

## A Baby in a Manger

Luke 2:1-14

Key Verse: 2:7

1. Read verses 1-3. To what does "in those days" refer? Who was Caesar Augustus? How extensive was his rule? What shows his power and authority?
2. Read verses 4-7. Who were Joseph and Mary? (Lk1:26-33; Mt 1:17) How does this decree affect them? What happened while they were in Bethlehem? Who was Mary's baby? What reveals God's control of history?
3. What does "no room available for them" suggest about the world in those times? Why would God send his Son into such a heartless world? Contrast Caesar Augustus and the baby in the manger. Why did God choose to send his Son into to such poor, powerless and humble circumstances?
4. Read verses 8-9. Who were the first recipients of the good news from God? Who brought that news and how was it delivered? Why were they terrified when they saw the angel and the glory of the Lord shining around them? Why do you think God chose these men to be the first ones to hear the good news?
5. Read verses 10-11. How did the angel messenger reassure them? How did he describe his message? What was the message? What does it mean that "A Savior has been born to you"? (Mt 1:21; Jn 1:29) What does it mean that he is "the Messiah, the Lord"? Why is this good news of great joy for all people?
6. Read verses 12-14. What was the sign of the Messiah? What does this tell us about God ? What did the angel choir contribute to the message? How does it mean that God is glorified in the highest heaven? How does the birth of Jesus glorify God? What does his "favor" mean? Who are those on whom God's favor rests? How does Jesus bring peace to mankind?