

## Peoples Church Small Group Questions

12.11.16

### Finding Christmas - Shepherds

Speaker | Pastor Dale Oquist

#### **LOOKING BACK:** Luke 2:8-14

Christmas... Is it the most wonderful time of the year? Some are rejoicing, others are grieving, But, we do not grieve or hurt without hope. We know God knows, cares and is with us. His mercies are new every morning and we are not alone. You will go before me; you will never leave me...

1. Have we become immune to the message of Christmas that we've heard so many times?

#### **DIGGING DEEPER:** Everyone matters to God, even the shepherds.

There was nothing exciting about being a shepherd. They were "no class" citizens. They were not respected or trusted members of society.

The audience of shepherds is whom the angels declared the message to. The most important announcement is made to the people that no one cared about.

2. How did the shepherds react to the appearance of angels?

#### **TAKING IT HOME:** Luke 2:15-17

A spiritual journey is a faith journey; people are more open to eternal truths this time of year than any other time. There's a deep inside spiritual hunger, sometimes people do not know where to start. Your bold invitation can make all the difference in someone's life.

3. Who can you invite?

There are so many distractions in our lives today and we often miss opportunities because we are moving too fast. With all our distractions, we still wonder why God won't speak to us.

4. How can we put ourselves in a position where we can HEAR God more clearly?

Luke 2:18-20

Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks, which is why the shepherds could not stay silent. People were astonished and amazed at what they were experiencing. We need to recapture what God wants to do in our lives rather than following our own plan.

Christmas is a story we've heard a thousand times. Perhaps we can pray that the Lord gives us a brand-new perspective. "Restore to me the joy of your salvation." Psalm 51:12

#### **BONUS QUESTION:**

5. At great personal sacrifice (Pastor Dale remarked), where did He and Joni just return from?