



### Connect Discussion Guide

12.19.21 Message | Tyler Myers | Titus 1:5-2:10

#### Key Scriptures:

*In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

*And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,*

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

*When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

*And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.*

- Luke 2:1-21

*"...so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.*

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*

*Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you."*

- Titus 2:10-15

**Message Highlights:**

- A Christmas story may help you feel good, but walking with the Christmas messenger will transform your life.
- The intrigue of Christmas is that for a moment, we feel a glimpse of what we all wish could be our reality - merry and bright.
- Jesus appeared not being what people expected, but what we all needed.
- The world needs more than a Christmas holiday to celebrate. Our world needs to be reminded that there is a Savior who reverses the curse of a broken world.

**Conversation Starter:**

Read Luke 2:1-21 aloud, then spend a few minutes reading through the passage again silently. Take note of at least one new detail you haven't paid much attention to in the past and share it with your group. How does this detail (or details) create a deeper sense of wonder in you surrounding the Christmas story?

**Discuss the Message:**

1. What does Paul mean by the word "adorn" in Titus 2:10? How have you lived out this concept of adorning the doctrine of God our Savior this Christmas season?
2. Do you find it challenging to live a life worthy to be imitated this time of year? Why or why not?
3. Jesus appeared not as what people expected, but as what we all needed. Together with your group, recount all of the unexpected aspects of Jesus' first advent.
4. Think back to a time where God led you through or gifted you with something you did not expect. What was your reaction to this unexpected circumstance? Now that you're looking back on the situation, how can you see God's caring hand on you throughout all of the uncertainty?
5. What are we called to according to Titus 2:15? How are we able to truly declare these things with "all authority"?

**Pray:**

*Heavenly Father, we praise you and thank you for the coming of your Son, Jesus! King Jesus, we are humbled by your humble beginnings. We are filled with joy as we're reminded of the message proclaimed by those who announced your arrival, "Fear not!" We ask that through your Holy Spirit, you might cast out our fears so that we might trust in your promises all the more. Jesus, only you can transform our lives and reverse the curse of our broken world. Empower us to live as those who have seen the advent of our King and help us to faithfully share with those around us the joyful news that you are Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.*