



PREPARE HIM ROOM

celebrating the birth of Jesus

LIVE IT!
GROUP GUIDE



WEEK 03

"Prepare Him Room because..."

Luke 2:1-20

The birth of Jesus Christ is an event that was long-awaited throughout the history of the people of Israel. The birth of this child who would be the Messiah - Israel's deliverer had been long foretold, yet when He came onto the scene that night in Bethlehem, no one could have anticipated what God's ultimate plan was going to look like.

Listening to God's Word... (20 minutes)

As you work through the "Live It" guide you are encouraged to use the suggested amount of time in each section to make sure you cover the entire material. It is important to get to each section so you can truly know how to "Live It."

● Read together Luke 2:1-20.

At the time of Jesus' birth, the world was changing. Caesar Augustus had been establishing himself as sole ruler of the world. His real name was Caius Octavius. He later took the name Caesar Augustus. The name Augustus meant more than a dictator or king; it carried the idea of being a "god." His name, Caesar Augustus, combined with forcing everyone in the world to be registered (Luke 2:1-3) was a part of establishing himself as deity, not merely a dictator or king. Galatians 4:4 says, "at just the right time God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those who were under the law so that we might receive adoption as sons." Discuss some of your thoughts on the significance and timing of these two events as it relates to the birth of Jesus.

Try to put yourself in Joseph and Mary's shoes. Knowing that Caesar Augustus has issued a decree that everyone be registered, what might have been going through their minds knowing that they were the parents of the rightful and true King and God of the world?

Try to put yourself in the Shepherd's shoes (or sandals if that helps). You are the overlooked and least of all the world, so much so, that you did not even have to be registered. What might be going through your mind after the angel of the Lord comes to you and says, "I bring you good news of great joy for unto you is born this day a Savior."

Why do you suppose the Shepherds left the manger rejoicing and praising God?

Believing what it says... (15 min)

● Do you believe that God is working behind the scenes of the world today as he was in the days of Caesar Augustus?

Do you believe he is working behind the scenes of your personal life? In what ways do you find it hard to trust that God is always working his sovereign plan out for the world and for you?

● Do you believe that God's good news is for everyone, even those who society overlooks?

Do you believe that God's good news of forgiveness for your sin through Jesus is for you too? Why or why not?

Living it out... (25 minutes)

● When was the last time you verbally communicated the message of the gospel to someone? Not just "did a good deed" for them, but actually spoke the gospel to someone? What stops you from doing this?

● Have you even found yourself overlooking a "shepherd", the least among society? What are you going to do this week and in the future to change that?

● The Shepherds left the manger changed. How has your life become different based on you "having come to the manger", believing the gospel? Do you think others around you (wife, family, friends, co-workers, etc) have noticed this change?

Notes:

Use this space to write down what you're hearing God say through His Word and how you plan to respond this week...