

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Jesus Is the King Series, Lesson 31

Lesson Title: Welcoming the King

Take Home Point: We welcome the King with our praise!

Warm-Up:

Imagine receiving a registered letter in the mail. You open it to read, "CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE WON THE PUBLISHER'S CLEARINGHOUSE® SWEEPSTAKES \$1,000,000 GRAND PRIZE!" (Remember, you're using your imagination!) The letter continues, "In exactly ten days from the date of this letter, at 2:30 P.M., a representative will arrive at your house to give you a check for the full amount!" Is that good news? Are you excited to tell family and friends? Do you think about this wonderful gift or just forget about it? How do you welcome the representative when he arrives?

Read: Luke 2:8-20

Observation (What happened?):

What three things did the shepherds do after the angel's announcement?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

One angel was sent to deliver the message. How many angels came to give glory to God for the message?

Why didn't the shepherds keep the news to themselves?

Insight:

One of the many amazing things surrounding the birth of Jesus is that God's angels were sent to shepherds to announce it. Consider the significance of lowly shepherds being the first to hear of the birth of Jesus. Why not the religious or political leaders of Judea, or other visitors to Bethlehem that would spread the news as they returned to their home? Perhaps unsophisticated shepherds were more willing to believe and act on the news. But God always has deeper purpose in his actions. Shepherds who cared for lambs would be the first to come to the Lamb of God. Shepherds who cared for the sheep of the Jews' Passover sacrifice would hurry to the one who would be the perfect sacrifice for our sins (1 John 2:1,2). During his ministry on earth, Jesus referred to himself as the good shepherd who takes care of his sheep (John 10:11-16).

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What wonderful message is God giving you for which you can praise him?

What are two ways you can show your family and guests this Christmas season that you welcome Jesus into your home as Savior and Lord?