

# Christmas: Joy Unspeakable - Week 3

Luke 2:1-20

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## BELONG

**Ask this Ice Breaker Question: What is the best gift you have ever given to someone?**

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## BELIEVE

**Have someone in your group read aloud the key passage listed above**

- 1. Why were Joseph and Mary traveling so close the birth of Jesus?**
- 2. Have someone read Matthew 1:1-17. What do you learn about the genealogy of Christ? Why does this matter to the story?**
- 3. Imagine being Joseph having to navigate this unexpected circumstance with Mary. What do you think helped him follow God's Will? What questions would you have had if you were him? How does his response encourage you?**

*Leader Context (Not to be read aloud):*

Joseph appears as a narrative character only in [Matthew](#) and [Luke](#), and no words of Scripture are attributed to him. He is identified as a τέκτων (tektōn) ([Matt 13:55](#)), which often is translated as "carpenter" but can indicate any kind of [craftsman](#) working with wood, stone, or metal. An angel instructs Joseph to name Mary's child [Jesus](#) ([Matt 1:18-22](#)). Due to the [census](#) decreed by [Caesar Augustus](#), Joseph and pregnant Mary have to travel to [Bethlehem](#), Joseph's ancestral home ([Luke 2:1-5](#)). After the [Magi](#) visit, Joseph is warned in a dream that he and his family must flee to [Egypt](#) to escape [Herod](#), and Joseph obeys ([Matt 2:13-15](#)). After Herod's death, an angel appearing to Joseph in a dream tells him it is safe to return home ([Matt 2:19-20](#)). Fearing the wrath of Herod's son [Archelaus](#), Joseph does not return to Bethlehem but settles the family in [Nazareth](#) instead ([Matt 2:21-23](#)).

- 4. God seems to have a soft spot for shepherds in the Bible. Can you think of other places in Scripture that talk about shepherds and sheep?**
- 5. How does the response of the shepherds to the glory of the Lord connect so far with what we have learned about Joy?**



## 6. What surprises you most about this part of the Christmas story?

*"... Christmas means that we are so lost, so unable to save ourselves, that nothing less than the death of the Son of God himself could save us. This means you are not somebody who can pull yourself together and live a moral and good life.*

*To accept the true Christmas gift, you have to admit you're a sinner. You need to be saved by grace. You need to give up control of your life. " Tim Keller*

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### **BECOME:**

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1. It can be easy for us to miss the miraculous Christmas story because it is common (well known) to us. What is one way you can focus on the miracle of the birth of Jesus Christ this week?
2. How are you sharing Christmas this year?
3. Who is someone you know who does not know Jesus personally that we can pray for?

**Close by praying together.**