

Good news *and* **GREAT NEWS!**

- Examples of...
 - Good news
 - **GREAT NEWS!**
- For whom would _____ be GREAT NEWS?
 - Food
 - Water
 - Cure for disease
 - Forgiveness
 - Reconciliation / restoring a relationship
 - Hope
 - Christmas

Behold! A Savior!
Luke 2:8-14



Luke 2:8-9

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

Glory of the highest God appears to lowly shepherds

- Shepherds had a very low place in society
- Night shepherds were even lower
- God's glory appeared to them!
- The first recipients were just right for the message

Luke 2:10-12**Evangelism**

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid.

I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Angel announces Good News that brings great joy:**A Savior, who is Christ the Lord**

- Great joy for all ... through shepherds
- Baby: Savior, Messiah, God
- Sign: glory mixed with lowness

Luke 2:13-14

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

**God's army proclaims glory to God
and peace to people God blesses**

- **Glory to God = peace to people**
- **Peace = wholeness/health of head, heart, hands**
 - Most of all: **peace with God in Christ**
- **Not universal**
- **It is an invitation to faith in Christ**

The Big Idea

Jesus is Savior, Messiah, and God
the best good news
for people who know
they deeply need good news

Application

- **Seek God's help in Christ**

- Be honest about your need: with God, self, and others
 - God *opposes* the proud!
 - Our greatest need is to be restored to God
 - Our broad need is for peace & wholeness in all of life
 - Blessed are those with needs who come to Christ
 - Blessing can take many forms: God decides, not us
 - Being blessed in God is the best possible blessing
 - It takes faith to believe God will act → “Behold!”
- **Tell others about this GREAT NEWS!**
 - People who know they need help need to hear this!

The Big Idea

Jesus is Savior, Messiah, and God
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**As you celebrate, remember and remind others,
 that Christmas is GREAT NEWS
 for those who know they need a Savior**