



**Luke 2:8** And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger."  
**13** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."  
**15** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."  
**16** So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

### Icebreaker

Tell about a time you received really great news and were the one who got to share it with others.

### Conversation Starters

1. Why do you think God chose to first reveal the birth of Jesus, the Savior, the long awaited Messiah to a group of shepherds out in a field? Was it a conscious decision? If yes why?
  - a. What were some other options God had for announcing the birth of Jesus? How would they have changed the story?
  - b. What about the fact that the shepherds were told first is important for us to keep in mind? How does this story inform our faith?
2. Dave taught that many spiritual truths are like a coin, one side heads, one side tails. One of those two sided spiritual truths is the nature of God. On one side God is friend, savior, the one who loves you and will never leave you. The other side is God the stranger, who does things that are unexpected, shows up uninvited and acts in ways that you would never act if you were God.
  - a. How does this idea of God as two sides of a coin encourage you?
  - b. What questions come up when you think of God like this?
  - c. Why or how would worshipping a God of only one side of the coin possibly be boring? Or terrifying depending on the side?
3. What does it look like to live on the edge of the coin this Christmas? How can you learn to spot God the stranger?
4. Dave taught that we all construct a container in which we try to make God fit. God regularly smashes our self constructed container revealing himself in new and powerful, unexpected ways.  
**Have you had your God container smashed? Tell the group about it.**

