.15)
- ❺ Found Christ (v.16)
- ❻ Spread the word (v.17)
- ❼ Glorified & Praised God (v.20)

- I will read and meditate on Psalm 23 this week.
- I fully accept my role as one of God's sheep & need Christ to shepherd me.
- I'm becoming a follower of Jesus today!



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Bridge LifeGroups are **currently on winter break**. We will continue to offer study questions each week in this **simplified format**, which can be useful for personal devotions and/or discussion starters for LifeGroups that choose to meet for a portion of the winter break.

Lesson Aim: To grow in our understanding of how God is a caring shepherd and with us every day.

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your study time and/or discussion.

Icebreaker: What are some of the characteristics of sheep?

1. **READ** the following verses in which God describes Himself as a shepherd. Next to each verse(s), list at least one of God's characteristics.
 - **Psalm 23:1-4:**
 - **Psalm 28:9:**
 - **Isaiah 40:11:**
 - **Ezekiel 34:11-16:**
 - **John 10:11-16:**

2. **READ Luke 2:1-20.** Of all the people the angels could have visited, why do you suppose God sent them to shepherds?
3. How does this relate to Mary's Song (**READ Luke 1:46-55**)?
4. What three titles are given to Jesus in verse 11? What is significant about them?
5. God appeared to the shepherds when they were just "being themselves" at work. Have you ever felt like God has forgotten you at your place of work or in everyday life?
6. How has God spoken to you or revealed Himself to you in the ordinary flow of life?
7. What are some ways we can worship Jesus in everyday life this Christmas season?

Close in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads you.

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our friendly, message-based **LifeGroups!** Get a copy of this Study Guide at theBridgeFresno.com by clicking on the "Messages" link.