

▼ **The Birth of Jesus**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday December 21, 2025

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▼ **Opening Material**

▼ **Welcome!**

- Praise the Lord!
- Welcome to another Life Church sermon!

▼ **Transition**

- Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.
- The QR code (also available on our song sheets) links to our Visitor Landing Page.
- Use it to access our notes, share your contact information, and access our giving page.
- Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!
- Email: [Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG](mailto:Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG)
- We are reading the rest of Luke 21.
- We will have Life Group after the message.

▼ **Thoughts**

▼ **Video**

- [Chase: We Talkin' Bout Cashbacking I Chase Freedom Unlimited](#) - YouTube (00:00:30)
- [Talking About Making Disciples](#) - YouTube (00:00:25)

▼ **Acts 2:42-43 - The 4 Devotions:**

- The apostles' teaching
- fellowship
- the breaking of bread
- prayer

▼ **Video**

- [Discipleship.ORG: Key Disciple Making Definitions for Church Leaders](#) - YouTube (00:05:26)

• **Cultural Rivers**

## ▼ Overview

### ▼ In today's message we will do the following:

- ▼ Why are we here?
  - Acts 2:36-39
  - Acts 17:29-31
  - Review passage - Matthew 1:18-25
  - Review passage - Luke 2:1-21
  - Review passage - Matthew 2:1-12
  - Explore what the passage is teaching us.
  - Transition to Life Group

## ▼ Opening Material

### ► Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

### ▼ Why are we here?

- Acts 2:29-39 - Spoken to Jews

"Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. **Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah**, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. **God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.** Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand  
until I make your enemies  
a footstool for your feet."

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: **God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.**"

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Peter replied, "**Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

- Acts 17:29-31 - Spoken to Gentiles

"Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. **For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.**"

## ▼ Welcome to Luke!

### ▼ Video

- [Bible Project: Luke 1-9](#) - YouTube (00:08:16)
- [Bible Project: Luke 10-24](#) - YouTube (00:07:48)
- Luke 1:1-4

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

## ▼ Embrace Jesus' Mission

### ▼ Luke 4:14-21 (NIV) - The Lord's Spirit Is Upon Me

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

### ► Setting the Stage

## ▼ Feed on the Life of Jesus

- Are you “worded up”?
- Eat his flesh; Drink his blood - John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17
- Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?

### ▼ What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?

- The Gospel of John in December (12/1 – 12/21)

- The Gospel of Matthew in January (1/1 – 1/28)
- The Gospel of Mark in February (2/1 – 2/16)
- The Gospel of Luke in March (3/1 – 3/24)

▼ **For December this means:**

- Read John 20 on December 20 (yesterday).
- Read John 21 on December 21 (today).
- No John reading on December 22 (tomorrow).
- etc.
- **As you read, write down any questions you have.**

▼ **Ask yourself the following questions:**

- What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
- What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?

▼ **Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:**

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
- Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
- Read and listen to God's Word in community!

▼ **Luke 2:1-21**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 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.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

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.”

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

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

## ▼ Parlel Passages

- **Matthew 1:18 - 2:12**

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about : His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

“ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had

appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

### ▼ Narrative

- Caesar Augustus issues a census decree for the empire.
- Joseph travels with Mary to Bethlehem to register for the census.
- While there, Mary gives birth to Jesus.
- Because there is no guest room available to them, she places him in a manger.
- Angels appear to shepherds watching flocks in nearby fields. The angels announce the birth of a savior: the Messiah, the Lord. The angels give the shepherds a sign: a baby in a manger.
- The shepherds find Mary, Joseph, and the baby and spread the word.
- Mary treasures these things in her heart.
- On the eighth day they circumcise the baby and name him Jesus - the name given him by the angel before he was conceived.

### ▼ Video:

- [The Bible Explained: What We Get Wrong in the Nativity Scene](#) - YouTube (00:08:39)
- [Bible Project: The Messiah](#) (00:05:16)

### ▼ Observations

- Luke has identified the timing of Jesus' birth.
- Joseph returns to Bethlehem because it's his family home.
- Joseph and Mary most likely stay with family in a crowded home where the guest room was already full. They stay in a spot on the ground floor where the animals would have been brought in at night.

### ▼ Lessons

- God first announces the birth of Jesus to shepherds, not to kings.
- Jesus is announced as savior, Messiah (King), and Lord.
- The baby lying in the manger was intended as a sign to the shepherds, so that they could recognize the correct family and spread the story.
- God has become a human being!

▼ **Life Group**

▼ **Welcome (5 - 10 minutes)**

- [Icebreaker](#)

- **Worship (optional for life group meetings during Sunday service)**

▼ **Word - Discussion Questions**

For each question, spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin to respond.

- **What did this passage mean to the people who first received it?**
- **What does this passage mean to you?**
- **How will you apply this passage this coming week?**

▼ **Witness**

How will we work together as a team to be "good news" to the people around us?

