

“IN A MANGER”
God’s Gift of Love

Luke 2:1–7

Key Verse: 2:7

1. Review briefly what had been predicted about Mary’s son (1:31–35,69,78).
2. Who is Caesar Augustus, what does he decree, and why (2:1)? What effect does this have (3), and why might this be hard for people (3)? What does this tell us about the world into which Jesus was born?
3. How are Joseph and Mary described (4–5)? What does it mean that they are “betrothed” and that Mary is “with child”? What is the significance that Joseph is “of the house and lineage of David”? Why does he take Mary with him to Bethlehem?
4. How far is it from Nazareth to Bethlehem? What must this journey have been like for them? What happens when they arrive (6)? How is God’s hand in this?
5. What details about Jesus’ birth are mentioned (7)? What is a “manger”? Why was there “no place for them” in the inn? What does this suggest about the world we live in?
6. How is this baby a contrast to Caesar? Why would God send his Son into such circumstances (Isa.53:2–4; 2 Cor.8:9; Heb.2:17)? What does it show about the nature of God’s love (Phil.2:6–7; 1 John 4:9–10; John 3:16)? Why do we need to experience his love, and how can we?