

I. THE SETTING

- Luke is presenting a contrast between Caesar Augustus and Jesus.
 - Augustus was considered deity...Jesus was God.
 - Augustus had been called a messiah...Jesus was the promised messiah.
 - Augustus ruled from the great city of Rome...Jesus was born in tiny Bethlehem.
 - Augustus achieved peace through conquest...Jesus achieves peace through his death.
 - Augustus received the praise of man...Jesus received the praises of angels.
- God was using even mighty Caesar to help fulfill prophecy through the census as Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem where Jesus was to be born (Mic. 5:2).

II. THE SHEPHERDS

- The angels announce the birth to lowly shepherds as a fulfillment of scripture (Jer. 33:10-16).
- They serve as an example of the type of people that Jesus came to save (1 Cor. 1:26-30).

III. THE SAVIOR

- Fear not...a savior has been born...and he is Christ the Lord. The promised Messiah is here!
- We all need to be saved from sin guilt.
- Jesus brings peace between God and Man.
- Beholding the Savior results in praise and adoration.

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Luke 2:1-20

1. What is something that stood out to you from the sermon today?
2. What other comparisons do you see between Caesar Augustus and Jesus as Luke contrasts them in this text?
3. Why are so many hesitant to embrace Christ?
4. What is the type of peace that Jesus came to accomplish? Why is that so hard for our modern culture to believe?
5. What does it mean that Jesus is the savior? What does it mean that he is Lord?
6. How can we do a better job of pondering this great miracle over this Christmas holiday season?