



Discussion Guide  
Away In a Manger — Part 2  
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

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**"When you can see God in small things, you'll see God in all things."**  
[Donald L. Hicks]

**ENGAGE & CONNECT**

What is one of your favorite "small" things? (i.e. animal, gift, encouraging words received, food)

**BEGIN WITH PRAYER**

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*"I reflect at night on who you are, O Lord; therefore, I obey your instructions.  
This is how I spend my life: obeying your commandments."*  
[Psalm 119:55-56]

**BIG IDEA**

God often chooses the small and overlooked to accomplish His purposes.

**PASSAGE & DISCUSSION**

**Luke 2:1-20** (You can also listen to the passage read aloud using one of these links... [Option 1](#) or [Option 2](#))

1. What details in this passage (particularly v. 1-7) reveal the humble circumstances of Jesus' birth? Why do you think God chose such a setting for the Savior of the world?
2. Why were the shepherds chosen to receive the angelic announcement? What does their reaction teach us about faith?
3. Mary's and Joseph's faithfulness in small acts played a critical role in God's plan. How can you embrace faithfulness in your everyday tasks? What is a specific example of that?
4. The shepherds left their work to seek Jesus and returned glorifying God. How can you prioritize seeking God amid the busyness of life and return to everyday tasks with a renewed perspective?
5. How can the truth that "God works through humble beginnings" shape the way you view your role in serving our church and your community?
6. Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds responded faithfully to God's call despite humble circumstances. What is one area in your life where you are being called to trust God's plan, even if it seems small or insignificant?
7. The shepherds' encounter with the angels led to immediate action. How can you cultivate a similar readiness to respond to God's leading in your life?

8. Joseph's role in the Christmas story was one of quiet obedience. What are some ways you can embrace supporting roles in your family, church, or community?
9. The shepherds returned to their work glorifying God. How can you incorporate praise and worship into your daily routines, even during mundane activities?
10. *Zechariah 4:10a says "For who despises the day of small things."* How does the idea of God rejoicing in small beginnings encourage you in a specific challenge or season of waiting you are currently in?

## STEP OF OBEDIENCE

Zechariah 4:10a says, "*For who despises the day of small things.*" This reminds us not to look down on small beginnings because God sees their value! Based on the Holy Spirit's guidance, what is a step of obedience you can take this week? Let's consider how we can be more like ...

- Mary? Her quiet **YES** led to the birth of the Savior!
- Joseph? His small acts of **FAITHFULNESS** were part of God's grand plan!
- The shepherds? Their everyday **WORK** became the stage for God's revelation!

*Remember ... God often chooses the small and overlooked to accomplish His purposes!*

## PRAYER FOCUS

### God's Power in the Small and Overlooked

- As we pause to pray, let's reflect on how God often chooses the small, humble, and overlooked to accomplish His great purposes. From a shepherd boy named David to a baby in a manger, God's power is made perfect not in grandeur, but in faith and obedience.
- Let's thank God for the ways He uses the ordinary to do the extraordinary. Let's also ask Him to help us see our own lives and circumstances through His eyes, trusting that He can work through us, no matter how small or insignificant we may feel.

## VISIO DIVINA

Sometime in the week AFTER your group meets, we invite you to try a spiritual practice known as Visio Divina. It is a Latin word that means "divine seeing" and is *a form of prayer that involves meditating on visual art or imagery to encounter God*. This practice engages your senses and imagination, and it can help you reflect more deeply on God's love and leading in your life.

First, take a few moments to prayerfully reflect on the image and Scripture below, welcoming God's presence with you.



Taddeo Gaddi, Annunciation to the Shepherds, 1328

*“Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord’s glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.”*

[Luke 2:9-12]

Now, come to God in prayer and share what you hope for, knowing He is with you and hears you!