

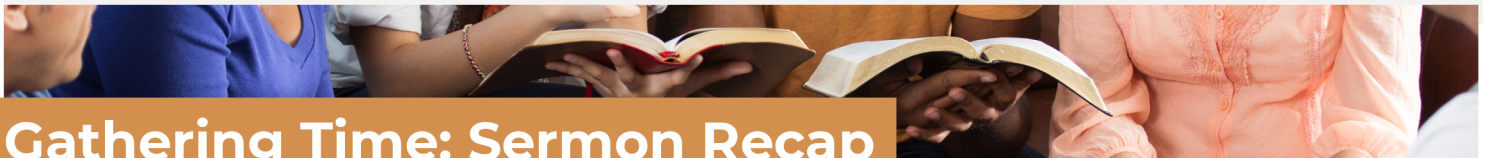
## How to Use This Guide:

- **Read the Sermon Recap** by yourself (for devotions) or with your group. You can also watch the sermon on YouTube @CBCFamily.
- **Read the passage/s.** Look for truths, promises, and/or commands. Try to find the “who, what, when, where, why, and how.”
- **Group Time:** First, take turns reading the Scripture passage/s from the sermon, round-robin style, letting each person read one verse. Go around the circle until the whole passage has been read. Then, **utilize the Group Time** portion of this 4G Guide.

### What's a 4G? A guide that covers:

1. Gathering Time (Sunday morning)
2. Group Time (for group meetings)
3. God Times (personal and family devotions)
4. Give Time (a prompt for reflection)

- **Personal God Time:** Use these each day to dive into the passages further and challenge yourself to apply the texts.
- **Family God Time:** Use these each week to dive into the passages with your family.
- **Give Time:** Ask your group, yourself, or your family what might be a good response to the sermon or text? How are you inspired to give of your time, talent, or treasure?



## Gathering Time: Sermon Recap

### The Angels' Song

Today, Bishop preached the next message in the *Christmas Playlist* series where we examine biblical “songs” (poetic prayers of praise) about the Savior. In today’s message, Bishop preached on the Angels’ Song. The song and background can be found in **Luke 2:1-20 and John 1:1-5, 10-13.**

When young Mary and Joseph had to travel from Galilee to Bethlehem during Mary’s pregnancy to register for the Roman census, things certainly seemed less than ideal. While in Bethlehem, Mary’s time came to deliver this promised child, yet no room was found for them in the inn. Instead of a beautiful baby bed in a royal palace, the King of heaven and earth was laid in a manger—a feeding trough for animals.

Angels then appeared to shepherds guarding their flocks at night. The glory of the Lord shone around them and the shepherds were afraid. The angels told them not to fear because they had good news for the whole world. The angels announced the birth of the

Savior. They even told the shepherds where they could find this baby. They said that they would see this baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. The angels then proceeded to praise God in beautiful, joyful chorus, bringing glory to God for the Savior’s arrival, and promising peace to those with whom God is pleased--that is, those who accept this Savior.

The Angels’ Song teaches us that we, like they, must give glory to God for sending Jesus Christ. We must understand that Jesus is the only one who brings peace between God and mankind, healing our relationship from the damage done by sin when we place our trust in Him. When we know this peace, we must go and share this gospel message, like the shepherds did.

Are you in awe of God and all He has done? (Don’t lose your sense of reverence!) Do you share the joy and peace of the gospel with others? Have you experienced it for yourself? You can’t share what you don’t have. Give your heart to Him, and share His love.

## Group Time: Questions

### Conversation Starter

Ask: Have you ever enjoyed a meal or product so much that you told everyone about it? What was it?

### Discussion Questions

Choose a track, mix and match, or do them all.

- **Track 1:** What is the biblical context of the Angels' Song? Notice the reactions of all the characters.
- The angels brought good news of great joy for all the people. Do you think most nonbelievers today think of Christianity as inclusive or exclusive? How could this story give them hope?
- Share about the peace you have with God because of your relationship with Christ.

- **Track 2:** Compare Luke 2:9-10 with 1:26-30 and 1:11-13. What is the common reaction? Why?
- Bishop said, "God is our friend, but He's still God—I am not!" Do you feel a strong sense of reverence for God? When/why? How can you be more reverent?
- What do the angels teach you about proclaiming the gospel?
- **Track 3:** Read Luke 2:15-18. What two things did the shepherds do after the angels left? What was the result?
- What verses from this song resonate with you?
- Who will you share God's peace with?



### God Time: Personal

Use the sermon notes from our Gathering Time this week for your personal time with God. Use a spare notebook or your favorite device to journal your responses. Include prayer and application in your time with God!

- **Monday:** Read Luke 2:1-5. What stands out to you? Why? (Trace Mary and Joseph's journey on a Bible map if you have one.)
- **Tuesday:** Read John 1:1-5 and Luke 2:6-7. (Note: the Word is Jesus, Mary's firstborn Son.) What stands out to you? Journal about it.
- **Wednesday:** Read Luke 2:8-10. Why is it so significant that this Good News is for all the people? Why did God send the angels to *shepherds*? What does this signify?
- **Thursday:** Read Luke 2:11-14. How does the Savior bring you joy today?
- **Friday:** Read Luke 2:15-21. The shepherds shared the joy of the gospel. Who can you share the Christmas story with? When will you do this? Pray for them, then share.



### God Time: Family

Parents: Familiarize yourself with sermon recap from our Gathering Time. Sum it up in a way your child can understand.

- Consider **reading** this passage from an easy-to-read Bible version (like the ERV), or from a children's Bible.
- Give a **summary** statement like: "When Jesus was born, angels suddenly appeared to a group of shepherds who were watching their sheep at night. The angels told them that baby Jesus, the Savior, had finally been born! This was such good news! The Shepherds were so excited, they hurried to tell others that Jesus had come to save people from their sins."
- **Ask:** Should we be excited about Jesus?
- **Say:** Yes, we should be so excited that we tell others that Jesus has come!
- **Activity:** Sing the song "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" together; then talk about the good news of great joy for all the people. Who can your family share the story with?

**Give:** *How does this week's sermon inspire you to give of your time, talent, or treasure?*