▼ **Explore the Harvest Skills in the Training Page “Big Blueprint” diagram.**

- ▼ What level are you at with these?
  - Are you a “wanderer”, “follower”, “achiever”, or a “leader”?
  - What’s your plan for developing these skills?
- **Pray for the unchurched people you’ve been identifying.**







# The Birth of Jesus

Sunday December 21, 2025



# Welcome!



## Visitor Page

Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.

The QR code (also available on our song sheets) links to our Visitor Landing Page.

Use it to access our notes, share your contact information, and access our giving page.

Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!

Email: [Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG](mailto:Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG)

We are reading about Jesus' birth from Luke 2. We will have Life Group after the message.



# Thoughts



- Acts 2:42-43 - The 4 Devotions:
  - the apostles' teaching
  - fellowship
  - the breaking of bread
  - Prayer
- Cultural Rivers



# Key Disciple Making Definitions





# Overview



In today's message we will deal with the following:

- Why are we here?
  - Acts 2:36-39
  - Acts 17:29-31
- Review passage - Matthew 1:18-25
- Review passage - Luke 2:1-21
- Review passage - Matthew 2:1-12
- Explore what Jesus is teaching us.
- Transition to Life Group



# Why are we here?



Acts 2:29-39 – Spoken to Jews

Acts 17:29-31 – Spoken to Gentiles



## Acts 2:29-39 – Spoken to Jews (1 of 3)

“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. **Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah**, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. **God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.** Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.



## Acts 2:29-39 – Spoken to Jews (2 of 3)

For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

“ ‘The Lord said to my Lord:  
“Sit at my right hand  
until I make your enemies  
a footstool for your feet.” ’





## Acts 2:29-39 – Spoken to Jews (3 of 3)

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: **God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.**”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “**Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call.”



## Acts 17:29-31 – Spoken to Gentiles

“Therefore, since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. **For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.**”



# Luke 1:1-4 – Luke's Introduction

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.



# Embrace Jesus' Mission: Luke 4:14-21

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”



# Feed on the Life of Jesus (1 of 4)

Are you “worded up”?

Eat his flesh; Drink his blood – John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17

Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?

What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?

- The Gospel of John in December (12/1 – 12/21)
- The Gospel of Matthew in January (1/1 - 1/28)
- The Gospel of Mark in February (2/1 – 2/16)
- The Gospel of Luke in March (3/1 – 3/24)



# Feed on the Life of Jesus (2 of 4)



For December this means:

- Read John 20 on December 20 (yesterday).
- Read John 21 on December 21 (today).
- No John reading on December 22 (tomorrow).
- etc.



# Feed on the Life of Jesus (3 of 4)

As you read, write down any questions you have.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
- What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?



# Feed on the Life of Jesus (4 of 4)

Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
- Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
- Read and listen to God's Word in community!





# Matthew 1:18–25 (NIV)

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about : His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.



## Luke 2:1-21 (NIV) 1 of 3

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 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.



## Luke 2:1-21 (NIV) 2 of 3

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”



## Luke 2:1-21 (NIV) 3 of 3

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.”

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

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.



## Matthew 2:1–12 (NIV) 1 of 2

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

“ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.’ ”



## Matthew 2:1–12 (NIV) 2 of 2

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.



