

Discussion Guide (December 17, 2023)

Joe Boerman

Message: *Shepherds, From Fear to Faith* (Series: *Wish List*)

PRIMARY PASSAGE: Luke 2:8-20 (ESV)

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 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. 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

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." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Background: Shepherds

What happened that moved this group of shepherds from fear to faith in Christ the Messiah?

- The shepherds heard
- The shepherds hastened
- The shepherds had faith in who they found
- The shepherds heralded

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Joe talked about fear being the most common emotional health issue in our day. What fear has gripped or is gripping you?
2. How many angel visitors announced the birth of Jesus? Did the angels sing or speak, according to the text?
3. Who were the first people to whom the shepherds revealed what had been said to them?
4. Why do YOU think God chose shepherds to be the first to hear of Jesus being born?
5. To your knowledge, who was the first in your family to have faith in Jesus as Savior?
6. Do you hesitate to talk with people about Jesus? Do these shepherds serve as an example for you to have more courage?

OVER>>>>>>>

7. Of the options Joe gave to respond to the message of Jesus, where are you today?
- Mentally press delete...think no more about it for now
 - Scroll forward...to other pressing things you need to think about now
 - Press SAVE...to read and think more about the account of Jesus' birth and life.
 - Press PRINT...to share with others what you have found in Jesus Christ.
8. Describe a fear that's been helped because of your relationship with Jesus.

***God, thank you for getting my attention long enough to hear about
Jesus so that I could come to Him for forgiveness, salvation and love.
This year, renew my heart for the reality of this miracle. Amen***