



## HARK, HERALD, AND RECONCILIATION

Today we will look at the theological depth behind “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” and its scriptural foundations. The angels’ announcement to shepherds show God’s pattern of subverting power dynamics by revealing Himself to the broken and outcast. Through Christ’s birth, work, life, death, and resurrection God reconciles sinners to Himself, making us new creations. The good news is that God knew all our failures yet chose, loved, and called us anyway, bringing true reconciliation and peace through Christ.

### ACCOMPANYING SCRIPTURE:

2 Corinthians 5:17-21    Psalm 19:1  
Luke 2:13-14            Exodus 33

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about a time when something “new” in your life became meaningful to you.

### WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

- Read Luke 2:13-14 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. How does Paul describe reconciliation?
- What does it mean to be a “new creation” according to these passages?

### UNDERSTANDING DEEPER - READ PSALM 19:1

- How does understanding God’s glory (kavod/doxa) help us grasp the significance of Christ’s birth?
- Why is it significant that God announced Christ’s birth to shepherds rather than to religious or political leaders?
- How does the concept of “already but not yet” help us understand our new life in Christ?

### APPLICATION

- How does knowing that God “knew all you would do but chose you anyway” impact your view of His love?

### NEXT STEPS

- What past regrets do you need to release in light of God’s complete reconciliation?

## CHRISTMAS SEASON MISSION ACTIVITY

As the angels proclaimed Christ’s birth to the shepherds, we can share God’s love in practical ways:

- 1. Identify:** Make a list of 3-5 people in your life who might feel like “outsiders” (like the shepherds).
- 2. Pray:** Commit to praying for these individuals daily through Christmas.
- 3. Act:** Choose one tangible way to show Christ’s love to each person:
  - Write a personal note sharing how they’ve impacted your life
  - Invite them to your home for a meal
  - Create a care package with their favorite things
  - Offer practical help with a need they have
- 4. Share:** Look for natural opportunities to tell them about the hope you have in Christ.