

A silhouette of a nativity scene is visible at the bottom of the image. It includes a manger with Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus, shepherds with their flock, and three wise men on camels. The background is a sunset or sunrise over rolling hills with a starry sky.

# Unwrapping Christ For Christmas

Shepherds, Wise Guys and a King

Following After God's Word

Luke 2:8-20

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*Senior Pastor*

# Following After God's Word

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Christ



# Following After God's Word

**Luke 2:8-20** And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. -

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12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” 15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”-

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## Following After God's Word

16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (ESV)

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# Following After God's Word

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# Following After God's Word

I. God knows how to reach us.

A. He knows where we are.

*8 And in the same region...*

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# Following After God's Word

I. God knows how to reach us.

B. He knows what we're doing.

*8 ...there were shepherds...*

- *John 1:29 ...“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”*

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# Following After God's Word

I. God knows how to reach us.

C. He knows what we're up against.

8 ...out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

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# Following After God's Word

II. We don't need to be afraid.

*9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.*

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# Following After God's Word

II. We don't need to be afraid.

A. God has words of comfort for us.

*10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news*

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# Following After God's Word

II. We don't need to be afraid.

B. God has words of great joy for us.

*10 ...of great joy that will be for all the people.*

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# Following After God's Word

II. We don't need to be afraid.

C. God has words of hope for us.

*11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,  
who is Christ the Lord.*

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# Following After God's Word

II. We don't need to be afraid.

D. God has words of peace for us.

*12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*

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# Following After God's Word

II. We don't need to be afraid.

D. God has words of peace for us.

- *John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

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# Following After God's Word

II. We don't need to be afraid.

D. God has words of peace for us.

- *Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*





# Following After God's Word

II. We don't need to be afraid.

D. God has words of peace for us.

- *Psalm 116:1-9 I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. 2 Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. 3 The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. 4 Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!" -*



# Following After God's Word

II. We don't need to be afraid.

D. God has words of peace for us.

- *5 Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful. 6 The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. 7 Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. 8 For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling; 9 I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.*



# Following After God's Word

III. We can respond to all that God has revealed to us.

A. By seeking His presence.

*15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.*



# Following After God's Word

III. We can respond to all that God has revealed to us.

B. By proclaiming His wonder.

*17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.*



# Following After God's Word

III. We can respond to all that God has revealed to us.

C. By treasuring His promises.

*19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.*

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# Following After God's Word

III. We can respond to all that God has revealed to us.

D. By exalting His goodness.

*20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

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# Following After God's Word

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# Following After God's Word

God knows how to reach us. He knows where we are, what we're doing, and what we're up against. In all of this, we don't need to be afraid. God has words of comfort, joy, hope, and peace for us. Ultimately, we can respond to all that God has revealed to us by seeking His presence, proclaiming His wonder, treasuring His promises, and exalting His goodness.

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