



**Scripture**

Luke 2:1-20

**Ice Breaker**

1. What is your favourite Christmas carol? Why?
2. What is the thing, or things, that are important to you that you can't find most often?

**Going Deeper**

1. This month we are in a series called "Untangling Christmas" about focusing on the hope of Christmas. What do you think are some of the things that "tangled up" at Christmas that may cause us to miss out on the real hope of Christmas?
2. When you think about the biblical Christmas story, what are some key parts that stand out to you?
3. Read Luke 2:1-7
4. What stands out to you from these verses?
5. On Sunday, Rob mentioned there are challenges in the language of this passage and how we traditionally read it. These challenges do not change the story, but they should be noted. One is around the dating of the census, and the other is around where Jesus was actually born. What do you think was the setting of Jesus' birth? Was it in a house, barn or cave? What difference might that setting make to the story?
6. How do you think Mary and Joseph felt about the timing of the census?
7. Read Luke 2: 8-20
8. Though the manger or feeding trough is not the point of the story, Luke mentions it three times in verses 1 to 20. What practical function does it serve in the drama of Luke's story? Why do you think that is significant?
9. At Christmas, we often focus our time on gift shopping and giving, visiting friends and family, big meals, and for some going to church. What are the things that Luke is emphasizing or focusing on in his story?
10. How do you think you would have reacted if you were one of the shepherds?
11. Of all the people the angels could have visited, why do you suppose God sent them to Shepherds? How does that relate to Mary's song found in Luke 1:46-55?
12. Often times, when we want God to "show up," we are expecting something like a vision of Angels or something else miraculous. While this story does contain that, it is also deeply ordinary. What can we do so we don't miss out on God's presence in the ordinary moments of our lives?