

## ***LIFE LESSON – Making it Live***

**David Welsh | “The Miraculous & the Shepherds” | Luke 2: 8-20 | Dec. 3-4**

### ***God chooses common men (Luke 2:8)***

**Do you consider yourself extraordinary? In what way?** Are you wealthy, handsome, smart...in some way excel compared to most people? People around you pay attention to such things but do you think God cares? According to Luke 2:8, the first people to hear about Jesus' birth were common shepherds, locked into a 24/7 job watching over some dumb, really smelly sheep. **Discuss** why God would choose them over kings, priests, or some other highly-regarded profession. How many OT persons can you name that were shepherds when God picked them for a special mission? There were a lot of them! **Discuss:** Is there a message here about God's use of common people?

### ***A Supernatural Faith (Luke 2: 9)***

**Have you ever seen an angel? What would likely be your reaction if you did see one?** These shepherds were terrified and that is probably a universal reaction. Do you know of anyone other than Jesus born of a virgin? Do you know of anyone other than God's anointed that could raise someone from the dead? Does any faith other than Christianity provide a believable path to eternal life? **Discuss** how some religions claim that eternal life or reincarnation are possible based upon the works of the believer, but they are simply not credible. **Discuss:** God's plan for salvation is supernatural by human standards but remember that nature, as we know it obeys the laws of God; God does not obey the laws of nature.

### ***Angels Are Watching (Luke 2:13,14)***

**What is an angel? What do they do? In what ways are they limited?** Only three angels are named in the Bible. Can you name them? Do you have a guardian angel? Do you even believe that “guardian angels” are assigned at birth to watch over and protect people? Read and **discuss** Hebrews 1:14. Read II Kings 6 for an exciting story about protecting angels. Is there a story you can **share** about your guardian angels?

### ***Gospel For All (Luke 2:10)***

**What is a Gentile?** Would the Jews call you a Gentile? This statement in Luke 2:10 regarding the birth of Jesus tells us that God's plan for mankind had reached a major turning point. Up to this point in time, who had God focused upon in revealing Himself? The Jews. **Discuss:** After this point God's message is that all of mankind can have fellowship with Him because of the life, burial and resurrection of this newborn baby. **Share** how you have fellowship with Him and look forward to a face-to-face relationship in eternity.

### ***Only Thru Jesus (Luke 2: 10-20)***

**What was your reaction when you first heard about Jesus?** When these shepherds heard about Jesus, they went straight to see Him and to praise Him. **Share** if you were blessed by being born into a Christian family and remember the first time. What about when you first realized that He could be your Savior? Did you immediately accept Him as Lord and Savior? Many people know about Jesus but delay coming to know Him and to accept Him. Can you **share** if you know someone like that? Acts 4:12 and other verses tell us that acceptance of Jesus as Lord is the only way to eternal salvation. **Discuss** how we can share with someone who needs to be convinced of this and convicted by the Holy Spirit to accept Jesus.

***Written by Ed Hooper***