



Bible study for the week starting December 22, 2019
Behold! Good News & Great Joy (Shepherds)

SHARE

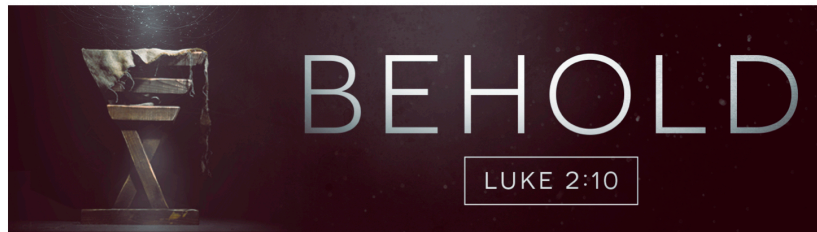
1. What's one unique custom that has become an essential tradition for your family (the more odd or creative the better)? Why is it so important that the "good news" (Gospel) be accompanied by "great joy"?

READ

2. Read Isaiah Micah 5:2-5a. Drawing from this passage (and the rest of Scripture), what do we know about the importance God places on having leaders who are shepherds? And why does it seem like the birth narrative of Jesus is a series of unlikely events, involving unlikely people, happening in unlikely places?
3. Read James 5:7-11. The themes of these verses are patience, suffering, and steadfastness. How are these themes also applicable for our lives today?
4. Read Luke 2:8-20. This is the such a familiar story, the source of so much joy and SO many Christmas carols. Part of the reason might be because it instills in us such a sense of wonder. It's easy to lose that "wonder" as we mature (and pick up some cynicism along the way). What things in our lives rekindle our sense of wonder?

PRAY FOR AND WITH ONE ANOTHER!

5. So much of this message series has been about how God involves ordinary people in His extraordinary salvation story. Share the ways God is involving you in the (sometimes) mess of real life, and pray about the ways He might be specifically placing you in those situations to bring grace, joy, peace, good news, you name it, to others.



Behold! Good News & Great Joy!

Luke 2:8-20

December 22, 2019 – Pastor Eric Van Scharrel

“Behold, I bring you **GOOD** news of **GREAT** joy that will be for **ALL** the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”
-Luke 2:11

God invites **ORDINARY** people
into His **EXTRAORDINARY** story.

Who's invited to the party?

- **SHEPHERDS** and **ANGELS** (Luke 2)
- **ALL** whom they found (Matt. 22:1-14)
- **ONE** sinner who **REPENTS** (Luke 15:1-10)
- **ONE** son who **RETURNS** (Luke 15:11-32)

The importance of **WITNESSES**.

- People to **SEE**; and
- People to **TELL** (**MARTYRS**)
 - Legal: The truth, the **WHOLE** truth, and **NOTHING** but the truth!
 - Historical
 - Ethical

Why?

SEE – **BELIEVE** – TELL

Challenge:

Where have I seen God in my life?

Who can I tell about God in my life?