**Going deeper in Luke 2:8-15**

**INTRODUCTION** – The Christmas hymn, “O Come, All Ye Faithful” comes from the shepherds’ story in Luke 2:8-15. It also includes a reference to John 1:15. The shepherds are watching and protecting their flocks at night when something extraordinary, terrifying, and hopeful happens.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 The angel said, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you; You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manager. 13 At once there was with the angel a huge army of angels praising God singing; 14 “Glory to God in the highest and peace to all on whom His favor rests.” 15 As the angelic army withdrew into heaven, the shepherds discussed it. “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see for ourselves this thing that has happened which the Lord made known to us.”

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What do you think the shepherds were thinking and feeling as they experienced this?

2. How would you summarize the news that the angels bring? Who is their message for?

3. The hymn, “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (on the reverse side) tries to describe what is was like for the shepherds after the angels left. What words does it use to describe their feelings? Why would they feel this way? Do you feel this way about your life right now? Why or why not?

4. The hymn invites us to come and see Jesus with them. Are you looking for Jesus and inviting others to look for Him?

5. The hymn recognizes the spiritual world is much closer than we think. Will you join with the army of angels this week and sing to the Lord regardless of your circumstances?

6. The final verse of the hymn points to God the Son stepping into our world. Why would God do that? How is that different from religious systems that line out ways to get to God?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord for being your Savior

\*Pray that all glory will go to the Lord and that all you know will find peace through Him

\*Pray for those you want to invite on this journey toward Jesus

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The shepherds are able to face difficult circumstances because they have a Savior. They step out in faith recognizing that there is an army of angels behind them. As you journey toward Jesus will you trust in His all-sufficient strength this week?