

d. How did Mary end the conversation with Gabriel?

2. Read Luke 2:1-5

a. According to these verses Why did Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem?

b. Read Micah 5:2. After reading this verse, who is promised to be born in Bethlehem?

c. Think about and discuss the importance of knowing that God uses all things for His plan, even in this case a government issued census to accomplish his purpose.

3. Read Luke 2:6-7

a. Two short verses that usher in the presence of the Lord. What significance do you see in Luke including that there was no room in the inn and Jesus being born in a manger?

b. We think of a stable as humble. In our eyes, it is. I want you to recognize that if Jesus had been born in the most prestigious palace in the world, it would have paled in comparison from Heaven.

4. Read Luke 2:8-14

a. Who do we see as the first people in the world informed of the Messiah's birth?

b. Imagine if you will a still calm night out in the country side. You are sitting with your friends with the sheep asleep as you listen for predators and these that might endanger the sheep. Out of nowhere an angel is standing in your midst shining with the glory of God. Do you believe the Angels first words were very important?

c. What news and details did the angel bring to the shepherds?

5. Read Luke 2:13-15.

We see a sky filled with angels praising God and proclaiming the peace that God had brought to earth. What was the shepherd's response when the praising had ended?

6. Read Luke 2:16-20

a. They had been told this baby was the Savior of the world. After they spent time in the presence of Jesus, what was their next action?

b. We started with Mary and ended with the Shepherds. These verses do the same in 19 and 20. How did both Mary and the Shepherds respond this special night?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. God called Mary for a special purpose. She was overwhelmed at first but then humbly accepted God's call in her life. How can we follow her example in our lives when God call us to take on overwhelming tasks in our lives?
2. The shepherds in this time were thought of as a lowly group of people. What type of joy in our lives can we take from knowing that God chose to send a multitude of angels to serenade the shepherds with the invitation to come and worship the Christ?
3. When the shepherds came in contact with Jesus they left not being able to contain the story inside. They shared this marvel with everyone. How does this challenge you to share the marvel that Jesus has a relationship with you to others?