



Our hope is that you were challenged by Sunday's message and would desire to take the study a little deeper. Whether for personal study, family study, or for a Home Group gathering, use this study to go deeper.

### Open

**December 24, 2017**

Imagine what it must have been like for the angel who visited the shepherds that night. Was this the angel Gabriel who spoke to Zacharias or Mary? Is this the same angel who visited Joseph in a dream? Either way, this angel had an extraordinary message for those outcasts: "...for behold, I bring you good news of great joy!" Do you think he had trouble containing himself? (1 Peter 1.12) And that was only the beginning. He was the first of what became a choir of angels, praising God, singing songs of peace on earth!

This news must...really...be...good! The joy must...really...be...great! And don't forget, this was someone else's idea. The angel BROUGHT the message. What an amazing story.

### Main Point

The details of this story, and the message the angel delivers, tell us just how wonderful Jesus' birth really is.

### Read

Luke 2.8-11; Matthew 1.18-24; Luke 1.26-33; Galatians 3.19-22; 1 Peter 1.10-12

### Discuss

- Think about all the angelic visitations connected to this story. What is their central responsibility?
- The Bible says the angels were behind the Law. How does this explain their curiosity about God's grace and salvation through Jesus Christ?
- We already know that we don't need to be afraid, and that this message will be good for everyone. What are the good parts?
- When we say, "the gospel," we are actually proclaiming "good news." The message includes a promise of joy. What about this story makes it so joyful?
- Why is it significant that the angel says, "I bring you...?"