

# LIGHTS

WEEK 3

## The Light of the First Christmas

December 11 & 12, 2010 • René Schlaepfer

...the glory of the Lord shone around them... Luke 2:9b

### Three key truths from the very first Christmas carol:

#### 1. THE GOOD NEWS IS \_\_\_\_\_

And there were **shepherds living out in the fields** nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and **the glory of the Lord shone** around them, and they were terrified. *Luke 2:8–9*

*“People who were nothing like Jesus liked Jesus, and Jesus liked people who were nothing like him.” – Andy Stanley*

#### 2. THE GOOD NEWS IS \_\_\_\_\_

But the angel said to them, “**Do not be afraid.** I bring you **good news** that will cause **great joy for all the people.** Today in the town of David a **Savior** has been born to you; he is **Christ, the Lord.** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” *Luke 2:10–12*

Suddenly a **great company** of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth **peace to those on whom his favor rests.**” *Luke 2:13–14*

*“If Jesus is just an example, he is a curse because the example is too great.” – Craig Barnes*

#### 3. THE GOOD NEWS IS \_\_\_\_\_

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, **they spread the word** concerning **what had been told them** about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. *Luke 2:15–17*

### The bottom line:

From the very first moment of Christ’s life, it was all about the good news that God’s \_\_\_\_\_ rests on the most unlikely people!

# Daily Meditations

## Monday

Read Luke 2:1–7. Why does Luke name the rulers in 2:1–2? What point do you think he is making?

An arduous journey, a pregnant teenage mom . . . who says that following God's plan is easy? Do you think the pregnancy — and then the journey to Bethlehem — was difficult or easy for Mary? Why?

Is an easy life an indication that we are in God's will or not? Any examples from your life?

What can you learn about responding to unexpected difficulties from the example of Mary and Joseph?

*Ask God to help you see even inconveniences as possibilities through which He can work to His glory! Please pray for the concerts starting this Thursday. Thank you!*

## Tuesday

Read Luke 2:8–12. Why do you think the message of Jesus' birth comes to shepherds, of all people? This has to be intentional. What point is God making?

Why is Jesus born in a stable with a manger for a bed? What point is God making?

*Thank God that He comes for all the people, even for the most unlikely — like you and me! Ask Him to help you see all people as objects of His love.*

## Wednesday

Read Luke 2:11–15. What are the three titles of Jesus given by the angels?

What does each mean?

What does this tell you about Jesus' true identity?

continued 

Reread Isaiah 9:6. Choose one of these titles of the Messiah and answer this question: How have you experienced Jesus to be like this in your life?

*Today ask God to help you make Christ the Lord of your life in all areas, and not just in name only. Please pray for the final rehearsal of the concert tonight! Thanks so much!*

## Thursday

Read Luke 2:16–20. Look at the responses in these verses: Great joy, praise, curiosity, amazement, telling others, thoughtful meditation. Which of these responses to the Good News are present in your life?

In what way do they show themselves?

If some are missing, why?

What can you do to recover these responses?

*Ask God to help you develop whichever response is weakest in your life!*

## Friday

Reread Luke 2:17–18. After finding Jesus, what did the shepherds do?

What kinds of reactions did they get when they told others?

What does this teach you about your role in telling others about Jesus?

*Please pray about who you can invite to the concerts or candlelight services, as a way of helping them understand about Christ! Ask God to help you recover your enthusiasm for Christ's birth. Please pray for the concerts tonight!*

## Saturday

*Please review the memory verse. Finish up any devotions you may have missed. Please pray for the concerts this weekend. Read Matthew 2:1–12 in preparation for next weekend's message.*

*Some questions adapted from  
Ralph Wilson, JesusWalk Bible Study series*



But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." *Luke 2:9–10*