

Sermon Title: Reclaim the Wonder: Glory in the Ordinary, Peace in the Everyday

Sermon Scripture: Luke 2:6-20



## **Sermon Discussion Guide (12/07)**

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

### **Scripture**

Read Luke 2:6-20 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

### **Observation**

What do you notice in these verses about the circumstances and setting that surround Jesus's birth? How do these circumstances contrast with the circumstances that we might expect for the birth of God's Son? What do the actual circumstances of Jesus's birth reveal to us about the nature of God?

In verses 8-16, who was the good news of Jesus's birth first announced to? How do these people respond to this announcement?

According to verse 20, how do the shepherds respond to seeing Jesus? Why do you think they respond in this way?

Read John 16:33. What does this verse reveal to us about the kind of peace that Jesus gives? How can we have peace even in the midst of challenges?

## **Application**

Pastor Kenny said in his sermon that God's peace is not the absence of chaos but rather Christ's presence within it. How have you experienced the peace of Christ while in the midst of conflict or chaos? How does this definition of peace help you to better understand how God's presence can meet with you within the chaotic or ordinary moments of life?

What part of your life feels too insignificant or too messy for God's peace? How is God calling you to receive and embrace His peace and His redeeming presence in this part of your life?

Peace received becomes praise expressed. In what ways is God leading you to take the peace you have experienced and respond in worship [offering thanksgiving to God] and witness [sharing your experience with others]?

Pastor Kenny closed his sermon by asking us to consider "Where did I see God's presence and peace in the ordinary?" Reflecting on this past week, how would you answer this question? Looking ahead to next week, what is one step you can take to become more aware of the ways God's presence and peace are found within the ordinary moments of your life?

## **Prayer**

Gracious and Ever-Present God, we thank You for the awe-inspiring truth that Your glory is not reserved for the impressive and Your peace is not limited to the calm. Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have missed Your presence, for the busyness that blinds us, or the distractions that pull at our attention. Break through our ordinary with Your presence. Break into our fears with Your peace. Break into our routines with Your renewing love. And Lord, once we have received Your peace, make us witnesses who speak of what we have seen and known. Make us worshipers who praise you in all circumstances. For we pray this in Jesus's name, Amen.