

# Message Notes

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**Good News of Great Joy**  
*Meeting the Messiah, #3*  
Luke 2:4-20

# Message Outline

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**Good News of Great Joy**  
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## **I. The Revelation of the Good News of Christmas (Lk. 2:8-9)**

- A. Who hears the Gospel
- B. Who heralds the Gospel

## **II. The Reality of the Good News of Christmas (Lk. 2:10-14)**

- A. *Do not be afraid*: it replaces our fears with joy.
- B. *Savior*: it saves from sin.
- C. *Christ*: it crowns a new king in our hearts.
- D. *Lord*: it establishes a new intimacy with God.

## **III. Responses to the Good News of Christmas (Lk. 2:15-20)**

- A. All who heard: wondered at Jesus (2:18)
- B. Mary: treasured and pondered Jesus (2:19)
- C. The Shepherds:
  - 1. They went to Jesus (2:15)
  - 2. They talked of Jesus (2:17)
  - 3. They glorified and praised God for Jesus (2:20)

## ***Growth Group Understanding Questions***

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***What are Growth Groups?*** *Growth Groups are designed to make Grace feel like a church instead of a crowd!*  
*Growth Groups are small groups that meet for care, prayer and Bible study for 10 weeks each quarter.*  
*Winter Growth Group enrollment begins January 2<sup>nd</sup>, with groups beginning to meet the week of January 16.*  
*So rearrange your calendar, make time in your schedule, and jump into a Growth Group!*  
*During these weeks when Growth Groups are on Christmas break,*  
*questions are provided for use in personal and family devotions.*

1. What is the significance of the angel appearing to shepherds of all people? What is God telling us about who “gets” the Gospel? How must we become like the shepherds in order to hear and receive God’s revelation of the Gospel?
2. What were the flocks these shepherds were tending most likely used for? What is ironic and foreshadowing about this?
3. Dissect the angel’s message to the shepherds. What is the “reality” of this “good news of great joy” for those who receive it?
4. How do the shepherds respond to the revelation they receive? How does Mary respond? How do those who hear the shepherds respond?

## ***Growth Group Application Questions***

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1. How does familiarity with the Good News of Christmas make us apathetic to the Good News of Christmas? What are some ways we can fight our apathy?
2. How does the Christmas narrative argue for the truthfulness of the narrative? In other words, if you were devising a story of God entering the world, is this really the way you would tell it? How would you tell it?
3. How does the Gospel come in weakness? In shame? In struggle? In poverty? In humility? How must the Gospel be received in the same way it comes?
4. What difference does it make that God entered into our world, our pain, our experience, our struggle? How does this contrast with other religions? How does this change our experience of pain?
5. How are you responding to this “good news of great joy” this Christmas? Like those who heard? Like Mary? Like the shepherds? How might you respond more actively this last week before Christmas?