

Shepherds

Introduction:

- The birth of the world's greatest King was an unlikely one. There was no glamorous palace. There was no other royalty, flashy lights or earthly splendor. Just a dirty manger surrounded by lowly shepherds. God chose the lowliest people to reveal the highest God. In the birth of Jesus Christ, the Kingdom of God was revealed. And as the Christmas story unfolds, we see that this new Kingdom does not flip our world upside down but begins to set it right-side up. Just as shown with the shepherds, the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are lowly in spirit. For even the shepherds trembled in fear at the sight of the angel of the Lord but found comfort at the heart of the Gospel message - Good News of Great Joy for All People. As we approach this Christmas and as we make room in our hearts for Christ, may we remember that we do not need to be of earthly importance. We do not need to have our lives put together. We need only join with the shepherds in witnessing the birth of the greatest King our world has ever seen, who our text tells us is a Savior born to us... the Messiah, the Lord.

Read Your Bible

- Isaiah 9:2-7
- Luke 2:8-20

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. What do you know to be true about shepherds?
2. Why do you think God chose shepherds to be with Mary and Joseph during Jesus' birth?
3. If Jesus were to have come today, who do you think God would have chosen to be the first to see Him? In other words, *who are modern day shepherds?*
4. What was the initial reaction of the shepherds to the angel of the Lord? What do you think caused this emotion?
5. The birth of Jesus led the shepherds and angels to worship. Has the birth of Jesus led you to worship? Describe if and how this has taken place in your life.
6. How did the shepherds respond to seeing Jesus? (Read verses 17-18)
7. Who is one person you can tell about Jesus this week?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Glory to God in the highest heaven. Lord, we thank you for Jesus Christ, who is the Good News who causes great joy for all people. Fill us today, Lord, with the joy of your salvation that is only found through your Son. In His name we pray. Amen.