

**ICEBREAKER**

What's your favorite thing to share about with others? (*Examples: your favorite restaurant, a really good sale or bargain, a fun experience you had, etc.*)

**INTRODUCTION**

Christmas reminds us that God's love isn't meant to stay in one place, but to go to the far corners of the earth. On the night Jesus was born, the shepherds didn't just receive the news—they *ran* to share it, and spread the light and joy of their Savior's birth. A light that is hidden cannot brighten a dark world. If we have experienced Jesus' love and peace, shouldn't we also share His light with others?

**READ I**

*"When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed." — Luke 2:17–18 (NIV)*

The shepherds were the first to tell the world about Jesus, even though they were ordinary, overlooked, and often seen as "unclean." It's as if God was saying: "If you think you're too ordinary for My story, think again." God's love lifts the lowly and sends the willing. The shepherds didn't wait to feel qualified; they were so moved by the Good News that they just went.

**When has God used someone "unexpected" to reach you with His love?** (*Example: a stranger's kindness, the prayer of a child, etc.*)

**READ I**

*"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love."*  
— John 15:9 (NIV)

In ancient Jewish weddings, the groom would go to prepare a home for his bride, then return to bring her home. When Jesus said, "*I go to prepare a place for you*" (John 14:2), He was using wedding language, showing that His love isn't passive but pursuing. If Jesus is our example of love, we're called to love others with that same pursuing, selfless love. Jesus didn't wait for us to get it all together; He chose to love and pursue us even in our sin.

**Where is it hardest for you to love others right now? And how does Jesus' example of love encourage you to love even when they don't deserve it?** (*Examples: choosing to extend grace to people who disappoint you, or serving when you feel drained, etc.*)

## **READ |**

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*  
— Acts 1:8 (NIV)

Jesus' overflowing love cannot be contained. It always *moves outward*, beginning with those closest to us, then like a ripple, impacts families and communities we may never meet. All it takes is the choice to love beyond ourselves and shine Jesus' light for those experiencing darkness.

**Who in your life needs love this week? And how can you go to them in love?**

(*Examples: a misunderstood family member, a difficult coworker, your spouse or kids, someone who feels unseen, etc.*)

## **WHAT WILL YOU DO?**

This week, make a conscious choice to "go" in love:

- Text encouragement to let someone know you're thinking of them.
- Do one act of kindness for someone who can't repay you.
- **Select at least one person in your life to pray for, and invite them to our Christmas services!**
- **Discuss with your Small Group when you will be meeting next, after this series.**

## **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

Dear Jesus, thank You for coming to us when we couldn't come to You. Teach us to love like You—love that forgives freely and keeps going unconditionally. Show us who to reach this week with Your love. In Your name we pray, amen.

## DAILY DEVOTION SCRIPTURES

**Day 1:** “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”  
— **Matthew 5:14–16 (NIV)**

**Day 2:** “This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him... Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”  
— **1 John 4:9–11 (NIV)**

**Day 3:** “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? ... And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”  
— **Romans 10:14–15 (NIV)**

**Day 4:** “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves... In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.”  
— **Philippians 2:3–5 (NIV)**

**Day 5:** “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you... Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.”  
— **Isaiah 60:1–3 (NIV)**