

THE LIFE OF JESUS

Message 2
An Inn and a Manger
December 11, 2016
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► Discussion Guide

The most important thing you can do this week is pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. This guide is designed to help you:

- Communicate with God
- Connect with Christians
- Care for Others

Opening

Describe a time when you received great news.

Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

Read [Matthew 1:18-25](#) (Reading #10).

1. Why is it essential that Jesus was born of a virgin?
See also [2 Corinthians 5:21](#).
2. What step of faith did Joseph take, and what do you think that must have been like for him?
3. Immanuel is a Hebrew word meaning *God with us*. When has God seemed the most real, the most tangible, the most *near* to you?

Read [Luke 2:1-7](#) (Reading #11).

4. Why did Luke include the historical details in [vs. 1-2](#)? What does this setting tell us about what the world was like when Jesus was born?
5. Why is it significant that Jesus was born in the family line of David?
6. Why do you think Luke included the details that there was *no room in the inn* and that Jesus was *laid in a manger*? *See also [Luke 2:12](#).*

Read [Luke 2:8-20](#) (Reading #12).

7. Why do you think God chose to announce the coming of Jesus to shepherds?
8. How did the shepherds respond? What do you think would have happened if they had rejected or ignored God's message?
9. What are ways you make yourself open to God's leading? What do you sense God is saying to you from this week's teaching?

For further study, consider how the birth of Jesus fulfilled each of these Old Testament prophecies: [Genesis 49:10](#); [Numbers 24:17](#); [Isaiah 7:14](#); [9:6-7](#); [Jeremiah 23:3-6](#); [Micah 5:2](#).

Soul Training

Write down three things you've learned or were reminded about Jesus from this week's passages. Spend time each day looking at this list, thanking God for these specific things, and asking Him to help you experience Him more personally this Christmas season.

Memory Verse

Then she gave birth to her firstborn Son, and she wrapped Him snugly in cloth and laid Him in a manger—because there was no room for them at the inn. [Luke 2:7 \(HCSB\)](#)

Daily Reading

Day	<i>The Life of Jesus</i> Reading #	or	Bible Reference
Dec 12	7		Luke 1:67-80
Dec 13	8, 9		Matthew 1:1-17 ; Luke 3:23-38
Dec 14	10		Matthew 1:18-25
Dec 15	11		Luke 2:1-7
Dec 16	12		Luke 2:8-20

Prepare for Next Sunday

The message for Sunday, December 18, will come from [Matthew 2:1-12](#). This is reading #15 in *The Life of Jesus*.