



Sermon Discussion Questions

"Out of the Ordinary"

Luke 2:8-20; Matthew 2:1-12

December 11, 2016

Visit the **Sermons** page on this website to see full video.

Openers:

Do you have any Christmas traditions you observe and if so, what are they (eg, Christmas tree goes up every year on November 1st)?

Questions: [The following questions are meant to supplement the sermon, to offer further points of interaction with the selected text. Feel free to ask your group your own questions regarding the sermon or text.]

1. Of all the people the angels could have visited, why do you suppose God sent them to the shepherds? How does that relate to Mary's song (1:46-55)?
2. What three titles are given to Jesus in verse 11? What is significant about them?
3. What do you treasure most about Jesus?

Application:

4. God appeared to Zechariah, Mary, and the shepherds when they were just being themselves. What can that imply about what it means to be "spiritual"?
5. How has God spoken to you in the ordinary flow of life?
6. What special event has God done that you "treasure in your heart" ?
7. Was there an "angel" who first told you about Jesus? Elaborate.
8. What effect has the news of Christ's birth had on you? Spiritual commitment? An awakened sense of joy? Hope for the future? Thankfulness for God's forgiveness? Confusion about God's plan? All, some, or a mixture of these?

As we prepare ourselves for the arrival of hope this Advent, what is one promise you are hoping will be fulfilled by Christmas Day? Spend some time in prayer in your group, lifting up these promises to Immanuel, "God with us".

*These questions were adapted from *The NIV Quiet Time Bible* (InterVarsity, 1996) and *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).