

# LEARNER SHEET: BIRTH OF JESUS

Luke 2:1-20



## PRAYER TIME

Remember your partner's prayer needs—record them here.

## DISCUSSION TIME

- If the shepherds were on the outside of “normal” society when Jesus was born, who in today's world might be like shepherds? How would people react if they were the first to receive the news of a major event?
- Turn to “How to Receive Communion” on pages 36-40 in *The Lutheran Handbook*. Review the three ways that communion is distributed: individual cups, common cup, and intinction. Describe the ways your congregation serves communion. What do you like about it? How does knowing that *Bethlehem* means “house of bread” make you think about Jesus' presence in communion?
- The first people to hear the stories in the Bible recognized that the ancient prophecies were fulfilled in the story of Jesus' birth. Can you name some of those images of fulfillment?
- In what kind of place in your community might Jesus be born today that would be the modern-day equivalent of a stable?
- Write on an index card places or situations that need peace. Use them as part of the closing prayer.

## THE BIG IDEA

**God's Son's humble birth was heralded by angels and witnessed by shepherds.**

## BIG FUN IDEA

Go to a bakery or bagel shop and order a variety of breads. If you can, find out how the products are prepared. Where do the ingredients come from? How long does it take to bake certain breads? Where did the baker learn the trade? Cut up what you've ordered and sample each type of baked good. Take a vote for the favorite bread.

## BIG SERVING IDEA

Find out if local bakeries have leftovers to give away and make arrangements with a local soup kitchen or homeless shelter to deliver baked goods. Reflect on the importance of daily bread. Ask your pastor if your small group could bake bread for communion. Make a note in the bulletin that you have been studying the birth of Jesus and discovered that *Bethlehem* means “house of bread.”