

The Heart of the Matter

12. God appeared to Zechariah, Mary and the shepherds when they were just being themselves. What does that imply about what it means to be “spiritual”?

13. How has God spoken to you in the ordinary flow of life?

14. What precious event has God done that you “treasure in your heart”?

15. As the shepherds saw such a great wonder when they saw Jesus, what great wonder has God shown you in your experience?

Praises and Prayer Requests:



Life Group Study Guide

God the Surprise Luke 2:18-19 For the Week of December 8, 2019

Getting Started

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
2. When does your Christmas tree go up? Do you go with a real or artificial tree? Lots of ornaments or lots of lights or both? What does your Christmas tree represent?
3. What are some of your childhood Christmas traditions that your family observed that you remember the most?

Digging Deeper

4. From Luke 2:8 with no televisions, ipads, iphones, or other technology, what might it have been like to be a shepherd 2,000 years ago living out in the fields and watching over the flocks at night?

5. In verse 9 what might the shepherds have thought to themselves when the angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them? How would you have felt?

6. How does the shepherds' experience with the angels compare to that of Zechariah in Luke 1:8-9 and Mary in Luke 1:26-27?

7. What are all the elements of the message that the angel shares with the shepherds in verses 10-12? What was God's purpose in this message being accompanied with the great host of angels that then appeared to the shepherds in verse 13? What was their message in verse 14?

8. Of all the people the angels could have visited, why did God send them to the shepherds? How does all this relate to Mary's song in 1:46-55?

9. What did the angels determine to do after the angels had left in verse 15? Why would they have been so motivated to follow through with their plans?

10. In verses 16-18 what thoughts come to your mind as you think about the shepherds experience in observing the manger scene?

11. What was Mary treasuring up in her heart about all that was taking place? What was the final result that we see with the shepherds in verse 20?