

December 19

NEXT STEPS



The Wonder of Christmas: Shepherds, Joy

This Sunday, we will continue our Advent Series: The Wonder of Christmas. Our message focuses on the story of the shepherds and how they found true joy in the Savior.

Questions to *Dig Deeper*:

1. How is your profession viewed by the public? Have you ever felt judged either positively or negatively due to your job? How did you feel about this?
2. What did you find interesting about the shepherds, where they were?
3. Read Colossians 3:23-24. How would your boss describe your work ethic and dependability? How are you working “heartily, as for the Lord?” What, if anything, would you change about how you perform your job in light of this passage of scripture?
4. If God appeared to you as the angel did to the shepherds, what would you be “greatly afraid” about? Is this a good fear or a bad fear? If it is a bad fear, is there something you can do about it?
5. Read Luke 2:10-16. The angel gave instructions to the shepherds to follow. How did they obey? What is God instructing you to do? Are you obeying? If not, why not? If so, why are you obeying?
6. Read Luke 2:17-18. What does this passage tell us the shepherds did? What would our world be like if the shepherds had kept quiet and told no one what they saw and heard about Christ’s birth? Are you like the shepherds telling the Good News to everyone, or are you being silent making the world the way you described it? Why do you share the Good News or why do you decide to be silent?
7. What amazes you or astonishes you about the Christmas story? About Christ Himself?
8. Our big idea this week was that joy: “Joy is a feeling that is dependent on who Jesus is rather than on who we are or what is happening around us.” Think of a time or moment recently you felt this joy and share it. Remember the three parts of these God stories Pastor Bill shared: 1) what happened, 2) Where you see God, 3) how this gives you joy.