

# People of the Nativity

## Innkeeper – You Always Make Room

Luke 2:1 – 7

New Life Christian Church, December 8, 2019

### OPEN

1. Which of the following Christmas traditions do you look forward to?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decorations (decorating home or Christmas tree) | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift shopping                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas cards (sending/receiving)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting parties                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caroling  | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment (concerts/movies) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food (cooking/eating special meals)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Events                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crafting (making decorations/gifts)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Visit to Santa                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel                          |

As a Small Group, read Luke 2:1 – 7.

### EXPLORE

1. Identify traditions that have crept into the Christmas story by circling whether the following statements are scripturally true or false based on Luke 2:1 – 7:
  - a) **True/False** – Mary rode a donkey to Bethlehem
  - b) **True/False** – Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem at night
  - c) **True/False** – Mary gave birth the night they arrived in Bethlehem
  - d) **True/False** – The birth took place in a stable or cave
  - e) **True/False** – The innkeeper was a bad guy
  - f) **True/False** – The baby was born while they were in Bethlehem
  - g) **True/False** – The inn was certainly a commercial establishment
  - h) **True/False** – The baby was placed in a manger because there wasn't room in the guest room
2. Traditions are a powerful thing. Without them, the Christmas story is not nearly as romantic as what you may have grown up with. What do you think can happen when traditions are held on the same level of authority as Scripture? How might this impact our relationship with God?
3. Tradition gives us the impression that there was an innkeeper who was not prepared with room for Joseph and Mary. Isaac Watts gives us the words in the Christmas song "Joy to the World" a call that all followers of Jesus should be ready to act upon when he writes, "Let every heart prepare him room." Christmas is a time for every follower of Jesus to ready room in your heart and life for the arrival of

Jesus. But, too often, the time and attention require gets lost in the busyness and pressures of the holiday season. You need to be intentional about making room for Him now. Use the statements that follow to assess how the time leading up to Christmas typically impacts you and therefore impacting the room you have in your heart for God.

a) I am consistently able to meet my body's needs for rest, exercise, nutrition, medical care.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not true of me			Moderately true of me				Completely true of me		

b) I am consistently able to give and receive love, maintain healthy boundaries, be attentive to the needs and concerns of others, and to allow others to care for and listen to me.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not true of me			Moderately true of me				Completely true of me		

c) I am consistently able to express feelings, manage stress, and maintain perspective when things don't go my way.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not true of me			Moderately true of me				Completely true of me		

d) I am consistently able to rest in God, spend time with Him, respond to His leading, trust Him with unknowns, grow in my love for Him, receive love from Him.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not true of me			Moderately true of me				Completely true of me		

4. What kinds of things would you say have the greatest potential to crowd your heart and life in the weeks ahead? Specifically, what might you have to let go of in order to make space for Jesus, to prepare Him room?

- Expectations – of myself and others – I might have to let go of . . .
- Plans/commitments I might have to let go of . . .
- Tasks I might have to let go of . . . .
- Spending I might have to let go of . . .
- Hurts I might have to let go of . . .
- Habits I might have to let go of . . .

**APPLY**

5. Select one or two things you can do before Christmas to make room in your heart for Jesus?

6. How can your small group pray for you?