
The Angels of Christmas

HEARING GOD'S VOICE IN ADVENT

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 4 December 18, 2022

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for coming to us in Jesus Christ. Thank you for the salvation he brings. Thank you for your love, mercy, and grace. Thank you for Christmas. Help us to live as Christ-followers and to take your light into the world. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Luke 2:1-20 (NIV)

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. **2** (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3** And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **5** He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, **7** and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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INTRODUCTION

In the ninth month of her pregnancy, Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem from Nazareth. While in Bethlehem Mary gives birth to Jesus in a stable and lies him in a manger. After the birth of Jesus, Luke tells us that angels appear to shepherds in the fields to tell them the good news. Many people are familiar with this story, but what does it actually mean for us today.

The angels visit to the shepherds tells us something about God, something about Jesus and something about ourselves. We learn that God has a heart for the lowly and humble. Jesus is our Lord and savior as proclaimed by the angels. And like the shepherds we are to go and spread the good news. We also learn that what we truly hunger for in life is found in the manger.

QUESTIONS

1. What was your favorite Christmas special as a child? (Charlie Brown, Rudolph etc.)
2. Read Luke 2:1-20 on page 1. What stands out to you about this passage?
3. Why do you think God chose the shepherds to be the first people to hear the news about the birth of Jesus?
4. What does it mean for you that Jesus is our Lord and Savior?
5. During the sermon, pastor Eric said “The shepherds’ story demonstrates the rhythm in the Christian life: others tell us about Jesus, we see with our own eyes and believe, and we tell others what we’ve seen.” Are you telling others about the hope, peace, joy and love of Christmas? Explain.

FINAL APPLICATION

What is one thing you can do this week to show someone the love of Christ?