THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Luke 2:1–20

Key Verses: 2:10–11

1. What background details does Luke give about the birth of Jesus (1–3)? What was the purpose of this “registration,” and what do these verses this suggest about the rule of Caesar Augustus?
2. How does Luke describe Joseph and Mary, and why does he highlight their connection to David (4–5)? Imagine what their trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem was like. What happens to them (6–7)? How does this contrast with Caesar? Why do you think God had his Son be born like this?
3. Who else does Luke include in this event, what were they doing, and how were they regarded in that society (8)? What happens (9)? What does the angel tell them (10–11)? What does it mean that Jesus is our “Savior”? That he is “Christ the Lord”? How can we personally experience his birth as “good news of great joy”?
4. What else does the angel tell the shepherds, and why (12)? What happens next, and what do these words add to our understanding of the meaning of Jesus’ birth (13,14)?
5. How do the shepherds respond (15)? What do they find (16)? What do they do (17)? How do people respond (18)? Whose response does Luke highlight, and why (19)? How does Luke conclude this event, and what can we learn here (20)?