

**III. A Simple \_\_\_\_\_**

- Not a bunch of \_\_\_\_\_
- Not salvation by \_\_\_\_\_
- Salvation by free \_\_\_\_\_ received by simple \_\_\_\_\_

*Let us \_\_\_\_\_ as simple people with simple faith  
to a simple Savior for a simple salvation.*

*Let us \_\_\_\_\_ as simple people looking  
to a simple Savior for a simple salvation.*

**Some possible and practical places to simplify. . .**

1. simplify your \_\_\_\_\_
2. simplify your \_\_\_\_\_
3. simplify your \_\_\_\_\_
4. simplify your \_\_\_\_\_
5. simplify your \_\_\_\_\_

**The Story of Christmas is about . . . .**

**I. Simple \_\_\_\_\_**

- Elizabeth & Zechariah
- Mary & Joseph
- Shepherds
- What about those wise men?

**II. A Simple \_\_\_\_\_**

- His birth
- His appearance
- His life
- His mission

## *Text Questions for Growth Groups*

### **Keeping it Simple**

*A Different Kind of Christmas*

*Luke 2:26-38*

*Sunday, December 6, 2009*

1. Read Luke 1:5-2:20 individually before and together with your Growth Group. How is this profound, earth shaking story told simply? Where else in the story do you see startling simplicity?
2. What is simple about Elizabeth and Zachariah? What is simple about Mary & Joseph? What is simple about the shepherds? What is simple about the wise men? Why in the world would God's Salvation come to and through such simple people?
3. What are some ways that Jesus is presented to us in the Bible as a surprisingly simple Savior?
4. What is the way of simple salvation in Jesus and how is that way implicitly reflected, if not explicitly reflected in the Christmas story?
5. What are alternative "ways of salvation" (or ways of significance) presented to us by other religious or cultural traditions? How do they contrast with and fall short of the Gospel?

## *Life Questions for Growth Groups*

### **Keeping it Simple**

*A Different Kind of Christmas*

*Luke 2:26-38*

*Sunday, December 6, 2009*

1. What was most interesting and/or challenging for you in this week's text/message? What were the emotions you felt as you heard and thought about God's Word this week?
2. What sorts of personal "sophistications" and "complexities" can get in the way of simple faith in Jesus?
3. How does the commercialization of Christmas work to keep us from a simple celebration of Christmas?
4. What are some ways that we personally, but perhaps unintentionally and unconsciously, overcomplicate our celebration of Christmas? How do these ways point us to underlying idols of our hearts? What are some of those hidden "idols"?
5. What is one area of your life where you feel called to simplify in order to get back to the substance and simplicity of Christmas?