



**Week Two:
“Angels We Have
Heard on High”**

*“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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.’” Luke 2:8-10*

In the Bible, angels are...

- _____ (Luke 2:9; Matt. 28:4)
- _____ (2 Peter 2:11; Rev. 20:2)
- _____ (Heb. 12:22; 2 Kings 6)
- _____ (Heb. 1:14; Ps. 91:11)
- _____ (“angel” means _____)

What was the angel’s message? Because of Christ, I can...

1. Release _____

*“An angel appeared to the shepherds... and they were terrified. But the angel said ‘**Do not be afraid!**’” Luke 2:10a*

2. Rejoice _____

*“I bring you **good news** of great joy that will be for all the people.” Luke 2:10b*

3. Receive _____

*“Today in the town of David a **Savior** has been born for you; he is Christ the Lord!” Luke 2:11*

(Jesus) “...for God loved this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that anyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God didn’t send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it!” John 3:16-17 (LB)

4. Rebuild _____

*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, **goodwill** toward men.” Lk 2:14*

“If we are living in the light of God’s presence, just as Christ does, then we have wonderful fellowship and joy with each other.” 1 John 1:7 (LB)

Christmas is a wonderful time to accept the gift announced by the angels!

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift...” 2 Cor. 9:15

Daily Christmas Meditations

Brief daily Bible studies based on this week’s message

This week’s memory verse:

*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.’” Luke 2:10*

Monday

This week, let’s read through Luke’s account of the birth of Christ! Read Luke 1:36-45. Why do you think Gabriel mentioned Elizabeth’s pregnancy to Mary?

Where does Mary go right after the angel leaves her? What does this teach you?

What significance do you think it had for Mary that Elizabeth knew the importance of Mary’s baby?

What Christian could you contact or visit this week in order to get encouragement, as Mary did from Elizabeth? (Specifically, think of someone in whose life God is working in obvious ways.)

Ask God to show you people to encourage, and people who would encourage you. Thanks Him again for the miracle of the Incarnation.

Tuesday

Read Luke 1:46-56. How does giving thanks and praise to God help when facing an impossible situation?

What characteristics of God does Mary sing about in the first part(verses 46-49)?

What characteristics of God does Mary sing about in the second part (verses 50-56)?

According to Mary, what kinds of people are given special treatment by God? What does this mean?

How do you see this in Jesus’ ministry?

In prayer today, pray Mary’s song-- make it personal, thanking God specifically for great deeds He has done for you! Thank Him for great past acts as well!

Wednesday

Read Luke 2:1-7. The city of Bethlehem was apparently extremely crowded-- certainly a newborn baby could have been heard by many of the inn's guests-- and yet nobody came to see except shepherds from out of town. Why do you think they all missed this first Christmas? How do people today miss Christmas for the same reasons? How do you?

Read Luke 10:38-42. How can you apply this Scripture to your Christmas celebration?

What can you simplify this year to spend more time contemplating the Christ of Christmas?

Ask God to help you focus on Him this season! Ask Him for wisdom to know what activities to trim back.

Thursday

Read Luke 2:8-20. I love verses 10-12, because to me they encompass the message of the gospel. First, the fact that we do not have to be afraid! Why do you think that God has to repeat the message "Do not fear" nearly every time he or an angel appears to people?

Second, the fact that it is good news! In what way is the message of Christ good news?

How has it meant good news to your life?

Third, the fact that Jesus is identified at his birth as both Savior and Lord. How are these the two most important descriptions of Christ?

What strikes you about the fact that, after all this build-up, the angel says they will find this Savior and Lord as a *baby* lying in a *feeding trough*?

Give thanks to God specifically for one aspect of this Christmas story. Spend time this Christmas just saying "thank you" for his gift!

Friday

Please pray for the Christmas concerts as they begin at TLC tonight! Please pray for a spirit of harmony and for effective communication of the good news. Read Luke 2:21-40. In Simeon's two prophecies, what was he predicting about the work of Jesus?

The fate of the nations?

The pain of his parents?

What impact do you think these prophecies would have had on Mary, Joseph, and Jesus?

In summary, what do you learn in this passage about Mary and Joseph?

About Jesus?

Thank God for Jesus in ways specific to Simeon and Anna's prophecies... how have these prophecies been fulfilled in your life?

Saturday

Today polish up that memory verse and finish any devotions you may have missed (Missed devotions?! In the Christmas season?). Please pray for the concerts this weekend-- that Jesus would be glorified. Thanks!