

## Anthems—Proclamation

### Study Questions

Luke 2:1-21

#### Warm-up

1) How do you proclaim Jesus around Christmas, whether in little ways or big ways? (In song? Decorations? Cookies?

Christmas cards? Acts of service? ...)

#### A little deeper

2) [Luke 2:1-14] When an angel spoke announcing the birth of a baby, this time nobody asked any questions and God supplied His own anthem. **What are some things that made this message easier to accept than the messages delivered to John's father Zechariah and Jesus's mother Mary?**

3) [Luke 2:15-18] The shepherds took God's proclamation and ran with it. Although Jesus was already born, this was still a proclamation that took faith to believe. **What do you think the expectations of the shepherds were once they confirmed that a baby was actually just born in a manger?**

**How do you think this event helped shape people's expectations for the decades that followed?**

**How does this event continue to shape expectations today?**

4) [Luke 2:19-21] Mary kept these events in her heart as life returned to "normal" for everyone. **How do you think everyday life changed for Mary and for the shepherds after these events?**

#### Bringing it home

5) **What proclamations, whether from people or from God, have had a big impact on your life?**

**Have there been proclamations that you have ignored?**

**Why do some have more initial impact than others?**

6) **The peace the angels proclaimed—do you have that kind of peace in your life right now?**

**If so, how do you respond to God for that peace?**

**If not, how can you let God's peace come into your life right now?**

7) **What proclamations can you make about the way God has touched your life personally? How do you think your experience with God might inspire others?**