



encounter.

a step-by-step guide through Scripture

disciple:

// someone who follows Jesus and leads others to do the same.

Studying God's Word is one of the best ways to grow your relationship with God, be tuned to the Holy Spirit, and get to know Jesus intimately. John 1 tells us that the Word is God, the writer of Psalms tells us it will light our path, and Jesus tells us in John 8 if we abide in His Word, we are truly His disciples.

This tool is just one of the many ways to study the Bible and dive deeper into the passages we will be studying each weekend together. Our hope is that you begin to deeply understand the scripture we will be unpacking and allow God to speak to your heart before you even walk through the doors on Sunday.

This tool is designed to help guide you as you seek to understand the context of each verse, what it meant to its original audience, and what it means to us today.

There are a few ways you can utilize this PDF.

01 Print the PDF.

-or-

02 Download the PDF, open in a notes app (GoodNotes, Notability, etc), fill it out digitally.

-or-

03 Use the PDF to transcribe into a notebook or journal.

5 Marks of a Disciple

- Know Jesus Intimately
- Follow the Holy Spirit Relentlessly
- Obey God's Word Completely
- Love His Church Wholeheartedly
- Seek the Lost Intentionally



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Week of December 11th // Conversation December 17th

Luke 2:1-20

pray.

Sit in a quiet space and ask God to speak to you through this Scripture today. Thank Him for this beautiful passage of the birth of our Savior! In honor of Advent, consider lighting a candle to represent God's light (Jesus) coming into our dark world.

observe.

- 01** Mark any reference to the word "Jesus" with a cross. Remember the other words like Messiah, Lord, Savior, etc. 
- 02** Mark all references to God the Father with a triangle. 
- 03** Underline the words the angel(s) spoke.
- 04** Mark a shepherd's hook symbol over the references to the shepherds. 

The Birth of Jesus

¹At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ² (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. ⁴ And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵ He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger because there was no lodging available for them.

The Shepherds and Angels

⁸ That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in highest heaven,

and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”

¹⁵ When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other,

“Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone

what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸ All

who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished, ¹⁹ but Mary kept all these

things in her heart and thought about them often. ²⁰ The shepherds went back

to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It

was just as the angel had told them.

Micah 5:2

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of

Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose

origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

John 10:14-15

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, ¹⁵ just as

my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep.

interpret.

01 Why did Joseph have to go to Bethlehem? Who was he a descendant of?

02 Look at the words the angel spoke to the shepherds (v 9-15). Look up the definitions for the word “afraid” and the Greek word “phobeo”.

03 When the angel of the Lord spoke to the shepherds, where were they located? List all of the things they did after they heard from the angel (v. 16-20)?

apply.

01

Joseph & Mary traveled there by Roman decree for the census. Do you think this was just a coincidence? It was actually foretold by God's prophets in the Old Testament (see Micah 5:2 verse).

This was not an easy journey for the couple to make but one that they had to take in order to comply with the decree. Because it was so crowded, they could find no rooms so our Savior was brought into the world in a lowly stable/cave and laid in a manger.

Reflect on God's humility in coming to the world as a baby and being born in these primitive conditions. It was all part of His divine plan! Is this also indicative of how the world treats Jesus...is there room in the world for Him? In our society/in our home/in our hearts?

apply.

02 Why do you think God chose the shepherds to be the first to see the Savior of the world? What is the correlation between Jesus and what a shepherd does for his sheep? (see John 10:14-15). For more references, read John 10:7-18.

03 Take time to re-read this passage again as you prepare your heart for the birth of Jesus. Share with someone something that you learned from this part of Scripture. Don't be afraid! God promises his Holy Spirit to guide you!

Also, another way of sharing Jesus with others, is to consider who you can invite to Christmas Eve services at GTWY:

Sunday, December 24

10:00 // 11:30 // 2:00 // 3:30

bring it together.

The people were looking for a Savior for 430 years. Jesus' birth was foretold by the prophets for years before his birth in the Old Testament. Yet the people were not looking for a baby, they were looking for royalty: a king.

The angel prepared Mary (Luke 1:30), Joseph (Matt. 1:20) and the shepherds for the birth of the Savior by saying to all of them individually, "Do not be afraid." They all heard the words of the angel of the Lord and accepted it from God as His plan. Each person had their own part in this holy event and they trusted in God to lead and guide them and to not be afraid! What faith!

God came down to earth as a baby for everyone. He grew in the Lord, began his ministry and died on the cross for everyone as well - from the lowest shepherds to the royal wisemen (Matthew 2:1-2).

His humility and His divine plan is based on His timing. May God to be glorified at all times!

connect.

We are available to answer any questions you might have.

 info@gtwy.church

We believe life is better in circles. Groups are a great place to grow in your relationship with other believers and find encouragement and accountability as you grow in your relationship with God.

 www.gtwy.church/groups

[we value your input. click or scan here to provide feedback](#)

