



Hope Because God Knows When to Speak Up

Date: Sunday 5th December

Speaker: Jeff Stamps

Key Verses: Luke 2:8-18

Talk Summary:

The angels message is for everyone, but it's not just for everyone, it's also for you! Where you might exclude yourself, God wants to welcome you in.

What is the message?

- The message the angels bring is that a messiah or Christ is born who will be our savior and bring us peace.
- Messiah means God's chosen and anointed ruler.
- At this time in history, God's people were waiting for a ruler, sent by God who would save them from their oppressors and restore Israel to its former glory.
- Throughout Jesus ministry people were surprised by Jesus because they were mistaken about what was wrong with the world and how to fix it.
- How you answer the question what is wrong with the world and how to fix it, is pretty fundamental and hugely affects how you live.
- One way the bible answers this questions, is that our greatest problem is we have rejected God's rule and gone our own way, the solution is to accept Jesus, God's chosen king as saviour and lord of our lives.
- You don't need to believe in all Authority - you just need to answer the question; do you trust Jesus to be a good ruler?
- Often we reject the idea of a ruler, because we want to be independent we want to be free. But the reality is we always face the tension between our Freedom from and freedom too.
- If we want a world free from suffering, harm and pain then we can't live a life that is all about our freedom too.

How is the arrival of God's chosen ruler good news to us now?

The ultimate hope of Christianity is that Jesus will come back as God's perfect ruler, and establish the kingdom of God which is free from suffering, pain and hurt and full of peace, justice and love. That if we accept his rule now in our lives then God comes into our hearts and starts to change us into the type of people who could be a part of this perfect kingdom without messing it up.

When we have peace with God, when we know he is real, that he is good and he loves us. It brings a great sense of hope and peace because we know that no matter how bad things get, even when we don't know what's going on or understand why. We know that the one in control is trustworthy, good and loves us.

The shepherd's response:

- Listen – Don't dismiss what God is saying.
- Investigate – Read the bible, go on Alpha.
- Tell – Who could you invite to the carol service?

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- How do you feel about God's authority, about Jesus being Lord of your life?
- How does Jesus rule bring peace and hope in your life?
- Are there any areas of your life that you are resisting God's rule? (This could be a good one to share as you pray).

Witness - *How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?*

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?
 - Upcoming Events (go to bvc.so/whats-on for details)
 - Carol Services // 12th December
 - Christmas Day service // 25th December