

ADVENT: JOY

LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Sermon Date: Sunday, December 14, 2025

Sermon Passage: Luke 2:1-20

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This Week's Main Takeaway

In the stillness of Bethlehem's night, ordinary shepherds—men on the margins, unpolished and unnoticed—are suddenly swept into the center stage of God's saving story. An angelic announcement lights up their darkness with glory, proclaiming the birth of the Savior, Christ the Lord. These startled shepherds hurry to see the newborn Jesus and, having encountered Him, become the first messengers of the Messiah. As they share what was told to them about the child, everyone who hears it is amazed, struck with wonder that God would reveal such world-shaking news through such unexpected voices. The shepherds return to their fields transformed—glorifying and praising God, unable to go back to life as it was.

This Week's Memory Verse

Luke 2:10 (NIV), "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'"

Five Inductive Questions

1. GOD :: What does this passage imply about God?

Jesus is Savior, Messiah, and Lord. He must be all these things.

An angelic announcement lights up their darkness with glory, proclaiming the birth of the Savior, Christ the Lord. As the shepherds share what was told to them about the child, everyone who hears it is amazed, struck with wonder that God would reveal such world-shaking news through such unexpected voices.

These despised men hear the most wonderful thing about how this joy comes. It comes through the birth of "a Savior ... who is the Messiah, the Lord" (v. 11). This is the only time in the Gospels that this phrase is used. It's the only time we see all the titles of Jesus brought together—Savior ("deliverer, redeemer"), Messiah ("anointed one"), Lord ("Yahweh" – Hebrew name for God). He will save his people from their sins. Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah promised to Israel. And most staggeringly of all, he is Lord. He is God. He is Maker of all. He is Ruler of all. The angels not only give the gospel to the Shepherds; they give the true identity of Christ. (*Exalting Jesus in Luke Commentary/CSB Study Bible Notes*)

2. MAN :: What does this passage imply about *man*?

Broken vessels (like the shepherds and us) are taken from the fields to the frontlines and from fear to faithful messengers.

In the stillness of Bethlehem's night, ordinary shepherds—men on the margins, unpolished and unnoticed are suddenly swept into the center stage of God's saving story. (v. 9). One commentator puts it this way: "They are out at night keeping watch over their flock (v. 8). This is not glorious work. This is not the best shift. Shepherds had bad reputations. The nature of their work meant they could not observe Israel's ceremonial laws. They were considered unreliable and could not give testimony in the law courts. They were a despised class of people."

Yet this passage reminds us that God moved the shepherds from the fields to the front lines to share the greatest news ever told. Those who were once ostracized are now welcomed, and those who had no way now have one. God moved them from fear to faithful messengers. He can do the same for us.

3. PROMISE :: Is there a *promise* to claim in this passage?

This passage reminds us that there was great joy for all people (v. 10, 13-14).

4. COMMAND :: Is there a *command* to obey in this passage?

We are to be faithful to all that God has for us. As the shepherds went about their daily duties, they received news that would change their lives. They were told to find the Christ child and worship (vs. 16-20). One commentator puts it this way: "From the time of the Savior's birth, those receiving the Savior have followed this pattern of *teach, treasure, and tell*. Can there be any other response to God's mercy in Jesus Christ? Can there be any other response to seeing the glory of God? Let us teach it, treasure it, and tell it abroad forever."

5. REPENT :: Reflecting on this portion of God's Word, what can I *repent* of this week?

If God could astonish a watching world through unlikely shepherds, what might He be ready to do through you—if you simply said yes?

Sources:

CSB Study Bible Notes (B&H Publishing)

Exalting Jesus in Luke (Holman Publishers)