



Home Worship Guide – Luke 2:14

Complement to sermon on December 30th, 2012

MEMORIZE

Luke 2:17

“When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.”

READ

Read Luke 2:8-20

Shepherds! Of all the people to announce the birth of the Messiah to God chooses shepherds. Unclean. Outcasts. These people could not even come close to the temple. And yet it is these people that God chooses to come close to.

First, the Bible says that the glory of the lord shone “around” them. Note, it does not say in front of, behind, near, but around them. It saturated them. It surrounded them. No wonder they were afraid. Shepherds were not known for their manners or their law abiding ways. Now the glory of God is around them. I’d be afraid too!

As if that experience was not close enough, these same shepherds who aren’t allowed in the temple until they are ceremonially clean go to find baby Jesus. And they do. They enter His presence. One night, two times they enter God’s presence. This is something new. This is something great!

And what do the shepherds do? Do they keep this to themselves? No, after they see baby Jesus they go and tell everyone they see what they heard from the angels. In other words, they share the good news. These shepherds become evangelists.

The shepherds end by worshipping and praising God. I imagine that was some charismatic worship. One minute they are outcasts, the next minute they are God’s chosen vessel to spread the good news. No wonder they worship. The same is true for you and me. We are redeemed outcasts. Let’s be like the shepherds...spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and praise God for the glorious Hope that we have in Him!

Discussion: (Use these questions as guidelines for discussion with your family. Share your experiences as they relate to the question and then ask the question to the rest of the family.)

1. When have you felt like an outcast?
2. Talk about when Christ redeemed you. How is your life/attitude different after being redeemed?
3. What’s the point of sharing the Good News? Talk about what keeps people from sharing the Good News. Talk about times when you have shared and when you didn’t. How can knowing that Jesus took us from outcast to royalty impact our desire to share the Good News?

Bottom Line: We are blessed so that we bless others. We are loved so that we love others. We are forgiven so that we forgive others. Spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

SING

Do you Hear what I Hear (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAxF43DJvA>)

This song is all about spreading the good news!



SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created for specific age ranges as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Up to 5th grade

- Play a game of telephone (whisper down the lane)
 - Whisper a sentence about Jesus, and let the last person proclaim it loudly
 - Play the game several times using different messages and taking turns so that each person gets to proclaim the Good News
- Talk about that the message of Jesus' love and forgiveness is the most important message of all. Jesus wants the whole world to know it. In Matthew 28:19, He told His disciples to share the Good News with everyone and make disciples. This is called the great commission. How can we share God's message of love and forgiveness with others?

Middle to High School

- Have a discussion about the Good News
 - What is the Good News? Why does this matter to me? To my friends? To my family?
 - Good News is something we typically love to share...why are we so hesitant to share the Good News of Jesus?
- What can you and your family do to intentionally and actively proclaim the Good News?
 - Spend time brainstorming
 - Where has God already placed you where you can be a voice for Him?
 - Commit to doing something as a family where you can proclaim the Good News together.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, we pray that we would be bold and willing to tell others about you. Take away any fear or hesitation we may have that is blocking us from spreading the Good News.