

Bethel Church Community Groups :: Week of 12/18/16
Luke's Perspective on Christmas

1. [OPTIONAL] Review the message from Sunday – what do you remember?
 - a. What stood out?
 - b. Anything worth revisiting?

2. [CONTENT] As a group read Luke 2.1-12 together out loud. Then read vv13-21 on your own taking notes on these questions:
 - a. What do you see in the text about how the angels respond to the news of Christ's birth?
 - i. What does it mean to "give glory to God?"
 - b. What do you see in the text about how the shepherds respond to the news of the angels (there's a lot)?
 - c. How does Mary respond to the news (and what does that even mean in v19)?

3. [DISCUSSION] Now discuss as a group your notes on each of the above questions.

4. [APPLICATION] How do the responses of the characters in the story here help guide our response to Christ's birth today?

5. The angels give the critical message here in v14 that "peace is now on earth as a result of Christ's birth" (we talked a bit about this on Sunday in terms of our relationship with God).
 - a. Read Ephesians 2.11-18 and discuss as a group how "peace from God" is meant to spill over into relationships with one another.
 - b. How do we allow for that to happen in our lives today?

6. Pray for one another before you go.