

“Leaving the Field” Group Guide

Series: The Journey of Christmas

Passage: Luke 2:8-20

Speaker: Pastor Ryan Paulson

Date: December 14, 2025

ICEBREAKER: Briefly share about one of the best gifts that you have ever received.



Learning His Way: *Discovering the Way of Jesus*

1. Read Luke 2:8-20 out loud together. What words or phrases stand out to you? What questions do you have?
2. The shepherds receive revelation in the field, but transformation happens when they *go and see*. Do you notice a space in your life between hearing from God and actually stepping out in obedience? If so, briefly explain.
3. Jesus enters the world quietly—in a manger, not a palace. What does this story teach us about *where* God tends to reveal Himself and *how* we might miss Him if we’re looking only for the dramatic or impressive?



Forming His Heart: *How is God shaping my character and helping me to Grow?*

4. The angel’s command is not “fix your fear,” but “behold.” What fears currently shape your habits, pace, or relationships—and what might it look like to intentionally *gaze* at Jesus in the midst of them? What is he inviting you to behold?
5. The shepherds were outsiders, yet they were the first invited. Where do you struggle to believe that God’s invitation is truly *for you*—and how might receiving His presence there begin to heal shame or self-protection?



Joining His Mission: *What is God calling me/us to do?*

6. After encountering Jesus, the shepherds return to ordinary life—but not as ordinary people. How might God be inviting you to re-enter your everyday rhythms (work, family, neighborhood) with a renewed sense of calling that comes from beholding Jesus?

7. The shepherds become witnesses simply by telling what they had seen and heard. Who might God be inviting you to share your joy and hope with—not through pressure or persuasion, but through honest testimony of what He is doing in you?



Closing Prayer:

Pray that each person in your group would experience intimate presence with Jesus throughout their time with family and friends during this season.

For further practice this week:

1. Pause & Behold (Daily)

Each day, take 2–3 minutes of stillness.

Silence your phone, breathe slowly, and picture the manger.

Gently pray: “Jesus, help me behold You.”

Notice what fear or noise begins to loosen.

2. Name the Field

Ask yourself: Where am I tempted to stay because it feels safe or familiar?

Write it down. No fixing—just honest awareness before God.

3. Take One Small Step

Choose one simple, concrete action that moves you toward trust:

- an honest conversation
- a moment of rest instead of busyness
- asking for help
- releasing control in one area

Obedience can be small—and still transformative.

4. Practice Presence

Pay attention to the “mangers” of your ordinary life this week (dishes, commute, work, waiting)

Whisper: “God, You are here.”

5. Share Joy

Before your next group gathering, share briefly with one person what you noticed.

Joy grows when it’s spoken.