



UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

The Joy of Christ

December 15

Luke 2:1-20

Things to Know

Christmas Eve Services

December 23-24 - [Click Here for Details!](#)

Mission Link

January 5 - [Click Here for Details!](#)

Equipping U - Simpsonville

January 8-May 7 - [Click Here to Register!](#)

Equipping U - Haywood

January 8-May 7 - [Click Here to Register!](#)

Equipping U - Anderson

January 15-April 30 - [Click Here to Register!](#)

Studying God's Word *In Community*

*Reminder: Seek to understand and apply God's word, **not** rehash the sermon.*

Read

Read Luke 2:1-20 and make observations about the text.

- What is God teaching us in the passage?
 - What does this reveal about who God is, what God has done, and how I should respond?
 - Which part of the text was most meaningful to you and why?
 - What do you need help understanding about this passage?
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Sermon Recap

- The gospel is a quite literally good news, and good news always produces a certain response, joy!
 - Joy is the product of news that solves human problems. The gospel brings joy because the gospel is the good news that humanity's biggest problem, their sin, finds a solution in the baby born in Bethlehem.
 - The announcement of Christ's birth is the fulfillment of an entire history of prophecy. The first prophecy of a Savior for humanity came in Genesis 3:15 and they continued to come through out the entirety of the Old Testament. The birth of Christ produces joy because the Savior has finally come.
 - The angels came proclaiming good news to the people of earth. The duty of proclamation has now passed on from the angels to the church of Christ. In the same way that the angels were heralds, now we are called to do the same.
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Discussion Questions

1. **How does the announcement of Jesus as Savior, Christ, and Lord (v. 11) bring joy to your life today? How can you rest in these truths during challenging times?**
2. **The angel proclaimed "good news of great joy for all people" (v. 10). How can you share this joyful news with those around you this week?**
3. **The shepherds glorified and praised God after witnessing Jesus (v. 20). How does reflecting on the incarnation inspire worship and joy in your daily walk with God?**
4. **Mary treasured and pondered the events in her heart (v. 19). What practical steps can you take to meditate on the joy of Christ's coming amidst the busyness of life?**

5. The angel declared "peace on earth" (v. 14). How does the peace Jesus brings lead to lasting joy in your relationships and daily circumstances?
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Scripture

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed,[b] who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.[c]

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"[d]

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Living on Mission In Community

Before you close the group, answer this question:

How is God leading me to respond to His Word this week?

Christians sometimes have a bad habit of minimizing the impact of spreading the gospel to the world around us. Sometimes we mistakenly think that sharing the gospel is something that has JUST an eternal impact. If people respond to our message and accept Jesus, then they get eternal life. While this is absolutely true, more happens when we share the gospel and people respond by accepting Jesus. When people accept Jesus they not only get eternal life, they get joy infused in their life.

The Christian mission to spread the gospel is about more than just giving people eternal life; it's about giving people joy in this life.

As a Christian you are called to spread the gospel and make sure the joy of Christ spreads in the world around you.

Optional Breakout Questions

Consider making time at the end of the group to break out into groups of 2-4 (keep them gender specific). Have them answer these three questions about their weeks:

1. How did you feed yourself?
 - *(What have you been doing to feed your spiritual life, and how is it going?)*
 2. How did you feed others?
 - *(How did you share the gospel or gospel truth with someone this week?)*
 3. How did you feed your flesh?
 - *(What sins did you struggle with this week? How can your friends hold you accountable?)*
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Leader Resources

If you are a leader and would like extra resources or a full curriculum guide, [CLICK HERE.](#)

