

"Joy"
Luke 2:15-20

1. In the same region where Christ was born, an angel of the Lord appears to a group of shepherds and announced (or heralded) the birth of the Savior in the town of David. And then suddenly a great angelic choir appears and begins to praise God in the highest. What is their praise song?
2. The shepherds may have been caring for lambs that were destined for sacrifice during the Passover Feast. And then they hear about the birth of Messiah who was born in order to be sacrificed on the Cross for the forgiveness of our sin. What makes Jesus the unblemished Passover Lamb of God?
3. What do the shepherds say to one another after "the angels had gone away from them into heaven"?
4. When the shepherds arrive at the manger to see the Baby, what do they tell Mary and Joseph?
5. What is Mary's response in Luke 2:19?

See also John 2:52. What do you think were "all these things"?

6. After going to see the baby, the shepherds were also the first messengers to proclaim the arrival of Messiah. They spread the word and those who heard it "wondered at the things which were told them". All were amazed. We see this response of amazement from the people at least nine more times in the Gospel of Luke when it comes to Christ. Look up some of these verses and jot down what amazed them about Jesus (Luke 2:47; 4:22; 4:32; 4:36; 5:26; 7:9; 9:43; 11:14; 24:22).

How can we see the familiarity of the **Christmas** story with wonder and amazement this year?