



## Part 3: A Great Response to Good News

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**The question we've been asking:  
Are you ready for a change of plans?**

### **Luke 2:8-10**

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

**By appearing to lowly shepherds, the angels illustrate that this good news is for all people.**

### **Luke 2:11-14**

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

### **Notice the outcomes:**

1. This will cause great joy for all the people
2. There's a Messiah
3. Why? For God's glory

### **Luke 2:15-16**

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." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

## **Luke 2:17-20**

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

### **The shepherds did two things:**

1. They spread the word
2. They glorified and praised God

### **Next Steps**

**This is the final weekend that Christmas Eve invitations are available in the Commons.** Pick up one or two and prayerfully ask God this week, “Who do you want me to bring to Christmas Eve?” When you sense that God has answered, write that name in the “To” blank and your name in the “From” blank, and hand deliver the invitation. There’s room to write a note inside the enclosure, so feel free to do that.

### **Small Group Questions**

- 1) Using your imagination, what do you think it was like when the angels starting singing? What would you have felt in that moment?
- 2) The angels proclaimed that the good news of Jesus was “great joy for all people.” Given recent world events, what does that mean for our modern age?
- 3) One result of seeing the baby Jesus was that the shepherds shared the story of Jesus with others. Tell about the last time you had that opportunity. What was it like?
- 4) Another result was that they glorified and praised God. Take a few moments of quiet reflection and ponder this question: What can you praise God about right now?
- 5) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?

## **OUR MISSION**

To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.