



Sermon Discussion Guide

December 21st, 2025 | Luke 2:8-20 | Pastor Greg Doty

Series // Christmas @ Willow Creek

Summary

This sermon begins by comparing the frustration of shopping for something you need but cannot find with the deeper human search for hope, joy, love, and fulfillment. Many people spend their lives looking for these things in places that ultimately disappoint. In Luke 2, God reveals the answer to humanity's deepest longings through the announcement of Jesus' birth. On an ordinary night, God sends angels not to powerful or religious leaders, but to shepherds who were considered lowly, untrustworthy, and insignificant. This shows that God draws near to the broken and overlooked and offers salvation by grace to all people. After hearing the angels' message, the shepherds choose to seek Jesus, even though it involves risk and uncertainty. Leaving their sheep behind, they step out in faith because the promise of hope is worth the cost. When they find Jesus, everything happens exactly as God said it would. Their response is joy, worship, and praise as their lives are transformed by encountering Christ. The message of Christmas is that God has revealed what we have been searching for which is Jesus himself and invites us to believe, receive forgiveness, and find true hope in him.

Discussion Questions (Read Luke 2:8-20):

Our Longing

- What are some of the things people commonly look to for hope, joy, or fulfillment today?
- Why do those things often leave us frustrated or empty?
- How does the shopping illustration help us understand our deeper spiritual longings?

God Reveals

- Why do you think God chose to reveal the birth of Jesus to shepherds rather than religious or political leaders?
- What does this tell us about who God is and who His message is for?
- How does this challenge the way we think about worth, status, or who "deserves" God's grace?

Our Response

- How do the shepherds respond after encountering Jesus?
- What changes when people move from frustration and anger to praise and joy?
- What might make following or trusting Jesus feel risky for people today?
- Why do you think hope in Jesus is “worth the risk”?

Closing Reflection & Prayer

- Where have you been looking for hope instead of turning to Jesus?
- Take time to pray, confessing misplaced hopes and thanking God for revealing Himself through Christ.