

BIG IDEA

One's greatest joy is never kept to oneself.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Recall a time when you were overcome with joy. What happened? How did this emotion move you?

Here's a hilarious video of kids freaking out when they open their presents. You could use this as a way to show the emotion of joy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iDFNy1JSPk>

Read Luke 2:15-16. What was the response of the shepherds to the angel's message? How would you have responded if you were in that same situation?

Develop a theory as to why God decided to announce the birth of His Son to shepherds before anyone else.

Refer to Matthew 25:37-40 to see that Jesus was always about helping the lost, hurting and broken people in the world. God cares for everyone no matter their social status.

Read Luke 2:17-18. What did the shepherds do after meeting Jesus for the first time? How does their response to God's message differ from our response today?

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

Are you ever tempted to keep the joy of knowing Jesus to yourself? Why do you think this is the case?

Make sure to be gentle with this question. We don't want to "beat" anyone up, but do let the conviction of the Spirit move through this challenge.

Consider the social status of the shepherds at the time of Jesus's birth; who in modern society would occupy the same social status? Why is the coming of Jesus good news to them? Why is it good news for "shepherds" today?

Cal talked about the social status of the shepherds in his sermon: they were not allowed to do much in society because they were unclean. They also literally smelled bad because they were with animals all the time.





LIFE GROUPS

LEADER GUIDE

Read Luke 2:20. What emotions do you see in the lives of the shepherds after their encounter with the King? In what ways does their reaction challenge you today?

(Be honest!) What gives you the most joy today?

Some examples to get the conversation started are: entertainment, social media, politics, sports, our children, careers, etc.

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

How do the shepherds in Luke 2 demonstrate our Marks of Ownership at Central:
Passionately Pursuing Jesus and **Found People Find People**?

What “shepherds” in your life do you need to share joy with?

Consider making a prayer list of all the shepherds in your life who you can share joy with this week.

