



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of December 16, 2024

1. We've all experienced the "lost and found" scenario. What is the most expensive or most valuable thing you've ever found? Tell the story! Pastor Ryan told the true story of the \$9,000 diamond ring that was donated to the Salvation Army Christmas kettles in 2017 in Lancaster. Why might someone have decided to give such an amazing gift anonymously?
2. Read Luke 2:8-20. Who are the main characters in this section of the Nativity scriptures that continue to remain anonymous? What do you know about shepherds in the days of Jesus? How were they viewed in those days?
3. Why was it shocking that God would deliver the message of Messiah's arrival to shepherds? Who were some of the VIP's of the world, the region, and the nation of Israel that God purposefully skipped over?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:27-28. How does God typically choose to accomplish His plans and purposes in the world according to this text? Why does God do it this way? Explain in your own words.
5. What specific things or "signs" were the shepherds supposed to look for— to verify that the baby was promised Messiah? (see verse 12). What is a manger, and why this so unusual?
6. In verses 10-11, how many times does the angel use the plural word "you"? Why is that significant? How was this statement from the angel MORE than just a boring, public service announcement? How is Jesus accessible and approachable to you today? (see also Hebrews 4:14-16)
7. What did the shepherds do after they heard the angel's message? What did they do after they saw everything the angel spoke about with their own eyes? How did Mary react to all this?
8. Are you surprised that the first "evangelists" of the good news were blue-collar shepherds? How might this apply to you in the here and now?
9. Why do so many Christians feel "unworthy" to serve God in some capacity? What excuses are used most often? How do the actions and attitudes of the shepherds motivate us to "share Jesus" in our own day? Who is someone you can share Jesus with before this holiday season comes to a close?

God can work wonders through working-class people. Are you available to Him?