Week 4: Bethlehem Style – The Shepherds and Angels

Daily Devotional

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1**: **Luke 2:9-11**

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.**11**Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

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**Day 2: Nehemiah 9:26-27**

“But they were disobedient and rebelled against you; they turned their backs on your law. They killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you; they committed awful blasphemies. So, you delivered them into the hands of their enemies, who oppressed them. But when they were oppressed, they cried out to you. From heaven you heard them, and in your great compassion you gave them deliverers, who rescued them from the hand of their enemies.

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**Day 3: 2 Corinthians 8:9**

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

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**Day 4: 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.

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**Day 5: Luke 2:20**

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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Discussion Questions:

1. The shepherds didn’t just hear the message; they believed it and acted on it. How does obedience reflect genuine belief in God’s word? Are there areas in your life where you hear God’s message but hesitate to act on it? Why or why not?

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2.  In what ways can we show our faith in Jesus the way the shepherds did—by believing and acting on the good news of His birth?

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3. The shepherds didn’t keep the message to themselves but shared it with others. Why is it important for us to share the good news of Jesus with those around us? Who is God calling you to share your story with this Christmas season?

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4. What is the difference between just telling people about Jesus and sharing your personal story of how God has impacted your life? How can our personal stories make the message of Jesus more relatable to others?

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5. The shepherds celebrated after encountering Jesus. How does celebrating the birth of Jesus impact our daily lives? In what ways can we celebrate Jesus not just at Christmas, but throughout the year?

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6. The shepherds were often considered "the least of these" in their society. What does it say about God's character that He chose them as the first to hear about Jesus' birth? How does this impact our understanding of God's love for all people, no matter their status or background?

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7. How do you personally respond to the message of Christmas each year? Is it just a celebration, or do you also take time to reflect on the deeper meaning of Christ’s birth? If you were to respond like the shepherds, what might you need to change in your own life to receive, believe, and share the good news of Jesus this Christmas?

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