

**Invest this Christmas**  
**“INVEST in *Family*”**  
**Luke 2                      12.21.14**

**Luke 2:1-20**

**1. Invest in a Genuine Picture of the First Christmas:**

- Joseph must have felt like a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Shepherds were \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Scene was \_\_\_\_\_ .                      Matthew 2:13-16

**2. Invest in a Genuine Picture of following Jesus:**

Luke 1:26-55

- Following comes at a tremendous \_\_\_\_\_.
- Perseverance is difficult but \_\_\_\_\_.

**3. Invest in a Perspective that Looks to Eternity:**

- Expect \_\_\_\_\_ .                      1 Peter 4:12-19
- Expect \_\_\_\_\_ .                      Proverbs 3:5-6
- Expect God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Psalm 34:15-19

Psalm 23:4-5

John 10:10

Matthew 1:21

**FURTHER STUDY**

1. Have you had a time when you or someone you loved were going through a difficult time at Christmas?
  - ⇒ What was that Christmas like?
  - ⇒ What do you remember about the people around you that helped you to get through that time?
  - ⇒ What do you remember about how God led you and helped you through?
  - ⇒ Is there a verse of Scripture or song that ministered to you?
2. Even if we are confused about what’s going on, God isn’t. Romans 8:28 is a key verse to turn to when it seems like life is headed that way. Reading more of Romans 8 can give even more hope and perspective when life is hard and God just seems to not be showing up.
  - ⇒ As you read Romans 8:18-39, write down all that can help give perspective through difficult times.
3. Understanding how God works and what he’s done in the past can give us great hope, vision and endurance. Below are some verses that speak to how God works beyond our immediate circumstances. Look up each one and write the main point in your own words.
  - Psalm 55:22
  - Romans 8:26-27
  - I Corinthians 15:58
  - Philippians 1:6
  - Ephesians 6:7-8
4. As the events of that first Christmas unfolded, “Mary *treasured* up all these things and *pondered* them in her heart.” (Luke 2:19) In order to see God’s work in our life, we too need to take time to “ponder” God’s work in our life.
  - ⇒ Find a few minutes to get away to a quiet place by yourself to reread the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-20) and ask God to help you see his fingerprints in your own life this past year.
  - ⇒ Take some time to thank God for how he has worked.