

"Journey from Nazareth the Bethlehem"

Luke 2:1-7 December 15, 2015

***Please register your ATTENDANCE

Sign up for REFRESHMENTS. Thank you!

Prayer Requests & Opening Prayer

Discussion Starter: What are some ways your hometown is different now from the way it was when you grew up? Is it still *home* for you? Why or why not?

1. In light of the promises of Luke 1:30-35, how might Mary feel as she awaits the delivery of the baby? How does this tie into God's plan (See Micah 5:2)?

2. How has God taken a "Hopeless situation" in your life and used it for good? What have you learned from this experience?

3. Mary, very young, pregnant before marriage—if you were Mary and Joseph's friend, what chance would you have given them for a successful family life?

None, 50/50, uphill all the way, all things are possible, something else?

4. Why do you think the Savior of the World was born in an obscure village and laid in a cattle's feeding trough?

To fulfill Old Testament prophecy, to show he was an ordinary person, it just happened that way, he demanded no special treatment, no place would have been as grand as he deserved, something else?

5. How would Mary and Joseph's humble beginnings prepare them for marriage and parenting?

It gave them a dose of real life, it caused them to grow up fast, it caused them to depend on God, it showed them

that struggle brings strength ("What doesn't kill you makes you stronger"), something else?

6. How would you compare your entry into adult life to that of Joseph and Mary's?

I was very young when I was first on my own, I didn't have much material wealth, I was under a great deal of stress, my start was much easier, something else?

7. If you have had children, what was your reaction when you found out you were going to have your first baby? How prepared were you to be a parent?

I was totally prepared, I was mostly prepared, I was mostly unprepared, I didn't have a clue?

8. If you have not had children, what would you say has been the most difficult adjustment you have ever had to make in life?

How did you feel God guiding you through it, or did you wonder why God seemed absent, or was God not even on your radar at the time?

Closing Prayer: Great, giving, gracious, guiding, guarding God, we thank you that you are our God who is constant and faithful in all the changes of life. You are our Rock in shifting sands. You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. You are the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Help us know you more deeply in this Christmas Season and in every season so we will know without a doubt that you are with us through all the changes still to come. In the Name of the Baby born *to us* long ago and *in us* right now. Amen.