



SDG Discussion Guide

Luke 2:1-7

December 10, 2017

For starters:

What traditions if any do you have regarding Advent and Christmas? What tradition can you learn from others to try this year or next?

For the parents, what was your reaction when you found out you were going to have your first baby? How about when that baby was actually born?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text including its contextual details. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday.)

Read slowly and aloud the selected text in your group, taking turns as you can. Before doing so, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Note well what points and questions are raised for you. As time permits, read the passage a second time-- slowly and aloud. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read and reread the text, what points and questions of the text arose this time? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. What else did you notice? Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for reflection and discussion.

1. Often times our best plans are interrupted with "inconveniences". Name each of the inconveniences to Mary and Joseph that are shown in this story. Can you relate and how?
2. Sometimes the situations that we see as inconveniences, God is using them for his purpose and glory. In what way did God use the census, as opposed to it being an inconvenience?
3. Think of a situation to share with your group that brought you irritation because it was a disruption to your plans, yet in hindsight you see how God did something, maybe even an "amazing" thing, through it? Trade your stories / experiences. What may God be showing your group?
4. What experience(s) has God used to prepare you for this point or season in your life? Try to recall a specific example.
5. In what area could your trust in God be renewed? Take plenty of time to pray as a group. Pray that as the church moves into the Advent season of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Lord at Christmas, that you would know or feel that trust anew.
6. As you continue to reflect on 2017, what may God be showing you? Consider seriously your compassion and those around you in need, those hurting or suffering.

Spend plenty of time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you to pray. Ask God to instill in you a heightened sense of anticipation for the coming of our Lord and what that means in how you will spend your Advent days leading to Christmas.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).