

Luke 2:1-20 New Living Translation (NLT)

The Birth of Jesus

1 At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. **2** (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3** All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. **4** And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. **5** He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant.

6 And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. **7** She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

The Shepherds and Angels

8 That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. **9** Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, **10** but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. **11** The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! **12** And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

14

"Glory to God in highest heaven,

and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

15 When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. **17** After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. **18** All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, **19** but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. **20** The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

Questions:

1. Who ruled the part of the world that Joseph and Mary lived in according to v1?
2. Where did Joseph take Mary to register for the census in v4?
3. What city was Joseph and Mary from as found at the end of v4?
4. What is a manger in v7?
5. Who appeared to the shepherds in v9?
6. Would you be afraid if an angel appeared to you? Why?
7. According to the angel what will be the response to the good news in v10?
8. What do the titles; Savior, Messiah, the Lord say about Jesus in v11? Explain
9. Who appeared to the shepherds in v13?
10. What did the shepherds do after visiting the baby Jesus in v17?
11. Could sharing Jesus with others be as simple as sharing how you have encountered Jesus?

Describe briefly how you came to know Jesus.

Think of one person you could share your story with that does not know Jesus.