



Merry Christmas! Luke 2:1-21

Something to Start Us Off

- Describe an early Christmas memory. Try to also say how or how much the holiday was related to Jesus for you.

Something to Notice

- Luke gives some fairly precise information regarding the time and circumstances of Jesus' birth. Why do you think he does that?
- The shepherds' first response is "great fear" (v.9). "Fear" was also the response of Zechariah (1:12), while Mary was "greatly troubled" at what the angel said. Why do you think all these people respond to the angel in the way that they do?

Something to Understand

Christ's death and resurrection were clearly marked at the Passover feast and were celebrated by Christians from earliest times. His birth, however, does not seem to have become a topic of interest until almost 200 years later. It took another 200 years or so to settle on the current date.

Driving distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem is 154 km (96.7 miles). It takes about 2 hours by car.

- Point out something that the angel says to the shepherds. What do you think it would have meant to them when they first heard it?
- Verse 19 reminds us that Mary was a normal person living a normal life. Put yourself in her place. What are some of the things she was treasuring or pondering in her heart?

Something to Take Home

- The Bible does not give us any instruction about celebrating Christmas, not even how or whether we should do so. That said, do you have any thoughts about Christmas celebrations after reading this passage?
- Is there anything else from this look at Luke 1:1-21 that you especially want to remember for future reference? Can you explain why?