

12-21-25-Immanuel-Moments Worth Sharing Study Guide

Overview

This message, part of the "Immanuel" series, focuses on the birth of Jesus as described in Luke 2:1-20 from the shepherds' perspective. It emphasizes God's fulfillment of His promise to be "with us" through Jesus—the ultimate sacrificial Lamb. The core Gospel is presented as God's profound love: He created us, endured us, died for us, and lives within us. Three key lessons from the shepherds encourage deeper relationship with Jesus this Christmas season: they were the first to hear the news, the first to worship, and the first to tell it.

Main Points

1. **The Shepherds Were the First to Hear the News** God often speaks first to the unlikely. These shepherds, who raised sacrificial lambs at Migdal Eder, were experts in identifying perfect lambs—fittingly the first (beyond Mary and Joseph) to hear of Jesus, the ultimate Lamb of God. Proximity to God (drawing near) sharpens our ability to hear His voice (John 10:27-28).
2. **The Shepherds Were the First to Worship** Heavenly angels modeled worship, giving the shepherds a "taste" of heaven (Psalm 34:8). Seeing Jesus fulfilled—not just as a baby, but as Savior and promise-keeper—led to awe and worship. Focusing on Jesus' promises (rather than problems) naturally produces worship.
3. **The Shepherds Were the First to Tell It** After encountering Jesus, the shepherds couldn't stay silent—they spread the news joyfully. Genuine experiences with God make sharing the Gospel (and His ongoing work) a natural compulsion, not a duty (1 Peter 3:15; Jeremiah 9:23-24).

Reflection Questions

- When have you felt closest to God, and how clearly did you hear His voice in that season?
- Recall a recent moment when you "saw" Jesus as Provider, Healer, Comforter, or Grace-giver. How did it affect your worship?
- What keeps you from sharing about Jesus or what God is doing in your life more often?
- How does understanding Jesus as the "Lamb to end all sacrifices" deepen your appreciation of Christmas?
- Are you more focused on your problems or God's promises right now? Why?

Application

- **Draw Near:** Commit to greater proximity this Christmas—spend intentional time in prayer, Scripture, and worship to hear God more clearly.
- **Encounter Heaven:** Slow down for personal encounters with God beyond Sunday services; seek moments to "taste and see" His goodness.
- **Shift Your Focus:** When facing challenges, intentionally recall specific promises of God and respond with worship.
- **Tell It:** Share one way God has been good to you this week with at least one person. Practice gentle, heartfelt evangelism when opportunities arise.
- **Respond to the Gospel:** If you haven't, confess Jesus as Lord today. If you have, lean in deeper—let Immanuel (God with us) be your reality now.

Group Discussion Prompts

1. Share a time when God spoke to you unexpectedly, like He did with the shepherds or other "unlikely" people in Scripture.
2. The message says the shepherds' livelihood was potentially threatened by Jesus ending sacrifices—yet they worshiped. How do we respond when following Jesus costs us something?
3. What is one recent way you've "seen Jesus" in your life (e.g., as provision, peace, grace)? How did it move you to worship?
4. Why do you think sharing about Jesus (evangelism) or God's work in our lives feels difficult today? How can personal encounters change that?
5. As a group, let's "tell it": Go around and share one thing God has done lately that encourages you. How does hearing others' stories build our faith?