

Responding to the Good News!

- **Day One. Hearing the Good News**

Read Luke 2:8-14

Each evening ABC World News Tonight ends with a positive story. After all of the bad news, it is important to announce something good. God sent angels to announce his “good news” to the shepherds. Who did God use to announce the “good news” to you? What was your experience in hearing it for the first time?

Pray. Thank God for the person(s) who announced God’s good news to you.

- **Day Two. Exploring the Good News**

Read Luke 2:15-16

Upon hearing the announcement, the shepherds immediately went to explore the veracity of what they had heard. What steps did you take to explore the gospel after you heard it? Do you remember when and how you came to the conclusion that it was true. The shepherds exploration brought them into a personal encounter with Jesus. How were you brought to this personal encounter and what was it like for you?

Pray. Thank God for confirming the truth of his good news to you. Express your appreciation for your personal connection to Jesus.

- **Day Three. Sharing the Good News**

Read Luke 2:17-18

The shepherds natural response to hearing and experiencing the good news was to share it with others. What has been your experience in sharing the gospel with others? In what ways was their experience in hearing it like yours or different from it?

Pray. Ask God to open opportunities to discuss the “good news” during this Christmas season.

New Life Lessons
December 2-3-4, 2016
Pastor Dave Vasquez

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Luke 2:8-16

Luke 2:8-16 (NIV) ⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

The Gospel

εὐαγγελίζω | euaggelizō | to bring good news

εὖ | eu | good, well • ἄγγελος | aggelos | messenger

Matthew 24:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. 1Corinthians 15:1-8

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The Gospel in the Carol

1. Jesus came to reconcile sinners to God

“Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled”

Romans 3:23 (NIV) ²³ ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Romans 6:23 (NIV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Colossians 1:19-22 (NIV) ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. ²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation...

2. Jesus came to make God known

“Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb”

Romans 5:6 (NIV) ⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NIV) ¹ In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

*“Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the Incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel”*

John 1:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Matthew 1:23 (NIV) ²³ “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.” Isaiah 7:14; John 3:16-17

3. Jesus came to destroy death

*“Mild he lays his glory by; Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth; born to give them second birth”*

John 1:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. Philippians 2:5-8

1Timothy 1:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ ...but [grace] has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. John 5:24

John 3:6, 7 (NIV) ⁶ “Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’” 1Peter 1:23

4. Jesus came to transform our lives

*“Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of
righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing
in his wings”*

Malachi 4:2 (NIV) ² “But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.” Isaiah 9:6

John 1:4 (NIV) ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. John 10:10; 1Peter 1:3