

## Listening Guide

### “The Christmas Story”- Luke 2

1. The United States today is a nation where 65% of the population consider themselves **Christian**, at least in a cultural sense.
2. The Luke story is taken from what Christians call the **New Testament**.
3. The first four books of the New Testament are called the **Gospels**, and they narrate the life of Jesus of Nazareth.
4. The Bible is not written by one person in chronological order; Luke is the ninth New Testament book to be written.
5. He actually is the only **non-Jew** to write a piece of Sacred Text in the New Testament.
6. Luke actually traveled to Rome with Paul when he was **arrested** and transported and ultimately killed.
7. He features a lot of the **women** in the Bible; even in the beginning of this story, we start with a **woman**.
8. Luke highlights the monologues of Jesus where he talks about the **poor**, money and **wealth** in general.
9. What Luke has set out to do is to draw for us a **picture** of this man named Jesus Christ who he is rhetorically defending.
10. Matthew depicts Jesus as a **king**, and at his birth the reigning Herod trembles on his throne.
11. The book begins introducing two obscure peasants and gives the genealogy of an **unwed mother**.
12. The story unfolds in **three** parts: the first part, verses one through seven, **locates** the birth of Jesus.
13. It takes place in a little town called **Bethlehem**.
14. Google Maps says it would take **one day and eight hours** to walk it.
15. There's Caesar Augustus, the **savior** of Rome, and then there's Jesus Christ, the **savior** of man.
16. The Roman imperial culture dominated and **oppressed** all people during the famed Pax Romana.
17. Luke, when he is writing this account, is actually in **Rome**, the center of the worship of Caesar.

18. Augustus had brought **peace** to the world, the Pax Augusta, and in gratitude people celebrated his birthday.
19. Luke is saying there is hope for a real **peace**, and that **peace** does not originate in Rome nor anyone born in Rome.
20. After Jesus is born, Herod, who had heard about a potential threat to the **throne**, demanded that all boys under the age of two be murdered.
21. There is no place for two **nobodies** from Nazareth, and perhaps it was an act of generosity on the part of somebody to extend the barn to them.
22. The theme of being an **outcast** has already been established in the first chapter.
23. The point could not be more well-established that the Christ entering the world is choosing to enter the world far **outside** the power and social structures of the day.
24. There is something **greater** outside the experience you are living.
25. The account is brief and simple; the shepherds are given a sign that will let them know they have found the **correct** child.
26. Later Jesus would be called the **Lamb** of God.
27. The first words are, “Don’t be **afraid.**”
28. The first to visit them are humble and nameless **shepherds** that they don’t know.
29. Someone from another dimension, beyond the **rules** that govern this world, has the power to interject a new plan of peace; and that is the good news.
30. “For unto you is born this day in the City of David a **Savior** which is Christ the Lord.”