



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

The Song to the Shepherds—Luke 2:8-20

Week of 12.16.2019

- Have you ever longed to be part of an Inner-Ring (the in-group)? Why?

BIG IDEA: JESUS REACHED OUT IN LOVE TO BE NEAR HIS BELOVED – NOW, GO SEE HIM!

Luke 2:8-20

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” 15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

- The shepherds in these verses were not inner-ringers. They were working class, field laborers. They worked near to Jerusalem so it's possible that the sheep they tended were offered as sacrifices in the temple. Ironically, though the sheep would enter the

temple, the shepherds could not – their profession rendered them ceremonially unclean. What class of workers in our society could be compared to the lowly shepherds?

Are those workers treated any differently by our culture than the shepherds were treated?

Why do you think God sent His angels to these shepherds to announce the birth of our Savior, Christ the Lord?

- At the time of Christ's birth, SAVIOR, CHRIST, and LORD were highly political terms. Augustus Caesar, the Emperor of Rome, was heralded as Savior, Lord, and Prince of Peace. He bore those titles because the empire was at peace from war on land and on sea. In every major city throughout the empire, shrines were built in his honor with the banner – Savior of the Whole World. His birthday was a world holiday. Sound familiar? Was there any difference between the titles placed on the Emperor and the baby that was heralded by angels?

Again, why would God plan to announce the birth of the Savior, Christ, and Lord to shepherds when Augustus Caesar already held claim to those titles?

- Isaiah 1:3 reads, "The ox knows its owner, and the donkey knows its owner's manger, but Israel does not know. My people do not understand." What was God saying in this verse? How does that relate to Luke 2:15-18?
- What does Micah 5:2-5 prophesy about the Shepherd?
- Read Ezekiel 34:15-16. How did Jesus fulfill Ezekiel's words?
- These shepherds were changed because they saw Christ. They shared what they heard and saw. They worshiped, glorifying and praising God. How has knowing Christ changed your life?
- Peace is not the absence of pain, but in the pain resides the unmistakable and amazing presence of God. How have you experienced the peace of God?

Have you ever experienced the unmistakable and amazing presence of God? How?