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# GOD WITH US

Week 2 | Good News of Joy for all people

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the amazing night when angels announced the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, to humble shepherds, bringing "good news of great joy for all people". As we open up our time together, help us to receive Your glory, overcome fear, and find the Messiah as the shepherds did, by running to Him. May we also be bold to declare the wonderful invitation with the world, that Jesus is the Saviour, and our Great Shepherd. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

What are the essentials or traditions your family focus on for Christmas for joy to be felt and known?

## WORD

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." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

- **Luke 2:8-20 (ESV)**

## NEXT STEPS

Encourage each person to take one practical step this week, for example:

Invite someone to Christmas service

With intentional prayer consider how you could invite or show the generosity or hospitality to those around you this Christmas to spark a conversation about Jesus.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from the scripture and why?
2. What of the Shepherd's responses encouraged you to believe God is highlighting to you to adopt in your life as a discipler? How is God shaping your heart for those in "your field"?
3. Reflecting upon sharing the gospel, what are the barriers that hinder you from sharing the good news of great joy?
4. In follow up to question three, how do think God is calling you to navigate past these without falling into the trap of performative faith?
5. In preparation for the new year, how are you planning to maintain and install the rhythm of coming (to Him) and going (share the gospel)?

## Closing Prayer

Lord, thank you for sending your son, Jesus and being so intentional with your redemptive story. May we fulfil as sons and daughters in your kingdom, to go and tell those in our region that the good news of great joy has come for all people - In Jesus name, Amen.