

More Than a Manger #6
The God Who Loves

Word

Scripture Reference

Luke 2:8-20

Discussion Questions

1. How do you usually respond when someone tells you a good news?
2. The clear purpose of Christ's incarnation is for us to have a relationship with Him. God's love is an unconditional, sacrificial action shown in the incarnation, when Jesus came to earth as man so that we can have a relationship with God. His love is exemplified in three ways. Read Luke 2:8-20. God showed us His love by bringing Good News of great joy (v. 8-10). What was unique in the way the angels announced the birth of the Savior? What was the shepherds' reaction when they saw the angels? Every Jew was waiting for the Savior's birth, yet it was first announced to lowly shepherds. What do you think about this? Discuss.
3. God shows His love by providing a Savior (v. 11-12). God loves you so much that He doesn't give you what you simply want, but what you really need. How did the angel describe the identity of the Baby (v. 11)? The overriding common factor for all people is death; regardless of age, gender, race, or social standing, everyone is going to die. What do you think would have happened if God didn't provide a Savior to rescue us from eternal death? Do you appreciate the fact that God doesn't give you just what you want, but provides for what you really need in life? How do you show your appreciation? Discuss.

4. God loves by extending peace (v. 13-14). The angels sang: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." What do you think would be your reaction if you were one of those who heard the angels sing? How would you define peace? What kind of peace is talked about in John 14:27? Do you agree that peace is not the absence of problems, but the presence of God in troubled times? Have you ever experienced the peace of God even when you were in a difficult situation? It may be difficult to thank God *for* difficult experiences, but how can you thank Him *in* it? Share and discuss with the group.
5. After hearing the angel's announcement of the birth of the Savior Jesus Christ, the shepherds immediately responded (v. 15-20). What was the instantaneous reaction of the shepherds after the angels left? What did the shepherds do when they found Jesus (v. 17)? How did Mary react to the shepherds (v. 19)? The shepherds sought Jesus and told others what they saw, while Mary processed and thought about all these things and pondered them in her heart. How do you think these responses both from the shepherds and from Mary drew them closer to God?

Walk

God loves by bringing Good News of great joy, by providing a Savior, and by extending peace to His children. How do you respond to this demonstration of love? In your personal walk with the Lord, do you seek Jesus in order to grow closer to Him? Does getting closer to Him bring changes to your heart and to your priorities, and leads you to sharing Him with others? How do you ponder or meditate on God's Word? Think about how God demonstrated His love to you and how it changed your life.

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son to die in my place to save me from eternal death. Thank You for Your Word that tells me of this Good News. Thank You for the peace that news brings in my troubled life. In the the difficulties I experience everyday, I thank You, Father, for Your great, great love. Give me the opportunity to share that love with others, and the wisdom how to do it. In Jesus' name. Amen.