



JOY: The Third Week of Advent

The third Advent candle is the Shepherd's candle. It reminds us that Jesus is the good shepherd, who came to earth and sacrificially gave His life for His sheep. But it also reminds us of that first Christmas night.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2: 8-12

God chose to share the arrival of His Son to a bunch of lowly shepherds. Then, in the same way, to use those shepherds to share the good news of Jesus' birth.

And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. Luke 2:17-18

Share with each other examples of news you had that you couldn't wait to share with your family and friends. What was that news? How did you end up sharing it? How was it received?

Brainstorm some ideas of how you can share the good news of Jesus with your family and friends.

Activity:

Jesus the Sacrifice

Candy Cane Symbols: Put candy canes on the tree or make a cup of hot cocoa and stir it using a candy cane, which is shaped like a shepherd's staff. The red stripes represent our sin; the white stripes, the pure, sinless nature of the Holy One who came and shed His blood for us. The candy cane's stripes remind us then that by His sacrificial "stripes we are healed" Isaiah 53:5.

Remember a time when someone sacrificed something for you. Tell the story. How did you feel?
(Excerpt Tuesday Week 3)