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PRAYER

Thank you, Father God, for sending your Son to save us from our hopelessness and from death. Not only do you save us, but you also give us life in all its fullness. Come rule, in Jesus' name, Amen.

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

What is one thing you've always wanted to do, whether it's at the top of your "bucket list" (things you want to do before you die) or just something you want to try out? What is stopping you from doing it?

NOTES

WORD

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

[Isaiah 9:6-7 \(ESV\)](#)

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

[Luke 2:8-15 \(ESV\)](#)

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale of 1-10 (1 = not at all, 10 = always), how would you rate your ability to adapt to hear from God and obey? Why do you rate yourself this way?
2. God saves us through his Son, Jesus. Have you experienced God's "saving" by the Saviour of the world (vs. 11)?
3. The passage above in Isaiah was written around 700 years before the passage in Luke. When the angels spoke to the shepherds, they recalled this statement from Isaiah. God's glory evoked fear in the shepherds, yet they were told not to fear. Why do you think God's glory evoked fear in them?

Would you have been fearful? Why or why not?

4. "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened," said the shepherds after their encounter with the angel of the Lord (vs. 15). Do you respond the same way when God instructs you to do something that you have never experienced before? Why or why not?

PRAYER LIST