**“Multi-dimensional Peace”**

**Going deeper in Luke 2:8-15**

**INTRODUCTION** – All the people living in Israel under Rome have been ordered to go to their hometowns to be counted. Rome wanted to know how many people were there so they could have enough troops to maintain order and to make sure they were getting all their tax revenues. Joseph and Mary have gone to Bethlehem and then this happens.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, watching and guarding their flocks during the night. 9 Suddenly an angel of the LORD appeared before them and the glory of the LORD shone around them and they were overcome with fear. 10 The angel said, “Don’t be afraid. I am announcing good news of great joy that is meant for everyone worldwide who wants to follow God. 11 Right now, a Savior has been born in city of David who is the Messiah and LORD. 12 This will be your sign: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying a manager.” 13 Suddenly the angel was joined by a huge army of angels singing praises to God, 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to all men and women which is God’s good pleasure.” 15 When the angels had left them the shepherds talked it over and decided, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see what has happened which the LORD has made known to us.”

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. If you were living in a country ruled by a harsh foreign government like Israel under Rome what would you be expecting an angel to say?

2. What sign from God do you think the shepherds were expecting before this? What sign do you need from the LORD today?

3. Why does the one who is the Savior, Messiah, and LORD come as a baby? What would be different if he came as the fully glorified divine Son of God?

4. According to verse 14 who does God intend peace for?

5. What does this tell you about God’s intentions for his world?

6. What might be the connection between the glory of God and the peace of God?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the LORD Jesus for his redeeming work in all of creation.

\*Ask the LORD to give you eyes to see his glory today.

\*Ask the LORD to empower you by the Holy Spirit to be a peacemaker.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

God shows up for the shepherds and tells them some great news about God’s plans for all of creation. They made a choice to look for what God had done. Will you look for what God is doing every day this coming week?