

## Look Back:

How did seeking to listen to God's Holy Spirit help you persevere and find joy this week?

## Look Up:

### Read [Luke 2:1-7](#)

1. Describe the circumstances that Joseph and Mary faced at this point in their story. How do you think they felt, and what did they do? Why did they do what they did?
2. Have you ever faced similar circumstances, and how did you respond?

### Read [Luke 2:8-14](#)

3. Describe the experience of the shepherds in your own words. Why did God make such a glorious appearance to a group of shepherds - what does this say about God?
4. What was their initial response? Why do you think they reacted this way, and what does this say about people?

### Read [Luke 2:15-20](#)

5. What did the shepherds do after the angels left? Why did they do this, and how do you think they felt at this point of their story?
6. What did the shepherds do after their visit to the baby Jesus? How does this apply to people today and to you personally?

## Overall (Discovery Bible Study)

- What do these scriptures say about God?
- What do they say about people?
- How will I apply this to my life?

## Look Ahead:

Are you searching for joy or settling for what happens? Are you looking to Jesus and trusting Him as the source of your joy?

## Notes

While Christmas may be the "happiest time of year," happiness is temporary and always based on our circumstances. On the other hand, joy is not based on our circumstances but is always available to us at any time. The key is our willingness to seek joy in difficult times and to trust that Jesus can and will give us joy in the midst of our struggles.