

Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for August 22, 2021:
Chapter 22: The Birth of the King



For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with CGS Community or family

- **CONNECT** *with each other*

1. What is a memorable experience you've had doing service or mission work?

- **GROW** *in Christ*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1-4, 9-14

1. If the Jewish people of Jesus' day had read John's words above, what would have come to their minds? Why do you think the apostle John begins his Good News account this way?
2. What does each of these names tell you about Jesus?
 - The Word
 - The Light
 - The One who brings Grace and Truth
 - God
3. Why do you think God's plan included Jesus being born into very humble circumstances?
4. Is God's light for all people? If so, why don't all people know Jesus as Savior?
5. How do Mary and Joseph each respond to the angel who comes to them? What challenges do you think they faced during Mary's pregnancy? When have you received what seemed like a clear message from God?

6. In response to her situation, Mary offers a song of praise (p. 310-311). Compare Hannah's praise song in 1 Samuel 2:1-10. How these songs are similar? Did Mary see herself as part of God's Lower Story or part of His Upper Story?
7. This passage reveals that Jesus was truly human and truly divine. Why is it important to affirm both of these truths?
8. All the women mentioned in Jesus' genealogy had something about them that people considered questionable: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. How do you think God views them?
9. Jesus was born of a virgin and conceived without sin. Why does that matter?
10. In those days, how might a three-day journey be for someone who is nine months pregnant? How does convenience factor into your response as you look for God's leading in your life?
11. How did God protect his son in Matthew 2:13-15? What Old Testament family went to Egypt to escape death?
12. Not a lot is recorded about Jesus' growing up years. What kind of child do you think Jesus was? How would it have been to be Jesus' parent?
13. Jesus is Immanuel, "God with us":
 - What are practical ways we can remember that each day?
 - Tell about a time when it was particularly important for you to know God is with you.

- **SERVE** *others*

Gift-giving has a natural connection with Christmas. Who might you surprise with an unexpected gift this (August) week? How might your gift reflect your gratefulness for God's unprompted generosity to you?

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing.**