

December 11, 2022

## **Christmas With Us**

Chris Bacon

### **Passage: Luke 2:8-14**

[8](#)And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. [9](#)And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. [10](#)And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you **good news of great joy** that will be for all the people. [11](#)For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. [12](#)And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” [13](#)And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, [14](#)“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

### **Background**

Last week Pastor David reminded us *why* the birth of Jesus is GOOD NEWS for “all the people.” But today, as we continue our series, “Christmas with Us,” we want to explore how the GOOD NEWS brings “great joy” for both the shepherds in that Bethlehem field over 2000 years ago and for followers of Jesus today.

### **Sermon Notes**

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## Instructions

Since we believe we are BETTER TOGETHER, this discussion guide serves as a conversation guide with your small group. The “Belong” section offers an ‘ice-breaker’ or reflection question to start your time together. In the “Believe” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Become” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life and to pray for one another.

## Belong

- What is your favorite Christmas carol / song and why? What is your least favorite?

## Believe

- What stood out to you the most about this week’s message? What statement was most meaningful and why? What other biblical truths of Scripture complement the message? What prompted questions in your own mind? What challenged you? What brought hope? What do you believe is the main “take away” from the message for your own life? How could you apply these truths to your life now?
- **Read Luke 2:8-14.** In what ways do you think the shepherds who first heard this message may have struggled to have joy? What about others in that first century context? What are the greatest joy “robbers” in your life right now? How would you describe the difference between joy and happiness? In what ways does the Christmas story bring you “great joy” in your life? How would you answer someone who asks you: “How can you have joy (or be joyful) when things seem so bad?” How does talking about Jesus with others help develop a joyful attitude within us?
- **Read 1 Peter 1:3-9 and John 15:1-11.** How do these passages make a connection between knowing Jesus and experiencing joy? What are the circumstances in these passages that may prevent a follower of Jesus from experiencing a deep sense of joy? According to these passages, how does one cultivate (or choose) joy despite their circumstances? What are some simple daily decisions we can make that will help us choose joy no matter what we may be going through? How does “abiding” in Jesus bring joy? How does reflecting on *who* Jesus is and *what* Jesus has done for us produce joy in our lives?

## Become

- Who could you invite to attend the Christmas Festival on campus this week?
- **PRAYER POINTS:** How can we pray specifically for one another this week? Pray for opportunities and boldness to invite friends, co-workers, and neighbors to the Christmas Festival at FBCO this week. Pray the Holy Spirit will guide you and empower you to share the Gospel with someone this week.