

# Key Takeaways and Discussion Questions



## Key Takeaways

Write these down or have someone read them aloud:

- Wonder fades when we accept things at face value and stop asking questions
- God orchestrated impossible details to fulfill His promise of a Savior
- Jesus' humility (coming as a baby) shows God's desire for relationship over intimidation
- The gift of Jesus is the only gift that truly satisfies everyone's deepest need
- We must intentionally notice, interact with, and share the gift of Jesus

## Key Themes from the Sermon

1. **The Fulfilled Prophecies** - God's orchestrated plan through impossible odds
2. **The Humility of Jesus** - God choosing vulnerability over power
3. **The Shepherds' Response** - Pursuing God despite fear
4. **The Gift of Jesus** - The only gift that satisfies everyone's deepest need

## Discussion Questions

### Part 1: Recognizing Lost Wonder

1. The pastor asked, "Have you ever wondered where your wonder went?" When it comes to the Christmas story

specifically, can you relate to hearing it so many times that it's lost some of its impact? Why do you think this happens?

2. Michael Iaconelli wrote that "the noises of our lives has increased to such a level that we couldn't possibly hear God because rarely God shouts. He whispers." What are the "noises" in your life right now that might be drowning out God's whisper?
3. Share about a routine or tradition (Christmas or otherwise) that you've been going through the motions on. What would it take to experience it with fresh eyes?

## **Part 2: The Impossible Made Possible**

4. The sermon highlighted that eight prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus' birth—with odds of 1 in 10 to the 17th power (like finding one marked loonie while blindfolded in all of Ontario). How does understanding these odds affect your view of Jesus' birth?
5. Read Isaiah 9:6 together. Which title of Jesus (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace) resonates most with what you need right now? Why?

## **Part 3: God's Unexpected Approach**

6. Jesus came as a vulnerable baby rather than a powerful king. Why do you think God chose this approach? What does this reveal about His character and how He wants to relate to us?
7. The sermon mentioned that "the most profound things often take place in the smallest of details." Where have you seen God work in unexpected or "small" ways in your life?
8. The shepherds were outcasts—unclean and unable to worship at the temple—yet they were chosen to be the first witnesses.

What does this tell us about who God chooses to use and reach?

## Part 4: The Shepherds' Response

9. Despite being terrified, the shepherds pursued what scared them because they knew it was real. When have you had to pursue God despite fear or uncertainty? What was the result?
10. The shepherds responded with immediate obedience and then shared the good news with others. Which part is harder for you—the obedience or the sharing? Why?

## Practical Applications

### Three Ways to Experience the Gift of Jesus:

#### 1. NOTICE IT

- **This Week:** Answer the question daily: "How has Jesus changed my life recently?" or "How have I experienced God today?"
- **Group Challenge:** Share one answer with the group via text or group chat each day this week

#### 2. INTERACT WITH IT

- **Choose One:**
  - Read through the Christmas story in all four gospels (Matthew 1-2, Luke 1-2, John 1:1-18) and journal what stands out
  - Spend 10 minutes each day in prayer, focusing on one title of Jesus from Isaiah 9:6
  - Listen to worship music and reflect on the lyrics about Jesus' birth and sacrifice

- Read the Christmas story to a child and let their questions reawaken your wonder

### 3. SHARE IT

- **This Week:** Identify one person who needs to hear about Jesus' gift of salvation
- **Action Steps:**
  - Pray for that person daily
  - Look for a natural opportunity to share your story or invite them to church
  - Consider who in your life might be like the shepherds—feeling like an outcast—and reach out to them

## Reflection Activity

**Silent Reflection:** Give everyone 2-3 minutes of silence to consider:

- What specific aspect of the Christmas story have I taken for granted?
- What is one "noise" in my life I need to quiet to hear God better?
- What is one step I can take this week to experience fresh wonder?

**Pair & Share:** Have people share their reflections with one other person.