

**Luke 2:8-20: Simon the Shepherd visits Argyle Community Church**  
Questions for Life Groups

1. What is a 'first-person sermon' and what might be some advantages and drawbacks of this approach? What were your thoughts and feelings about it?
2. What was life like for a Jewish shepherd around the time of Jesus? What modern equivalents can you think of?

**Read Luke 2:8-20**

3. What was the shepherds' first reaction to the angel (v9)? How did that change (v20)?
4. Luke has already written about how the coming of Jesus represented the fulfilment of God's ancient promises to His people. Look back to see why the angels' message was such good news for the shepherds. (See especially Luke 1 verses 51-55 and 68-75.)
5. The whole event is extraordinary. Why might people have disdained the shepherds for believing the angels' message?
6. Why did 'Simon' nevertheless consider the angels' message trustworthy? (See v12, 16, 20)
7. We only need to open our news apps to see that the world is still waiting for true peace. What reasons do we have for believing that Jesus is going to bring that peace?
8. In what ways would you like to become more like 'Simon'? How can we help each other do that?
9. Pray together, giving thanks to God for the birth of Jesus the Saviour and asking Him to mould our outlook on life around the sure hope of his coming kingdom.

## **Luke 2:8-20**

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

<sup>15</sup>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.'

<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## **Luke 1:51-55:**

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.

<sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful

<sup>55</sup>to Abraham and his descendants for ever,  
just as he promised our ancestors.'

## **Luke 1:68-75:**

<sup>68</sup>'Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

<sup>69</sup>He has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David

<sup>70</sup>(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

<sup>71</sup>salvation from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us –

<sup>72</sup>to show mercy to our ancestors  
and to remember his holy covenant,

<sup>73</sup> the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup>to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,  
and to enable us to serve him without fear

<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.