

**MESSAGE TITLE:** If You Need Peace, Then Look to Jesus

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2:8-20

### **KEY TRUTH**

The announcement of Jesus' birth reminds us that He came to bring glory to God and peace to God's people.

### **GETTING STARTED**

*"Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"*

*Luke 2:14*

The people who enjoy the peace of God that surpasses all understanding by prayer and supplication let their requests be made known to God. The key that unlocks the treasure chest of God's peace is faith in the promises of God. So Paul prays, 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in *believing* (Romans 15:13). And when we do trust the promises of God and have joy and peace and love, then God is glorified. Excerpt taken from A Big God for Little People by John Piper

### **OBSERVATION**

To whom did the angels make their announcement? Of all the people the angels could have visited, why do you suppose God sent them to the shepherds?

Identify the three titles the angels ascribed to Mary's son in verse 11. What do these titles mean and what do they suggest about Jesus?

How did the shepherds initially respond to the appearing of the angels? After the angels assured the shepherds that they had no reason to fear, what did the shepherds do? With whom did the shepherds share the news of the birth of Jesus?

How did Mary respond to the shepherd's news? How can we ponder the familiar story of Jesus' birth this Christmas season in a way that's new and fresh?

### **APPLICATION**

*What's your 'peace quotient' these days? On a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 represents the greatest amount of peace, how much personal peace are you experiencing? What keeps you from a quotient of 10?*

*Where do people generally turn to find personal peace in times of turmoil? Where would people say you turn to find peace?*

*Read I Peter 5:7. The word 'casting' recalls a fisherman casting his line out into the water to lure in fish. In the same way that fisherman casts his line far from the shore, God wants us to 'cast' or throw our anxieties on Him. What anxieties rob you of peace*

*these days? What would it look like for you to cast those anxieties on God? What's the reason Peter gives for casting our cares on the Lord? Cling to the promise that God cares for you and see what a difference that one truth will make in your life this week.*

### **PRAYER**

*God, thank you for sending your Son to bring us peace. Please keep us from trying to find peace of mind in anyone or in anything other than in your Son, Jesus Christ. The peace of God which surpasses understanding not only guards our hearts, it also brings you glory. Only You can bring us the lasting peace we desire as we submit to You and depend on Your promises. We renounce all attempts to find peace outside of You and cling to Your word this day!*

### **SHARE POINT**

Read and review the application questions. Share with someone in your life how God's Word is changing you into a growing disciple. Encourage that person to do the same. That person could be a family member, a friend, a co-worker or a neighbor.

### **COMMENTARY NOTES**

2:8-14 An announcing angel and other angels appeared at night to a group of shepherds and heralded the birth of the Savior in the town of David, that is, Bethlehem. The shepherds may have been caring for lambs which were destined for sacrifice during the time of Passover. The appearance of the angel and of the radiant glory of the Lord terrified them. the Greek for 'terrified' stresses the intensity of this fear. The angel's message was comforting. The shepherds were told not to be afraid. The message was that 'a Savior' Christ the Lord Was born. This was good news of great joy. throughout Luke, joy (*chara*) is often associated with salvation. this news was to be proclaimed to all the people. These were specifically the people of Israel, but perhaps Luke also hinted that the Savior would be for all mankind. The angel was then joined by a great company of other angels engaged in praising God in the highest. The NIV's good will toward men. God's peace is not given to those who have good will, but to those who are recipients of God's good will or favor.

2:15-20 The shepherds went to see the baby, and they told what the angels had related to them. The shepherds understood that they angels were speaking for the Lord. They believed the message and went to confirm it for themselves. This was much like the action of Mary after she had heard the message of Elizabeth. Such an attitude contrasts sharply with that of the religious leaders who knew where the Baby was to be born but did not take the time or the effort to confirm it for themselves. After seeing the baby, the shepherds were the first messengers to proclaim the arrival of the messiah. Those who heard were amazed. The theme of amazement at the proclamation of the Messiah runs throughout the Book of Luke. Two other words for amazement were also used by Luke. Mary reflected on this momentous event in history. Of all the women of Israel, she was the mother of the Messiah! The shepherds returned glorifying and praising God.

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

ESV Study Bible

Serendipity Group Bible for Leaders

The Bible Knowledge Commentary on the New Testament