VICTORIA
Baptist Church Eastbourne

Life Groups
Friendship, Faith and Fun at the heart of our community

Luke 2:8-20
Angels' Song

Warm Up

In your imagination, what do angels look like? Are they cute or are they scary? Why are people always afraid of them? Whenever they appear they say… "do not be afraid!"

Background and context

Whilst an angel appears to Joseph in a dream in Matthew's Gospel, it is in Luke where we find the account of angels and the shepherds. Gabriel visits Mary to announce her pregnancy and then angels appear to shepherds and announce the birth of Christ to them. This is significant as shepherds were considered lowly people, unable to fulfil their religious duties because of their work. So, to announce the birth of the Messiah and saviour to the world to them is something of a shock! It reveals the heart of God for salvation to all.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Luke 2:8-20 .What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. Why do you think an angel visited the shepherds?
2. Why was the birth of the Messiah good news for the shepherds?
3. Why is it good news for us?
4. Why do you think Jesus was born in such humble circumstances. He was the Messiah after all!
5. The arrival of a heavenly choir must have been even more of a shock to the shepherds. How might you react if an angel/s appeared to you?
6. What does their song reveal about God's purposes for Jesus on earth and the future of the world?
7. How were the shepherds changed by their encounter with the angels?
8. How have you been changed by your encounter with Jesus? (if you have had one). Share your testimony.

Discipleship and Application

9. How can you be "an angel" to "shepherds" that you encounter?
10. How should the idea that the Messiah is saviour to all mankind change our attitude to people who are different to us?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.