

The Greatest Love Story—Ever Luke 2:8-20

1 John 4:9, "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him."

The BIG Idea ... Jesus is the _____ of God's _____ for us.

The Shepherds: A Night to Remember

- Shepherds were considered "_____ - _____" in Jewish society.
- If Luke is making this up; if he is attempting to dupe us into believing something that did not happen, he would not have chosen shepherds as the initial _____ to Jesus' birth.
- God turns cultural norms upside down by revealing the news of Jesus' birth to a group of shepherds, who are keeping watch over their flock _____.
- In the Bible, darkness is a _____ describing the effects of _____. Isaiah 9:2, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone."

The Angel: Good News of Great Joy

- "I have gospel news that will transform your _____ fear into _____ joy!"
- The _____ from "great fear" to "great joy" is _____ with the _____ of Jesus.
- The gospel takes sinners who are _____ of God and makes them children of God, whose eternal _____ is God.
- John Piper: "Joy is a deep, _____ in God that ruins you for everything else because it cannot be touched by anything else."
- When fear begins to tighten its grip you, speak truth to your fear by _____ the _____ to yourself—that in Jesus, you possess an unshakable _____ because you are loved with an unbreakable _____ (Romans 8:38-39).
- It's good news of great joy because, "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a _____, who is _____ the _____."
- It's an _____: "This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."
- It's all so humble to show us that Jesus is _____—that's why it's "good news of great joy that will be for _____."
- "Unto you is born this day"—Jesus is born _____ you because He is born _____ you."

The Angels: Glory to God in the Highest

- Of all the things these angels had seen God do, nothing compares with the _____ of God becoming _____.
- That is especially significant when you consider that the angels witnessed God creating the universe.
- We don't hear the angels sing "Glory to God in the highest" until the birth of Jesus. This is when God's glory shines a million times brighter than it did at creation because it's the glory of "God _____ us" as one _____ us to rescue and redeem us by dying and rising again for us. This is what captivates these angels. What _____ us?

The Takeaways

1. If you are going anywhere but to Jesus for joy, you are chasing the _____—you are attempting to catch _____ (Psalm 16:11).
2. The story of Christmas is the gift of a great _____ that overcomes great fear, because it's wrapped in God's _____ for us—the Son of God in the _____, come to us, as one of us, to die for us.