

Connection

What is your favorite Christmas song? Do you have a special memory attached to this song?

Content

"God wants you to live a life of expectation because He notices you."

What do you think or feel when you read that statement?

The fact that the shepherds were noticed by God demonstrates three things:

No one is insignificant!

1. In their day, the shepherds were marginalized and considered insignificant. Why?

Read Luke 2: 8-12. What made the shepherds a good choice for God to deliver this news to?

2. I Samuel 2:8 tells us,

"He lifts the poor from the dust and the needy from the garbage dump.

He sets them among princes, placing them in seats of honor.

For all the earth is the Lord's and He has set the world in order."

The shepherds allowed themselves to be humbled and amazed by what they had experienced. Do you find yourself being humbled and amazed as you learn about Jesus? If so, what specifically has struck you this way?

God has done this thing!

3. At first when the angels showed up, the shepherds were terrified! Read Luke 2:9 again. Why do you think this was their initial reaction?

God responds to their fear with Good News. Read Luke 2:10-11. Summarize what this Good News was. And why did that Good News message alleviate the shepherds' fear?

4. God took their fear and changed it to joy by letting them in on the Good News. Where in your life do you feel fear right now?

How could knowing the Good News (“God has made a way!”) help to change your fear into joy?

Can't help but show and tell!

5. Read Luke 2:13-18. “Let’s go...see this thing,” the shepherds exclaimed. This is the invitation we get each Christmas - to “see this thing” that the Lord did 2000 years ago. Why do we need to repeatedly, annually revisit the nativity?

Have you noticed anything new about the Christmas story this year?

Commitment

6. Read Luke 2: 17-20. The shepherds were first-hand witnesses to Jesus in the manger. They worshipped in response to what they saw. Then they burst forth in witness and “told everyone.” Consider this statement: **Witness becomes worship. Worship becomes witness.** Explain how the shepherds demonstrated this.

Where are you in this progression? How would you like to grow in this?



Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.

This week, **share your story** by offering to pray for a friend, saying, “I’m going to pray for you because I’ve seen God show up for me.” This small word of testimony can be the beginning of eventually sharing Jesus with your friend.

Would you like to give any updates to the group on someone you have shared about in the past?