

GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Get Into The Word



Week of Sunday December 14, 2025

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**Living out our God-given calling as
we follow Jesus and make
disciples every day.**

Introduction

As we explore the announcement of Jesus' birth in Luke 2:8-12, consider the unexpected choice of shepherds as the first to receive this news. These were people often viewed as unreliable and outcast. Yet God chose them to celebrate the birth of His Son, demonstrating His love for the disenfranchised. Reflect on how God calls each of us, regardless of our past or status, and invites us into a deeper relationship with Him. How might we respond to His call, leaving behind excuses to seek Jesus this season?

Disciple Measure

Humble Guide: Who is someone you can help take one step closer to Jesus this Christmas?

Discussion Questions

Long Hollow Christmas

HIGHLIGHT

Have someone read aloud...

[Luke 2:8-12](#)

Discussion Questions

Discuss the following questions...

Opening Question: What's the most memorable or meaningful gift you've ever received? What made it so special?

1. What is the significance of the shepherds' role in announcing the birth of Jesus, and why might God have chosen them as the first witnesses to this event?
2. What connection is established between Bethlehem's historical significance and the birth of Jesus?

Have someone read aloud [Micah 4:8](#).

3. In what ways does the prophecy in Micah contribute to our understanding of the significance of Bethlehem in God's plan?
4. What is the meaning of the shepherds finding Jesus "wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger"?
5. Why do you think the angel's appearance to the shepherds emphasized that the good news of Jesus' birth was for "all the people," and how does this challenge societal norms of the time?

Notes:

Discuss the following questions...

1. What does it mean to you to be chosen by God despite your past or current status, and how can this understanding impact your interactions with others?
2. How can we, in our everyday lives, be active witnesses of our faith to those around us, especially those who may feel marginalized?
3. What steps can we take to ensure that we prioritize our spiritual journey amid the busyness of modern life?

Reflect on the idea that God's message is for "all the people." How can this principle guide your actions and conversations during the Christmas season to share the Gospel with those around you this Christmas?

Pray Together:

- For hearts that respond immediately when God speaks
- For those who feel unworthy or too far from God
- For deeper intimacy with Christ this Christmas season
- For specific needs shared during discussion

Questions for Families

Here are some questions you can discuss with the whole family.

Luke 2:8-12

What do you think it means when the angels said, 'Good news of great joy for all the people'?

Encourage younger children to think about happy news they would like to share with friends, and guide older children toward understanding the significance of Jesus' birth as joyful news for everyone.

Why do you think God chose the shepherds, who were quietly working at night, to hear about Jesus' birth first?

Help younger children think about the special role the shepherds played, like how they were nearby and could spread the news. For older children, discuss how God often chooses unexpected people to share important messages, highlighting that everyone is important to God.

The shepherds left everything to find Jesus. What do you think we can learn from their actions about listening and responding to God?

Encourage younger children to think about a time they acted quickly to do something good, like helping someone. With older children, explore the idea of responding to important things in life and how we can listen to what God might be asking us to do.

NT 260

WEEK: 51

- Matthew 19
- Matthew 20
- Matthew 21
- Matthew 22
- Matthew 23

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 7:26-27

Resources

Additional Resources

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast - Christmas Bonus #1



Join Pastor Robby as he looks at what bread, [shepherds](#), and swaddling clothes have in common.
(27 min)

Resources to Watch

Bible Project Guide - The Book of Luke



See a collection of videos and articles to guide you through the book of [Luke](#).
(20 min)

Bible Project Guide - Advent Series



See a collection of videos and walking through [Advent](#).
(18min)

Life Group Resources

We have a variety of resources and are continually adding new ones. Some of our resources include group launch guides, on-demand training modules, and curriculum resources. To request a resource, reach out to us at groups@longhollow.com.

D-Group Resources

If you or someone you know would like to start a D-group, we have everything you need, including reading plans, journals, and a launch guide to walk you through the first four meetings.



longhollow.com/lifegroups



longhollow.com/dgroups

Commentary

Notes:

What's Going On?

This passage tells us about a group of shepherds having a pretty ordinary night, watching over their sheep, when something amazing happens. An angel appears to them with a very important message: Jesus, the Savior, has been born in nearby Bethlehem. The angel tells them they can recognize him because he'll be wrapped in cloth, lying in a manger, which is a pretty humble place for a baby.

Then, a whole bunch of angels show up, singing praises to God. The shepherds quickly decide to leave their sheep and go see this newborn baby. They understand that something unbelievably important and joyful has just happened, and they want to be part of it. This passage is meant to show how God brings good news to everyone, even to people who might not seem important or special to others, like the shepherds.

Biblical Timeline



Notes:

A Bit of Background

Bethlehem is a small but important town in the Bible. It's called the City of David because King David, was born there. Around Jesus' time, Bethlehem was known as the place where lambs for the Temple sacrifices in Jerusalem were raised. These weren't just any sheep. These were the best, perfect lambs, used for very special offerings to God during the Passover celebration. This connection makes it all the more interesting that Jesus, who we see as the ultimate sacrifice for sin, was born there.

The shepherds themselves were not considered very important in society. They lived hard, dirty lives taking care of sheep, and many people didn't trust them. They were often seen as outsiders or outcasts. Yet, God chose them to first hear the news of Jesus' birth. This tells us a lot about what God is like, He cares about everyone, no matter who they are or what others think of them. By sending the angels to the shepherds, God is showing everyone that His love and His message are for all people, regardless of their status or situation in life.

Jesus's birth approx. 6-4 B.C.

Birth of
Christ

Crucifixion
and Resurrection

Book of
Revelation

Today's highlighted
passage and other
related passages

Sermon Notes

Luke 2:8-12 CSB

In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger.”

(Get digital notes on your mobile device at notes.longhollow.com)

Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

Spirit-Led Follower

A disciple who walks with Jesus daily, anchoring their lives to God's Word and obediently following the Holy Spirit where He leads.

Intentional Friend

A disciple who is always looking for ways to care for others and meet their needs. This is a practical way to be present in the lives of those around us.

Humble Guide

A disciple who is a humble guide takes every opportunity to help people take their next step closer to Jesus. This is someone who is constantly looking for opportunities to have Gospel conversations and speak truth into someone's life.

Force For Good

When a disciple lives out their God-given calling, they naturally become a force for good where they live, work, and play. This type of person is looking for opportunities to meet needs, heal brokenness, and bring tangible hope to the people in their life and in their community.



LONG HOLLOW
CHURCH