Pastor Kris Beckert Do You See What I See?

Christmas Eve 2018 Luke 2:1-20

**What about Christmas do you look forward to each year?**

**Seeing Christmas as an unpredictable story:**

Luke 2:1-20 *In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3And everyone went to their own town to register.*

*4So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

*8And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” 13Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”*

*15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” 16So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.*

**Seeing Christmas through new lenses:**

Lens #1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Function:
* Shows us about God:

Lens #2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Function:
* Shows us about God:

Lens #3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Function:
* Shows us about God:

**Big Idea:**



**Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!**

1. When you reflect on the Christmas story what comes to your mind first? Has it become predictable? How does your perspective of it change when you put yourself in the shoes of a 1st century Jew?
2. Do you tend to believe you are a part of something bigger? Do you tend to believe God also is active and involved in your everyday life?
3. Is there anything in your life or past that seems too messy or shocking for God’s love? What does seeing the Christmas story through new lenses show you about God’s love for you?
4. What do you think it looks like to be in relationship with God rather than participating in religion? What difference does Jesus make in how you view God and the world?
5. How does God want to change your perspective this Christmas? What does God want you to see differently?

If you’d like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Kris about your relationship with Christ, please email *krisbeckert@thevineva.org* to set up an appointment.