

## Week 4 Alternative

### Presentable presents

#### What did the shepherds have to offer?

##### The Shepherds and the Angels

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!" 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.

V 8. Shepherds doing their thing. Life going on.

V9. God breaks into life. Uses Angels – Angelos means messenger

V10. And the message is: Good news of great joy for everyone.

V11. Purpose of good news – a saviour.

V12. The situation. Baby in manger.

V13. Angel joined by other angels (keeping no secrets here)

V14. Singing. Significance in the words.

Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Interesting, well glory to God in the highest or glory to God who is the Highest.

Then this:

on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

I thought the peace was for all!

No the message is for all v10, but the peace is for whom God is pleased with.v14.

Hang on is that right. It's what it says isn't it. So is peace only for Special people of God's. Mmm perhaps. So the peace isn't universal. Doesn't say so here!

So whom is God pleased with. Well the simple answer is:

Those who listen and respond to the good news message. We need to ask the question: **Is God pleased with me?**

Back to the story.

**V15. The concert finishes.** The Shepherds say " lets check this out".

Note: they recognise it's a message from God.

**V16. They went with haste.** They rushed to see if it was true or did they even question its truth.?

They rushed to catch the baby, not only true but significant.

**V17. They talked about it.** Made it known! What a great statement. We talk about witnessing, evangelising and missioning. They just made it know.

**V18. And people "wondered" about it.**( The people they told in their "making it known" thought about it)

**V19. A slight departure here.** MARY remembered all this stuff and treasured it. Recognised it's value.

**V20. The shepherds went home.** Not just went home but went home shouting God's greatness and giving God credit for who He is.

That the story. What it got to do with us?

Well a couple of questions:

1. **What presents did they give?** (The wise guys gave expensive presents)  
Their presence.
2. **What was their reaction?** Shouting God's greatness and giving Him credit for who He is.

No our questions.

1. **What presents do we bring to Jesus?** He wants our presence in relationship.
2. **What is our reaction to Jesus this Christmas?** Go home shouting and praising God.

What's that?

**Go home shouting and praising God.**