

Christmas Reboot (Gift Un-Opened)

FP Small Group Study Guide for Advent 2017

Week 1

Luke 2:1-7

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, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

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

1. Describe a time when you have been overwhelmed with busyness. How did it affect you? How did it affect those around you? How did it affect your relationship with God?
2. Read the passage.
3. Looking at verses 1-3, what were the Romans and the Jews (including Joseph) up to at this time in history?
4. What do we know about Joseph & Mary from verses 4-5?
5. What problems did Joseph & Mary encounter in verses 6-7? How did they solve them?
6. Why do you think there was no lodging available for them in Bethlehem at this time?
7. The baby is born into the chaos of an over-crowded city filled with out-of-towners. How might that be similar to some of our holiday experiences?
8. What are some ways we can make room in our busy schedules for the Christ child this Christmas season?
9. What is one way in particular to make that happen?