

## **But First, Joy - Keeping Joy**

**Text:** Luke 2:15-21; Matthew 2:12-15

**Purpose:** In the coming year, how do we keep joy in front of us in both good and challenging times?

**Opening Question:** *What are you most looking forward to in 2020?*

### **Read and Discuss:**

1. Mary treasured and pondered the things God did. As you think about 2019, what are some things that you treasure and ponder that God did in your life?
2. How does the practice of reflecting continue to bring you joy?
3. What disappointment would the shepherds have experienced if they hadn't attempt to find Jesus? What excuses or reasons for not going could they have used?
4. Is it easy or challenging for you to share your joy with others?
5. In Matt. 2, what do you think it was like for Joseph and Mary to have both, good news from God and dangerous circumstances with Herod?
6. What are the negative things that distract you from experiencing joy?