

# RL GROUPS

Grace | God-sized Vision | For Every Generation

## Luke 2:8-15

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 cloths 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."



## Questions for Discussion

1. What are some ways that "busyness" affects us today? What "noise" exists in your life (both good and bad!)?
2. Do you have any personal rhythms in your life? (Physical? Spiritual? Personal? Emotional?)
3. Read the passage together. Why do you think the angels decided to announce the Messiah's birth to shepherds? After all, they were generally quite dirty, odd, socially outcast people.
4. Why did the shepherds decide to immediately get up and go to Bethlehem to see the baby? Would you have done that?
5. The words of this week's carol, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" are printed on the next page. Perhaps read this in silence, and reflect. How can you "Hark!" over the next week? How can you stop and listen?
6. Why do we find it hard to give glory to "the King of Kings?" Why did Wesley write that Jesus came for "God and sinners reconciled?"
7. The miracle of Jesus' birth is called the "incarnation." It means "God with us. God in flesh." What does that mean to you?

# Hark! the Herald Angels Sing 277

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace. Luke 2:14

> 1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
 > 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
 > 3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Son of Righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb:  
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that men no more may die,

With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*  
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

Optional segue to "Angels We Have Heard on High." No transition is needed.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, altered  
MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn; arranged by William H. Cummings

MENDELSSOHN  
7.7.7.7.D. with Refrain

