

## QUESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

1. Tell your story. What is your favorite Christmas carol? What makes that Christmas carol so significant to you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why do you think some of the old Christmas carols are still popular hundreds of years later?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Read the following passages and note the Bible says about the birth of Jesus Christ:
  - a) Isaiah 7:14
  - b) Isaiah 9:6-7
  - c) Micah 5:2
  - d) Matthew 1:21
  - e) John 1:14
  - f) Galatians 4:4-5
  - g) Galatians 4:4-5
  
4. Where do we find Ruth in the New Testament?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What practical application are you going to make from this week's message? (*Share your decision with another person.*)
  - ☐ I am going to invite a friend to come to the Christmas Eve Service at Cornerstone.
  - ☐ I am going to share my faith with a friend or family member over the Christmas holiday.
  - ☐ I am going to memorize I John 4:10.

Cornerstone Church  
Luke 2:1-7

December 21, 2025  
Christmas Message

## ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

### **I. Introduction**

A. The Longevity of Christmas Carols

B. The Story Behind "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

C. Why Bethlehem?

(See Matthew 2:2; Deuteronomy 18:15; Acts 3:22-23;  
John 7:16; Hebrews 4:14; Hebrews 7:25-27;  
Revelation 17:14; Revelation 19:16; Psalm 2; Micah 5:2)

The city of Bethlehem is mentioned in the Bible 48 times in 15 different books, over a period of more than 1,500 years

### **II. O Little Town of Bethlehem**

A. A Place of Grief: The Story of Rachel

(See Isaiah 53:3; Genesis 35:16-20; Genesis 48:7;  
Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16-18)

## B. A Place of Grandeur: The Story of David

(See I Samuel 16:1-13; Luke 2:4-11; Micah 5:2;  
Matthew 9:27; Matthew 21:9; Mark 10:47; Luke 18:38)

## C. A Place of Grace: The Story of Ruth

(See Ruth 4:11; Ruth 4:21-22; Matthew 1:1-17)

## III. Conclusion

### A. Bethlehem: The Perfect Place

(See John 6:33-35)

### B. The Significance of Bethlehem

(See John 3:16; I John 4:10)

## Passage of Study

### Luke 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. <sup>2</sup> This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, <sup>5</sup> in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

### O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Christian, or if you would like to talk with someone or have someone pray for you, please see the pastor after the service and he or one of our church leaders will be glad to speak with you.

All quotations taken from the New American Standard unless otherwise noted. NASB. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers 1995. A free PDF of this note sheet is available: [www.cssbchurch.org/sermons-2](http://www.cssbchurch.org/sermons-2). © 2023.