

SESSION 1: O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

Watch the video or read the script together as a group; then discuss the following questions. Keep in mind the questions are meant to prompt conversation, so don't feel the need to use or discuss every question.

BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 2

QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 2:1-39 together. List out all the people involved in the story and how they showed their adoration for the Lord.
2. Read through the lyrics of "O Come All Ye Faithful." In your own words, what do these lyrics mean to you?
3. What do the lyrics inspire you to do? Do you feel called to worship the Lord each day? What can get in the way of our worship?
4. When you learn more about Jesus, do you feel compelled to share that with others? What can we tell others about Jesus now that the shepherds didn't realize then?
5. Jesus' birth marked a turning point in history. His appearing had an immediate impact on the shepherds and the angels. How has Jesus' appearing impacted your life?
6. Just as the shepherds, we are called to praise our God along with the hosts of angels. Besides singing, how can you express your adoration to Him?
7. We read in Luke 2 that the angel told the shepherds that a Savior, Christ the Lord, was born, and that they would find the Babe lying in a manger – which is an open box in which food for livestock is placed. What does this tell us about the nature of Jesus Christ? Knowing this, how are we to come to the Lord in worship?
8. **PERSONAL TAKE-HOME:** When was the last time you sat in silent adoration of God? Take 5 minutes this week to sit in awe and worship Him.

[illegible]

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

(originally written in Latin by John Francis Wade, often also credited with the composition of the tune, in the 18th century)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him born, the King of angels:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin’s womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above:
“Glory to God in the highest.”
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Handwriting practice lines for the lyrics.

SCRIPT & ADDITIONAL CONTEXT

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The season of Advent is meant to focus our attention on the coming of Jesus to earth. But as we continue our look at Christmas carols, there is one that talks about a different coming, directed toward God's people: O Come, All Ye Faithful.

Let's read the first verse: *O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold Him born the King of angels: O come let us adore Him... Christ the Lord.*

This invitation to come, all ye faithful places us among the shepherds who rushed to see the Christ child. Let's read about their experience in Luke 2:

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

After they hear the invitation of the angels, the shepherds do not stop and consider, but respond at once and with haste. Here is something more important than their everyday lives, than their responsibilities, than their livelihood. Not only do they go to the manger to see the baby, but then, they go and tell others. What is our response to the call to worship Christ the Lord?

The last verse tells us that the *shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen...* Yes, the shepherds returned to their fields, but they were changed. They had seen the Messiah, there was good news to share, there was a song of thanksgiving to sing to God.

This excerpt from Luke 2 also gives us another example, a different sort of response: *But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.* What was Mary pondering? What had God done in her life? What wonders had she seen? Perhaps as we are prompted to adore Him, our response is reflective as Mary's was. What all has God done for me? How can I express my adoration to Him? Do we take the time in our busy hustle of the Christmas season to meditate on our Savior?

The third verse of our carol reminds us again of the angels' proclamation that night: *Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above: "Glory to God in highest."* What a sight that must have been! Not only one angel, but a multitude of the heavenly host praising God. When God intervenes in the lives of humans, it's a supernatural event. This is also reflected in the last verse where it says, *Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing...* God sent His Son to the earth to fulfill the Scriptures and for our salvation. When we contemplate what God has done for us, how can we not come and adore Him? How can we do anything but worship Him and the Son that He sent?

Whether the invitation to come and behold Him prompts us to act like the shepherds, or to reflect like Mary, both propel us to marvel at and worship our Savior and Redeemer. Both responses draw us into His presence and both should leave us changed.