# Narrative

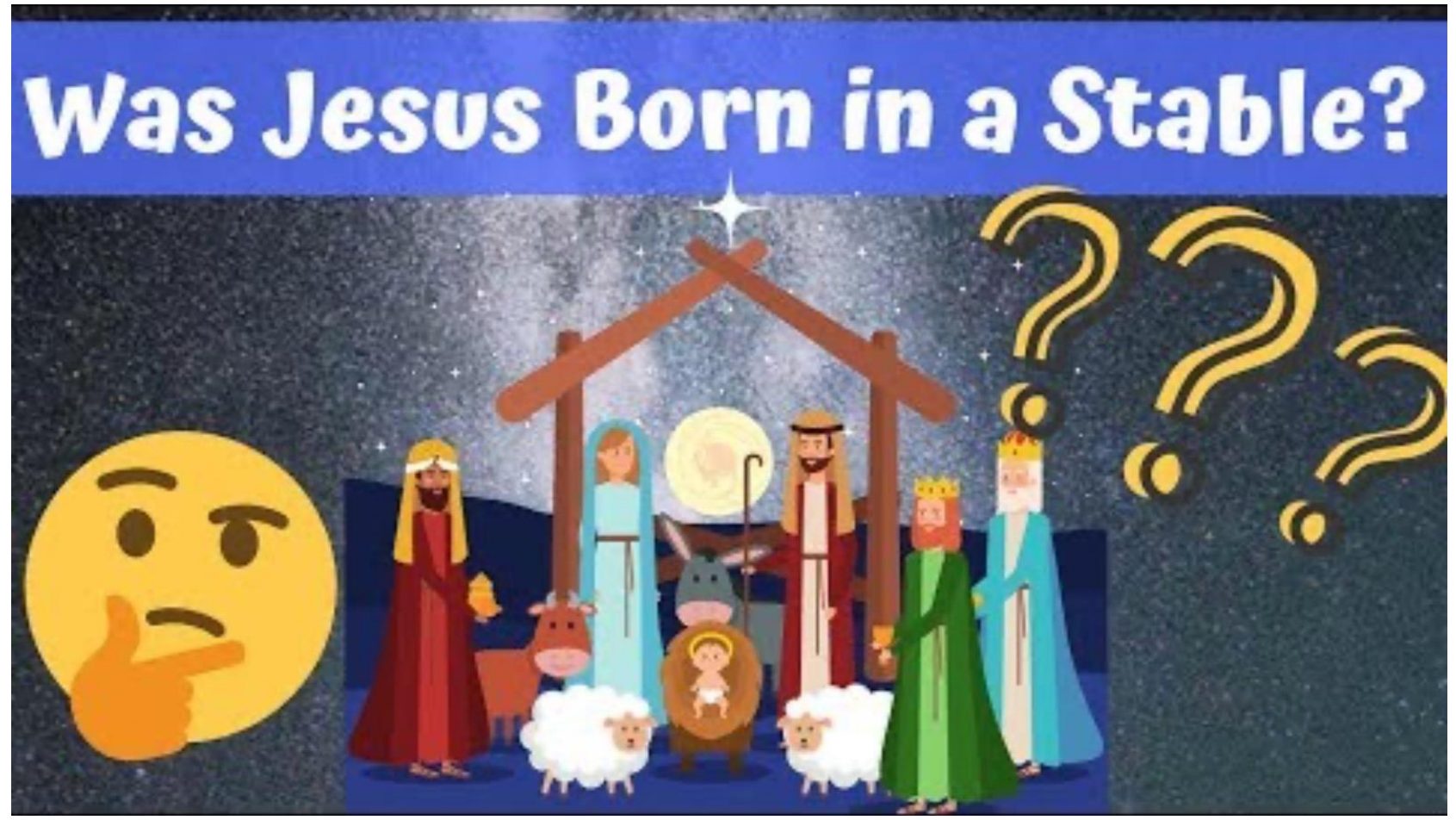


- Caesar Augustus issues a census decree for the empire.
- Joseph travels with Mary to Bethlehem to register for the census.
- While there, Mary gives birth to Jesus.
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- Angels appear to shepherds watching flocks in nearby fields. The angels announce the birth of a savior: the Messiah, the Lord. The angels give the shepherds a sign: a baby in a manger.
- The shepherds find Mary, Joseph, and the baby and spread the word.
- Mary treasures these things in her heart.
- On the eighth day they circumcise the baby and name him Jesus - the name given him by the angel before he was conceived.





# The Nativity Scene







# The Nativity Scene





# Observations



- Luke has identified the timing of Jesus' birth.
- Joseph returns to Bethlehem because it's his family home.
- Joseph and Mary most likely stay with family in a crowded home where the guest room was already full. They stay in a spot on the ground floor where the animals would have been brought in at night.



# Lessons



- God first announces the birth of Jesus to shepherds, not to kings.
- Jesus is announced as savior, Messiah (King), and Lord.
- The baby lying in the manger was intended as a sign to the shepherds, so that they could recognize the correct family and spread the story.
- God has become a human being!



# Life Groups



**Word** - Spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin each question.

- What did this passage mean to the people who first received it?
- What does this passage mean to you?
- How will you apply this passage this coming week?

**Witness** (How we work as a team to be "good news" to others)

- Explore the Harvest Skills in the Training Page “Big Blueprint” diagram.
- What level are you at with these?
  - Are you a “wanderer”, “follower”, “achiever”, or a “leader”?
  - What’s your plan for developing these skills?
- Pray for the unchurched people you’ve been identifying.



# Announcements



Visitor Page

- No Men's Bible Study Wed (12/24) - Christmas Eve
- Sunday Service December 28, 2025
- No Men's Bible Study Wed (12/31) - New Years' Eve
- Watch Night Fellowship December 31, 2025
- Sunday Service (Communion) January 4, 2026
- Sunday Connection January 4, 2026 12n - 2pm
- Men's Bible Study Wed (1/7) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service January 11, 2026
- Men's Bible Study Wed (1/14) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service January 18, 2026



# Life Groups



**Word** - Spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin each question.

- What did this passage mean to the people who first received it?
- What does this passage mean to you?
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**Witness** (How we work as a team to be "good news" to others)

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# Benediction, Life Groups



Announcements

Benediction

Life Groups

Leave Service From Life Groups