



## Small Group Discussion Guide

Week of December 10, 2017

*Open your group with a time of sharing and prayer.*

*As the world prepares for Christmas, so should we. It is a part of being human, having been created in God's image, that we recall important life events. The rest of creation does not. There may be seasons in nature and memories for creatures but they do not celebrate as mankind does. They declare God's glory but we celebrate with God His faithfulness and His glory. It is important that we see these events in the context of the greater. Remembering the birth of Jesus should give us pause as we recall the promises of the Old Testament for the long awaited messiah. The very fact that Immanuel means God with us is encouraging. We are encouraged knowing we are not alone as a people nor are we ever alone as persons. God watches over us as those stars watched over the shepherds on that faithful night. We may not have heard the voices of angels proclaiming "fear not" but we may be assure God's love toward us and mankind is forever true. The angels were the first to herald that the "good new" was to the whole world. That very gospel has been given to us to take to our personal Jerusalem, Samaria and uttermost most parts.*

- I. Read [Luke 2](#) It is important that a particular date was not given for Jesus' birth. It wasn't to be celebrated as a particular day of a specific month of the Jewish calendar, as some Old Testament events were celebrated. It was marked on the secular calendar surrounding historical events to Rome. This was a world event. It may seem strange that for so many centuries it was not celebrated. The world had not embraced Christianity and Christians had not embraced holy days. Verse 11 uses the word "Today," for the Greek word "Now, This very moment." Just as in Genesis God spoke the world into existence (this very moment), "at the fullness of time," ([Galatians 4:4-6](#)) Jesus was born into the world. The message of Jesus birth to the world is "Now." Let us go out as the angels did and herald that the good news is to them. "[Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.](#)" It's not for us as believers to celebrate a particular day. It is for them. We must go and tell. They must come and see. And if we do and they do then [verse 20](#) is realized. God's intent for sending Jesus into the world has been made clear in [John 3:16-17](#). His intent for us as believer has been made clear as well. We are not preserving a holy-day for our purposes, we are to share this good news to them. Who can you invite this Sunday? What are your thoughts? Discuss the significance of Christmas to you and to others?
- II. Read [Matthew 1:18-2:12](#). The Christmas Holidays leave many feeling empty. Why? A baby only creates temporary joy in the wonderment of birth. Lasting joy come with the expectation of all who this child will become and from that the expectations of what he will accomplish. [Read Luke 1:26-55](#) and consider this idea of what this child would mean? How do you explain the significance of Christmas to someone left feeling empty? How can you prepare to feel joy and not emptiness this Christmas?

*Before prayer read [Luke 10:1-3](#). Ask God to help you to make the most of this Christmas season. Pray you find great joy in it and to be able to help others find joy as well.*



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