

"Peace"
Luke 2:8-14

1. Advent is centered on the theme of waiting. For centuries, the Jewish people waited for the Messiah, and as Christians, we too are waiting for the Messiah to return. What promises do we have in Christ, that enable us to wait patiently for His coming?
2. In the same region where Christ was born, an angel of the Lord appears to a group of shepherds and announced (or heralded) the birth of the Savior in the town of David.

What's the response of the shepherds to the appearance of the angel and the radiant glory of the Lord? Why was that response appropriate?

What's significant about the first people to receive the news about the birth of the Messiah? What does this tell us about the heart of God?

3. What does the angel say to comfort the shepherds (vv. 10-11)?

Who was this good news of great joy to be proclaimed to?

How will the shepherds know that they have found the Christ-child (v.12)?

4. The announcing angel is then suddenly joined by a great company of other angels and this angelic choir begins to praise God in the highest. What do they say and why is it significant?
5. Jesus came so that we might have peace (Luke 2:14; John 14:27). The Hebrew word for peace is 'shalom', which means to be made 'complete' or 'whole'. As the Prince of 'Shalom', how has Jesus brought us 'shalom', and how will He bring us 'shalom' in the future?
6. Psalm 119:65 says this: "Those who love your law have great peace (shalom), And nothing causes them to stumble." How can you better love and obey God right now? What's a step you can take to walk in better obedience, so that you can experience more peace?