

5. Re-read the angel's message looking for and listing other doctrines that are addressed in his message.

6. How do these doctrines enrich your understanding of God and of your life?

7. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

### **Missional Application**

We are agents of redemption in God's unfolding story.

### **Christ Connection**

Jesus came to a people who knew they were part of a bigger story but needed to prepare for his coming by turning from their rebellion and returning to God

## **Angels We Have Heard - Part 1 (Advent 2018)**

"What Angels Deliver That We Desperately Need"

Luke 1:5-25

We don't always know what we desperately need.

"Angels are not screen extras in the cosmic drama; they are indispensable messengers who reveal why the birth of Jesus truly is good news of great joy." (Michael Heiser)

It's even more than the message or words the angels deliver that's vitally important; their very presence in the story should change our perspective on our daily lives.

### **What Angels Deliver That We Desperately Need**

#### **1. Wonder**

A world without God or gods is a world without hope if you look at the reality of the "inevitables" of this life.

For those who get a good roll of the dice, living in a world without God or gods is often marked by chronic boredom.

A world without God or gods is also a world without a moral compass.

Even as believers, we often lack wonder and, to some degree, buy into this disenchanted perspective.

The angels bring a sense of wonder that says, 'This is not all there is.' Their message blows up our dull, small worlds and invites us to something full of wonder.

We can easily rob ourselves of the wonder this season can renew in our lives. All it takes is to allow all the other aspects of Christmas from shopping to making gifts lists for ourselves to entertaining to dominate our lives.

## 2. Doctrine

Doctrine is a statement or explanation of what the Bible teaches on any particular subject.

Two doctrines the angel delivers that we desperately need to hear:

- God speaks to us (Luke 1:19)
- Family is important to God (Luke 1:17)

## 3. Story

We need a better story.

Advent abounds with this larger story and doesn't make sense apart from the story of creation and alienation and rescue the Bible tells. And we are part of that story, a story of redemption that's still unfolding in history.

## 4. Direction

- Direction for our lives is found in the wonder.
- Direction for our lives is found in the doctrine.
- Direction for our lives is in the story.

### Family Discussion Questions

1. What do you think angels look like?
2. Angels are messengers of God. They are spirits but often appear as people and deliver important messages. What is the important message the angel Gabriel shares with Zechariah? (Read Luke 1:5-25)
3. We only have a few stories of God communicating through angels. What are some of the other ways God usually speaks to us?

### Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read Luke 1:5-25. What are some of the ways the disenchanting perspective of our world creeps into your own life and perspective?
3. Where do you see the results of a world without God or gods in the lives of people you know or in the daily news?
4. How can you recover the wonder of the reality of God and the unseen world in your daily life?