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INTRODUCTION

God brings glory to Himself by being the power, the authority, and the presence by which all things happen. When God redeems and rescues, He calls the weak and the broken, so *He* is most glorified. The whole idea of what we celebrate at Christmas was the fulfillment of God's promises to us. The world is fallen and broken, and we are not simply victims of the messed-up world, we have participated in messing up the world; the scriptures call this sin and rebellion. This is why Jesus came, to rescue us as we could never rescue ourselves.

DISCUSSION

What is your favorite Christmas song, and why?

What is the last good piece of news you couldn't wait to share with everybody you came into contact with? (college acceptance, engagement, wedding, expecting child, new job, graduation, etc.)

Why do you think at Jesus' birth Angels went to shepherds in the field?

EXPLANATION

Do you believe that God is a God who keeps His promises? Even the small ones?

What changes when we believe that is true? How has that helped you through suffering?

APPLICATION - READ LUKE 2:8-20

What feelings does God seem to have as He herald's the birth of His son, Jesus? Why does He invite us into hearing this news of Jesus' birth? Why is there joy in Jesus' birth...and do you possess that joy?

MISSION

Who would be someone that is like a modern-day shepherd that you would never see God showing up to?

How are you called to be God's messenger to that person?

In what ways are we just like the shepherds of that day?

How has God revealed Himself in this song?

Who are you called to herald this good news to this Christmas season?