

Life-Sharing Lesson 1 The Light Brings Peace Luke 2:8-20

1. What does it mean to you to have peace between two parties?
2. Do you think that God is angry with the world? Why or why not?

Luke 2:8-20 (NIV)

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

3. What do you think makes the presence of an angel a terrifying experience?

4. How do our actions show that at times we believe that God is for some people, but not all people?

5. Who are the people that we excuse from needing a savior in their lives?

6. Why do you think God sends the angels to shepherds instead of the religious leaders?

7. Who do you think God would be announcing peace to today if Jesus was born in Cleveland, this year?

8. What destroys the peace that we have with each other in our homes?

9. What's the danger of keeping Jesus in the manger during Christmas time? How should we bring him into our homes?

10. What's most likely going to rob you of your peace during the Christmas season? How can you give that over to God?

11. The shepherds were eager to tell others about the birth of Jesus. What extra step are you willing to take to tell the good news about Jesus to others this Christmas? Who could you invite to either the Christmas Sunday or Christmas Eve service?

12. Why must a lasting peace begin with our relationship to God rather than to one another?

13. What can you do to be a light and to bring God's peace into New Life at Calvary?

14. What price did the shepherds pay to be able to tell others about Jesus? What price is God calling you to pay to share Jesus?

Life-Sharing Lesson 2 The Light Brings Joy Matthew 2:1-12

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word joy?

2. What about Christmas brings you the most joy?

Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." ⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

3. What does the presence of the Magi tell us about God and God's purposes?

4. Why do the Magi make such a difficult journey to Jerusalem instead of to Bethlehem?

5. Do you think something is wrong when we do not associate joy with worship?
6. What joy is to be found in worshipping God?
7. Why could Herod not find joy in Jesus?
8. Why do you think all Jerusalem was disturbed by the news from the Magi?
9. Herod had a false reason for wanting to find Jesus? What are the false reasons we have to do for wanting to find Jesus?
10. Why do you think the Magi were able to see the star, but others did not?
11. Why do we sometimes miss seeing what God is doing in our church at New Life At Calvary?
12. What do you think this light or star looked like that it would stop over the place that Jesus was located?
13. What do you think it means when it says the Magi were overjoyed? Describe what you think the scene looked like for them at this point?
14. Why do you think they gave of their treasures to Jesus?

15. Why are we reluctant to give Jesus our treasures today?

16. How will you bring joy to worship in the next few Sundays?