

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Real Life Stories of God Sightings Series

Lesson 31

Lesson Title: Shepherds Point to Jesus

Take Home Point: God shows us the Savior so we can point to Jesus.

Warm-Up:

A friend of mine has a son who played high school football. With three games to go in his senior season, the student suffered an ankle injury during a game. Multiple X-rays taken that night confirmed an anklebone was broken and his season (and high school athletic career) was over. My friend told his son to pray for God to help him through this difficult time, and he asked many people at their church to pray, as well. One week later, they returned to the doctor's office for a follow-up X-ray. To everyone's surprise, there was no sign of a break! He was a little sore from a sprain but there was definitely no broken bone. As my friend related this to me, he said he realized his son's healing was not the focus, but that by telling others he (and I and any who knew) would point to God through the miraculous event.

Read: Luke 2:8-20

Observation (What happened?):

What was the very first thing the angel said?

How and when did the shepherds respond after the angels left them?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think God's plan was for Jesus to be born in an animal shelter?

If Jesus was born on earth today, where and in what circumstances might it occur?

Insight:

Do you wonder how the lives of those shepherds were changed by what happened that night? Surely they remembered it as long as they lived, looking back in amazement and praise that God would send his message to them first of all. But did they live differently because of it? And what of the people they told that night? Did those people go to the feed trough to see for themselves? Did they live differently? The Bible doesn't tell us the answers to these questions. But we can look at human nature and make some generalizations. Most people seem to have a short memory for the impact of significant events. Sort of a "what-have-you-done-for-me-lately" perspective. The Israelites throughout the Old Testament are a good example. For a smaller number of people, a major event changes their lives and their outlook permanently. To meet Jesus is to experience the most significant event of all. Those who accept him as Savior and Lord are transformed, renewed, and begin a life journey that never ends.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How has the coming of Jesus to earth changed you?

Pray for the children in your small group to know Jesus as Savior and tell their family and friends.

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