

Home Group Discussion Questions

Sunday 10th October

Luke 2:1-20

Ice breaker: What is the best nativity play you've ever seen?

Discussion Starter Questions:

- 1) The birth of Jesus took place in great hardship. A heavily pregnant teenage girl (who may well have been labelled immoral and a liar by her community) makes a 4 day journey on rough terrain, to Bethlehem and ends up giving birth in a stable.

Why did God allow the journey and birth of Jesus in Bethlehem to be so difficult? Is pleasure and ease an indication that you are in God's will?

Can you give an example from your own experiences when it seemed like things were not working out but in retrospect you see you were in God's will?

- 2) *"...in this world you will have tribulation. But take heart for I have overcome the world"(John 16:33)*

Consider this scripture. Does being a Christian make life easier?

- 3) Jesus had the most humble of births and upbringings. Philippians 2:7-8 tells us that *"...he made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself..."*

- i. **How far do you think Jesus emptied himself of his divinity in being born in the likeness of men?**
- ii. **How do you define humility? Can you think of any examples of false humility that can be subtle but damaging?**

- 4) According to Jewish religious teachers of the day being a shepherd was a disreputable occupation. They were thought of as lawless, thieving and dishonest. **Why do you think the message of Jesus' birth comes first to Shepherds of all people?**

- 5) **How would a growing understanding and appreciation of God's transcendent glory, like the shepherds experienced in the fields that night, impact your day to day life and worship?**

- 6) The shepherds saw Jesus for themselves and went away telling everybody else about him. **How much joy does the good news of Jesus Christ still bring into your life? If we have become complacent in any way and stopped sharing the good news with others, how might we recover our amazement and joy?**