

Crossway Life Group, Week of December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent

See sermon notes on [CMC's webpage](#) for background information

Community

Take time to share and pray for each other's concerns and joys.

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20 Sermon: "The Day All History Change Forever"

Reading & Discussing Scripture

- What is an 'act of God'? What do God's actions usually look like?
- The gospel of Luke illustrates what it looks like when God acts. God often chooses to act in and through people with low power and honor. Observing the details of Luke's story helps us understand God's actions in the first Christmas story, and also in our lives in the Christmas season.
- **Read Luke 2:1-7** What details show that Jesus was born into a loving family? What details reveal he was born into poverty and obscurity?
- **Read Luke 2:8-12.** What details about the angel's announcement emphasize both the lowliness and the grandeur of the situation? What is the meaning of the titles given to Jesus by the angel... Savior, Messiah, Lord?
- **Read Luke 2:13-14.** The angels give 'evangelistic praise' = telling the wonders of God so that others would join the praise. What is the message of the angels? What makes it good news? In what ways is this still good news today?
- **Read Luke 2:15-20.** What details describe the shepherds' attitude and actions? What does God accomplish through the shepherds? What is significant about God working through lowly shepherds?

The Big Idea

**When the Son of God who has greatest power and glory
entered the world
He came as a lowly poor baby
and was announced to lowly poor shepherds
who became God's first messengers
through evangelistic worship**

Application & Reflection Questions

- Where in your life are you tempted to despise "small things" in God?
- **Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.** How do you see Paul's observations relevant to God's actions in Luke 1? And how are those observations relevant to God's actions in your life?
- What steps can you take to give more value to God's "small things", whether they be our actions of faith and obedience that seem insignificant, or the care and honor we show to people who are often considered to be insignificant or lowly?
- When and where can you praise God evangelistically?

Growing in Cultural Understanding

Thinking of your cultural background, what things and kinds of people are given high power and high honor? Which are given low power and low honor? How might our cultural understanding of the people and things that are significant hinder our ability to see and value God's actions?

Serving beyond ourselves

What are ways that your group can be for the benefit of people beyond yourselves?

Would your group consider **praying for our church's nominating committee**? This team is responsible to review people who are suggested as possible nominations for Board Member, Board Member/Elder, Nominating Committee member, and search committee member. Please pray for this committee:

- For wisdom about people and the Spirit's leading as the team considers the people who have been recommended by the congregation
- For God's leading and protecting for each person who has been recommended for consideration
- That the nominating committee would not delay, and that they would not rush
- For God's provision of the right leadership for our church at this time

You can learn more about recommending people to be considered by going to

<https://crosswaymchurch.org/members/nominating-committee/> (password cmc-family).

Luke 2:1-20: The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."