

December 16, 2018
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Study Questions
Luke 2:8-20

1. In Luke 2:8, what do you discern to be the situation-in-life of the shepherds? Rich/poor, happy/sad, powerful/disenfranchised, hard-working/at ease, fit/out of shape, young/old, married/single, etc. Who might be current day equivalents?
2. V. 9 – An angel of the Lord appeared, the glory of the Lord shone around them. What do you think that experience might have been like? When else in the Bible can you recall Godly “glory” shining onto people?
3. Notice the glory did not emanate from an object (like the scroll of scripture or a temple) but from an angel. Think about that angel. Was it in motion or still, high in the sky or close as if standing just an inch off the ground? Was it making eye contact? Was the light warm, like sunlight? Was the light blinding? How do you think the angel’s voice sounded, male or female, relational or commanding, slow and deliberate or urgent and excited (there are no right or wrong answers to these questions, just thought!)?
4. V. 10-12 – Why might the shepherds be afraid?
5. What might the shepherds have thought would be good news in their world, which the angel was promising to bring, before the sentence went further?
6. What do you think the angel meant by the good news with great joy being for “all people”? What do you think the shepherds might have thought that meant?
7. In what ways would the shepherds have experienced joy to the announcement of a savior or messiah or Christ being born?
8. V. 14 – What is the essence of the praise-song of the choir of angels once the first angel had delivered its message? It’s two points point respectively up and down. What hint can that have for the response and behavior of those who receive this message?
9. Note the speed with which the shepherds responded (as opposed to the more studied response of the Magi in Matthew 2. What might account for this difference in speed?
10. Note the three members of the Holy Family who the shepherds found. This is one of the few places in scripture where Joseph and Mary are found together with Jesus. Often Joseph is missing [including in much Christian art]. Why do you suppose this is, and what is signaled by an artist including or excluding Joseph from the scene?
11. There were three responses to this scene: the people were amazed; Mary pondered [treasured] the reports of the angels by the shepherds; the shepherds returned “glorifying and praising God.” Are each of these responses part of how God seeks for you to respond to the birth of Jesus, and how can each enrich your Christmas season of devotions?