

# Promises Fulfilled

ADVENT AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

## Advent: Week 3

Set aside approximately 10 minutes one night this week to talk about God's promise of rescue through His Son, Jesus Christ. The only materials you will need are 5 candles, a lighter, and a Bible.

## Advent Candle

Have one member of the family light the **third** advent candle.

## Scripture Reading

Have one person read the following passages out loud.

*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." LUKE 2:8-12*

*Behind the angel they saw a strange glowing cloud - except it wasn't a cloud, it was angels...troops and troops of angels, armed with light! And they were singing a beautiful song: "Glory to God! To God be Fame and Honor and all our Hoorays!" THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE*

*15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. LUKE 2:15-20*

## Reflection

Who is the first person you tell when you hear or experience something good?

- Like, when you get a good grade on a test?
- Or, you make a new friend at school?
- Or you find some money?

Have an adult read the story below.

As Mary and Joseph held their newborn Son during those late hours of the night, God began spreading

the wonderful news of Jesus' birth. And He began with an unusual group of people! It wasn't a King or a Queen or even a group of priests.

**Quick Question: Who would you expect God to tell first that His promised Rescuer had come?**

Sometimes we think, "Why didn't God tell a powerful king or religious leader about the birth of Jesus?" This would make sense to us - because people were used to the king or religious leader speaking to them. They had influence and position.

Instead, God shared His good news with the most unimportant group of people - the shepherds. During that time, people looked down on shepherds and considered them to be criminals, liars and thieves. Yet, these were the first people to hear that God had sent His Rescuer. And they heard about this good news from God's messenger's - His angels!

Scripture tells us that while the shepherds were keeping watch over their flocks of sheep that an angel appeared to them - and when they saw the angel, the Bible said that the shepherds were afraid.

**Quick Questions: How do you think the shepherds reacted when they saw the angel of the Lord? How would you have reacted?**

The angel told the shepherds to not be afraid. Instead, the angels wanted them to have GREAT JOY because they had a message from God! God was doing what He had promised! He was sending Jesus - His Son - to be our Rescuer from our sins. Through Jesus, God was making peace between Himself and us...sinners. Once the shepherds heard the news, they raced to Bethlehem to find Jesus and see the marvelous work that God had done.

Once they saw baby Jesus, they left and began telling everyone they saw the good news that the Savior had come. And like the shepherds, God continues to show Himself to us - through nature, through the Bible and through the people that He has placed in our lives. It's our job to go out and tell everyone around us about Him and His good news - that He sent a Rescuer to save us from our sins!

**Quick Question: How can we be like the shepherds? As a family, who can we tell that Jesus came as a baby to save sinners?**

### Prayer

Have one family member say a prayer to thank God for sending angels to share the good news of Jesus' birth with the shepherds AND the shepherds sharing this good news to sinners - *just like us*.

### Family Activity

This week, make handmade Christmas cards together as a family! Make sure these cards include words or pictures that tell of the good news that Jesus has arrived! Send these cards to friends, family, neighbors or people you know love and trust Jesus. These cards will be a good reminder for them in this season!

But also, make a card for someone who may not know Jesus. When we share the card with them, we will be just like the shepherds and share the good news of Jesus coming to rescue them from their sin. Maybe that person will hear the good news and will believe in Jesus!