

Luke 2:8-20 Shepherds **For week of 12/2/18**

Read the passage each day and take one question to hear from God.

1. Why would shepherds not be the most likely people to be among the first people God would choose to hear of the birth of the newborn king? What people/groups would have been more likely if God ran things like the world does?
2. Shepherds weren't even allowed into the temple without a lengthy purification process because of the perceived dirtiness of their work. Yet in verse 11 the angel says, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to **you**: he is the Messiah, the Lord." What does this reveal to you about what God is doing in Jesus?
3. In verse 15 the shepherds left their flocks (their livelihood) and went into Bethlehem to find and worship the baby Jesus. What is it that clamors for your attention this Christmas that you may have to leave behind to some degree to go and worship Jesus?
4. In verses 17-18 the shepherds became the first heralds to the world about Jesus! Who do you think might have paid more attention because it was shepherds bringing the message? Who do you think might have dismissed the message because it was brought by shepherds? Why? Have you ever had unlikely messengers ("shepherds") touch your heart for Jesus?
5. In verse 19 Mary treasured all these things up in her heart. What part of the Christmas message do you think God is calling you to treasure up in your heart this year?

Weekly Family Activity

Families with Younger Children (PreK-2nd Grade)

Have them draw out this scene on paper in their own design. Ask them to "re-tell" the story once they've done drawing it up. This gives you as a parent the chance to see what they remember and can see their artwork in full display.

Later Elementary to Early Middle School (3-6th Grade)

Challenge the family to act out the scene. Have a full-on drama class in your living room! Encourage your kids to engage with the story. The best part is you're doing this with them creating a great memory. After you re-enact the story, ask a child to read the text again to see if they notice anything different.

Middle School to High School (7-12th Grade)

Take a rock and a sharpie. Ask them to draw a sheep on one side and a shepherd staff on the other. The sheep represents "following" the staff represents "leading." Ask this question: Would you be like a sheep and just "**follow**" or go "through the motions" of what the other shepherds did? Or would you **LEAD** and race to see what the angels declared?

Ask them to leave the rock facing up each day in a place they will see it that represents their current perspective on Christmas. Are they going through the motions or excited about celebrating Christmas?