

ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:8-20

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December 8, 2024

INTRO:

Unexpected news...

A. THE SHEPHERD'S BURDEN

1. Shepherds were sidelined (v. 8)
2. Shepherds were viewed with skepticism (v. 9)
3. Shepherds were stereotyped (v. 10)

B. THE SHEPHERDS BLESSINGS

1. The shepherds were witnesses of the Messiah (v. 11-16)
2. The shepherds were messengers of wonder (v. 17-18a)
3. The shepherds teaches us pure worship (v. 20)

CONCLUSION:

How can we be a witnesses of God's work this season...

1. Be humble. God's greatest work is often given to the ordinary and the overlooked.
2. Be faithful. God's word requires faith and action.
3. Be joyful. God's gift is meant to be shared with joy.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker

Share about a time when you or someone you know received unexpected, good news. How did it feel, and how did you respond?

Discussion Points

A. The Shepherds' Burden

1. Read Luke 2:8-10. Why do you think God chose shepherds—outcasts of society—to receive the announcement of Jesus' birth?
 2. Have you ever felt overlooked or undervalued? How does this passage encourage you?
 3. How can we reflect God's heart by valuing those who are often marginalized?
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B. The Shepherds' Blessing

1. Read Luke 2:11-20. How did the shepherds respond to the angel's message? What can we learn from their immediate obedience?
 2. Is there a step of faith God is calling you to take without delay?
 3. The shepherds shared what they had seen and heard, and others were amazed. What makes sharing our personal experience of God so powerful?
 4. Who can you share God's joy and truth with this week?
 5. How does experiencing God's work in your life lead you to worship?
 6. What can you do this week to make worship a central part of your daily life?
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Closing

Reflection Question: What stood out to you most in this discussion, and how will you apply it this week?

Prayer Time:

1. Praise God for His work in your life.
 2. Lift up specific people you want to invite for our Christmas Candlelight Service on December 22.
 3. Share and discuss how your Life Group can help in the preparation of your Christmas market booths.
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