

## ***“SERVICE Group” Interactive Discussion Guide***

**This Week’s Core Virtue: Peace, (Phil. 4:6-7)**—I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, myself, and others.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)***

[Memorize this statement and Scripture to carry in your mind and heart at all times!]

**SERVICE Focus: Recreation**—We will share life together through planned and spontaneous times of enjoying each other’s company. We will invite and welcome others to these events in order to grow our community.

### **Option 1— The Shepherds Celebrate with the Angels, Luke 2:8-20**

(Plan *30 minutes* for your “study time” by focusing on the \* questions and filling out your discussion with the other questions. Be sure to leave time for sharing personal requests and praying for one another.)

#### **Open It**

1. \*What is the most unique birth announcement you’ve ever seen?
2. What do you imagine angels look like?
3. If you could sleep out under the stars anywhere in the world, where would you put down your pillow?

#### **Explore It**

4. At what time and place did the angels appear to the shepherds? ([2:8](#))
5. How many angels did the shepherds see at first? ([2:9](#))
6. How did the shepherds react when they saw the angel? ([2:9](#))
7. To whom did the angel address his good news? ([2:10](#))
8. \*What message did the angel tell the shepherds? ([2:10](#), [12](#))
9. Who did the angel say the newborn child really was? ([2:11](#))
10. \*By what symbol or sign were the shepherds supposed to identify the Christ child? ([2:12](#))
11. How many angels did the shepherds hear praising God? ([2:13](#))
12. \*What was the immediate reaction of the shepherds after the angels left? ([2:15](#))
13. After finding the Christ child, what did the shepherds do? ([2:17-20](#))
14. What kind of reactions did the shepherds get when they told others what had happened that night? ([2:18](#))
15. How did Mary respond to the shepherds’ visit? ([2:19](#))

#### **Get It**

16. If you had been with the shepherds on the night Christ was born, what would you have done after the angels left?
17. In what ways did the shepherds obey God that night?
18. \*What should be our response when we discover what God wants us to do?
19. What does it mean that Mary "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart"?
20. Of what significance is it that the shepherds went back to their flocks?
21. \*What is the responsibility of those who "discover" the good news about Jesus?
22. Who needs to be told about the birth and life of Christ?

#### **Apply It**

23. In what ways can you renew your enthusiasm for the message of Jesus’ birth?
24. \*How can you glorify and praise God with other Christians this week?

### **Option 2—Discussion of Sunday’s Sermon (slides posted on “Pastor’s Blog”)**

- What significance does the passage/message have for you today?
- What does the passage/message mean to you?
- What does the passage/message affect your life?
- What can we learn about God, Christ, ourselves, our responsibility, our relationship to others?
- How does it reinforce this week’s core commitment?
- What do you want to do in response?
- What do we want to do in response?
- What will you take away from the sermon? From our group?

### **Option 3—Relate Your Study to Our Core Commitments**

- What Core Commitment(s) does our study reinforce?
- What can we learn from this passage about this week’s Core Commitments?
- How can we live this passage individually? As a group?
- What do we agree to do in response to this passage?