



WARM UP

The Shepherds

**What is your favorite part of the Christmas season?**

SET IT UP

When God hatched his rescue plan by becoming a helpless baby, the first people to be notified were the last people you'd expect. The birth of Jesus Christ was the ultimate invitation for those on the fringes to become friends of God. Through God's invitation to those who were all but invisible we learn that there is good news for those who are far from God.

CHAT IT UP

1. **Have you ever been overlooked or ignored? What happened?**
2. **Read Luke 2:8-20. God first announced the birth of His Son to what group of people?** (Answer: The marginalized and overlooked shepherds.)
3. **Who *didn't* God announce the news to that night? What does that teach us about God?** (Possible Answers: Jesus is for everyone, not just "special" groups of people! Or, God for the people on the fringes.)
4. **Do you ever expect God to do greater things for other people than He will do for you? Why do you think that is?** (Answer: We sometimes believe in God's love until it comes to us.)
5. **How did the shepherds respond to seeing the promised child?** (Answers: They spread the word and praised God.)
6. **What changes in someone's life when they believe that God is for them?**
7. **We have been talking a lot about how fear attacks us right where our faith lives. What has God been showing you throughout this series?**

WRAP IT UP

Christmas is not about how we measure up, it's about a Savior who showed up. Jesus is for every 1. When we really believe that God is for us life change always follows.

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## LEADER TIPS

- Throughout this series we will be talking about how fears keep us “locked up” and how Christ frees us. As the leader, set the tone for this study by being real about your fears. Your authenticity will be a model for the rest of the group.