

The Birth of Jesus is Announced to the Shepherds (Luke 2:8-20, NIRV)

⁸ There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were looking after their sheep. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified.

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you **good news** of great joy. It is for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said,

¹⁴ "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!
And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"

¹⁵ The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over.

²⁰ The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

Thought Questions:

- 1.) How did the shepherds respond to the message from the angel? When did the other angels appear?
- 2.) After seeing Jesus, the shepherds "told everyone." How did these people respond?
- 3.) In Jesus' time, shepherds were usually poor and people thought they were dirty and not trustworthy. Why do you think God chose to announce the birth of his son to shepherds first?
- 4.) Do you think the message the angel gave to the shepherds was truly "good news"? Why or why not?
- 5.) Look carefully at the angel's message in verses 10–12. Does any of it apply to us today? Does this "good news" have any effect on your life?