



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: Luke 2:8-20; Isaiah 61:1-2]

GETTING STARTED

How has your Christmas season been going so far? Are there any difficulties that you need prayer around?

Do you have a nativity set? Does it have any special memories? (It's okay if not, but sometimes it's fun to hear - where you got it from? Who gave it to you? Etc.)

QUICK REACTIONS

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words and what point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

When you hear the word "unlikely," what does it mean to you?

Does the word "home" have good memories attached to it for you? Or difficult?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

What does it mean to you (and to all of us) that God selected shepherds to first see Jesus?

What would be categories of "unlikely" people today? Who are the "shepherds" of our day?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGES [Luke 2:8-20; Isaiah 61:1-2]

Read Luke 2:8-20. What sticks out to you from the passage? How would you summarize this story? What was the "good news"?

How is the "good news" for "all people"? What about "peace on earth to people He favors"? What is the difference?

To whom did the shepherds report this experience? What was the response?

What did they do next?

In Isaiah 61 and Luke 4, why is it significant that Jesus stopped where He did? Look at the differences in time periods (year of the Lord's favor; day of our God's vengeance)... what could this mean?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

Why is it important to remind ourselves of our "calling" – our own unlikelyness?

Who can we pray for right now that you know? Someone that needs to "come and see" the goodness of God?

How can we pray for each other, especially in this Christmas season?