

Living the Word

A Bible Study for Missionary Discipleship

Session 6

Luke 2:8-20

“Come and see.”



Diocese of
CROOKSTON

www.crookston.org

Office of Formation in Discipleship

P.O. Box 610 | Crookston, Minnesota | 56716

T: (218) 281-4533 | F: (218) 281-5991

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Missionary Discipleship Bible Study

Session 6

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, create in us an ever-growing faith, with hearts open and centered in you. Awaken within us the fire of your Spirit, so that your love may fill us more fully, and flow throughout our lives. Increase within us a desire to reach out, to invite and to share, to welcome and accept. Awaken the faith of all your children, especially those who have grown distant from you, those ready to hear an invitation to the love you alone can bring. Awaken us, loving God, to see the fullness of your grace and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord . Amen

OPENING PSALM

(one person (or group) take line 1 and one person (or group) take line 2)

Psalm 113

God the Helper of the Needy

1 Praise the LORD!

Praise, O servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

2 Blessed be the name of the LORD

FROM THIS TIME ON AND FOREVERMORE. From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the LORD is to be praised.

1 The LORD is high above all nations,

and his glory above the heavens. Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high,
who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

2 He raises the poor from the dust,

and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people. He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the LORD!

OPENING REFLECTION VIDEO

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABRI2ZSs58E&feature=emb_imp_woyt

THIS WEEKS BIBLE PASSAGE

The Shepherds and the Angels

“Glory to God in the highest”

Luke 2:8-20

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”^[c]

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

REFLECTION

“Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy.” This is how the angel greeted the first disciples of Jesus. We experience fear nearly every day. There are things we worry about, such as our responsibilities, or our loved ones, or maybe an upcoming presentation. When the shepherds encountered the angel “the glory of the Lord shone around them”, and their fear was turned to joy. When we encounter the Lord, we experience healing and true joy. The shepherds received this joy from the angels and returned to share it with others.

Jesus became man and died for us to save us from our sins and our brokenness. This is such a beautiful gift that we have received. Jesus was “Incarnated”, which means He became flesh and lived among us. Jesus did this because He loves us. C.S. Lewis wrote, “The Son of God became man to enable men to become the sons of God.” Jesus gives us a living example of how to be followers of Christ. The shepherds recognized the birth of Jesus as an incredible mystery and gift and “went with haste” to visit Him.

The shepherds became the first disciples of Jesus. They received the good news, encountered Jesus, and announced what they had learned “glorifying and praising God”. The shepherds were not scholars, nor did they have any extraordinary qualities, yet they were chosen to announce that God has become man. We sometimes see ourselves as small or unworthy to spread the love of God, but Jesus sees much more in us. Throughout the Gospels we see Jesus call everyday people, such as fisherman and tax collectors, to become His followers and do great things. We are called in this same way by God to follow Jesus, remember His word, and set a good example for others.

After visiting the baby Jesus, the shepherds were transformed. Their lives were changed through their encounter. The same is true for us when we let Jesus into our lives. We don’t just believe in Christ, we belong to Christ. We form a relationship with Jesus and trust Him to protect us and guide us on our journey. We receive the strength to face our fears and become disciples through our encounters with Him.

PAUSE FOR SILENT PRAYER

Pray a decade of the Rosary reflecting on the third Joyful mystery: The Nativity
(Our Father, 10 Hail Mary’s, Glory Be)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Where have you encountered Christ in your day? In your week? In your month?
2. When do you feel afraid? How can you encounter Jesus during those moments?
3. What are some ways to glorify God and share our faith with those around us?

CALL TO ACTION

Spend time in prayer asking the Lord for strength. Call to mind a time you have struggled or an upcoming event that you are worried about. Remember God’s words “Do not be afraid!”

CLOSING PRAYER

Missionary Discipleship Prayer

Leader: *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed?

And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard?

And how can they hear without someone to preach?

And how can people preach unless they are sent? –Romans 10: 13-15

All: Heavenly Father,

Pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire us with these words from Holy Scripture,

so that we might be strengthened to go forth

and witness to the Gospel in our daily lives

through our words and actions.

In moments of hesitation, remind us:

- If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel?
- If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed?
- If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall I proclaim?

Give us the grace that we might hear the call of the New Evangelization

and become a Missionary Disciple, deepening our faith,

growing in confidence to proclaim the Gospel

and boldly witnessing to the saving grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

O Mary, our Immaculate Mother, pray for us.

Inspire us to imitate your example

as the first disciple of your son, Jesus,

who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

Leader: *Mary, Star of the New Evangelization*, All: pray for us.

St. Joseph, All: pray for us.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, All: pray for us.

St. John Paul II, All: pray for us.