

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?

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.

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?

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?

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?

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?

