

I. ME

- A. Welcome / Online / So what about
- B. Christmas programs...
 1. Kids dressing up...
 2. Kids playing star wars or fireman sam.
- C. What's that all about?
 1. How come they never dress up as pastor or insurance salesperson?
- D. What did you dress up as?

II. WE

- A. **Nobody wants to be ordinary.**
 1. Don't believe me? Check your friends' SM posts.
 2. How many posts about ordinary routine?
 3. "Just a picture of me checking FB for the 12th time this morning."
 4. Why we resisted or still resist getting that minivan.
- B. I think that desire comes from wanting to know are special... Knowing that we matter more than just another face in a crowd.
 1. Even if you're an introvert... you want people to know you, see the real you... that you aren't just ordinary.
 2. We want to know our life and existence have meaning.
 3. That we are valued and appreciated... accepted.
 4. It's something deep down in us that is hard to put our finger on...

- C. Last 2 weeks we've been talking about ordinary life...
 1. With God the extraordinary and the ordinary exist hand in hand everyday.
 2. God uses our ordinary to bring about the extraordinary that he is preparing behind the scenes.
 3. All of this points to and hinges on what we're looking at tonight.
- D. We are going to look at some of the most ordinary, faceless people to ever exist...
 1. Ancient Middle Eastern shepherds.
 2. See that the story of Jesus' birth proves that **there is no such thing as an ordinary life.**

III. GOD (Luke 2:8-20)

A. Luke

B. V. 8

1. **Shepherds-** The most ordinary of the ordinary.
2. Not those cute little ones on the cards
3. Day in day out same thing, in the same place, that their family had done for at least 1000 yrs. - King David.
4. Usually youngest son with no chance for advancement
5. Not a lot of purpose to life... sheep don't really change the world
6. Just plain, ordinary, hardworking men taking care of their families.

C. V. 9

1. Terrified?
2. Probably just got done telling the type of joke you don't want angels to hear... "...if you know what I mean..." BOOM! Angel! Oh crap!
3. Apparently angels are terrifying... nobody is ever calm when they show up

D. V. 10-14

1. So much about this is just weird.
2. The fact that this ancient historian says... "Everything I'm telling you is the truth" and then talks about angels is weird enough...
 - a. Won't really get into angels... **if Jesus/then me too.**
3. But if there really were angels, and they were telling the truth (why would they lie)...
 - a. Then it's still really weird.
4. "Good news, cause great joy for all the people"
 - a. Shepherds ears would have meant all of the Jewish people (expanded to all of humanity)
5. If that's the case... why aren't the angels telling ALL THE PEOPLE?
 - a. Why just these few shepherds?
6. "The Savior, the Messiah, the Lord is born"
7. The culmination of the promise God gave their founding ancestor Abraham, the whole point of their religion has happened!
 - a. Why not announce it at the temple to the **priests** or the **religious leaders** who had all of the Jewish Scriptures memorized?

8. The promised king (descendent of the great David) is here.
 - a. Why not appear to the **king** or even the **emperor** or at least the pagan **governor** ruling over God's chosen people?
9. Why are the angels appearing to these nobodies in the middle of nowhere?
10. And it's not like God had all the other angels busy telling other people around the world what had happened and decided to through these shepherds a bone...
 - a. He pulls out all the stops... this huge army of angels singing Glory to God...
 - b. Peace between God and humanity!
 - c. The whole thing is done for a group of nobodies doing nothing.

E. **It doesn't make sense... why these shepherds?**

1. Well **first** of all...
 - a. God has a soft spot for shepherds.
 - b. He describes himself as a shepherd
 - c. He often used shepherds to lead his people... Moses and David
 - d. Jesus called himself the Good shepherd.
 - e. Something about the way shepherds took care of their sheep and the way they thought that God wants us to see him as.

2. 2nd

- a. Who would you rather party with... a bunch of snooty religious scholars, some narcissistic power hungry politicians, or some good ol' down to earth shepherds?
- b. Exactly... **God likes to party with people who like to party...** that's a theological fact. Read the Gospels.

3. But **third**...
 - a. These aren't ordinary nobodies.
 - b. Yes to everyone else there was nothing extraordinary about the shepherds
 - c. They probably saw *themselves* as nothing special.
 - d. To God, they were extremely important and valuable.
 - e. Everything the angels talked about was happening FOR them... b/c God loved people just like them so much that he was making a way for them to know him.
 - f. GOD- "I know you! I see you. I love you. So I've done something FOR you! Here's what it means! I know it's too good to be true... here's how you'll know it is true."
 - g. The world might never know your name but the God who made the world calls you by name.

F. V. 15-20

1. Not only did God personally see these shepherds and tell them what he was doing
2. He gave them any extraordinary purpose too!
3. God used them to encourage Joseph and Mary who probably were starting to have some heavy doubts, worries, and sleep deprivation.
4. Used them to be the first people to tell about the importance and meaning of Jesus being born.
5. And everyone who heard it was amazed... started hoping that maybe its true.
6. God used them to change lives and begin the process that would change the world.

7. Doesn't sound very ordinary to me.
 8. How ordinary could they be if the God who created the universe...
 - a. Knew who they were,
 - b. Made a point to tell them he was FOR them,
 - c. And then gave them a personal mission?
 9. Like getting a phone call from your favorite president, being invited to the white house, and personally given a mission that would help save humanity.
 10. That's anything but ORDINARY!
- G. With God there is no ordinary.

IV. YOU (I want to attempt being as note-less as possible here.)

- A. You might think you're ordinary
 1. Just a mom, kid, bookkeeper, teacher,...
- B. The story of the first Christmas shows that **you are more than just a "just a ."**

C. You are known

1. Matt 10:29-31

2. The world might not ever know your name. But the God who made the world calls you by name.

D. You are infinitely valuable

1. GOSPEL

2. Worth is determined by how much someone is willing to pay

E. Your life has a purpose

1. A purpose that is so much bigger than you
2. What does trust and love look like?
3. **The extraordinary usually looks pretty ordinary at first glance.**

4. Children's workers

V. WE

- A. Nobody wants to be ordinary
1. And the good news is... with Jesus there's no such thing as ordinary.

B. If God sent an angel to you tonight and said...

1. "God says to you (YOUR NAME HERE)..."
2. I know you. I am on the edge of my seat watching you like you watch your kids' games.
3. You are worth more to me than every star in the universe.
4. And I made YOU on purpose for a purpose... and I am cheering you on as you take each daily step in fulfilling that purpose."

C. Would your day tomorrow be any different than yesterday?

1. Would you talk to your spouse differently?
2. Would you handle your kids moods and choices differently?
3. Would you go about your work and responsibilities differently?
4. Would you use your time differently?

D. That's the point of Christmas.

1. In the most ordinary of places, surrounded by the most ordinary of circumstances, and using the most ordinary people...
2. God broke into our world and brought us the most extraordinary gift.
3. Jesus.
4. Proof that he sees us and loves us.
5. He gave us the ability to break out of our ordinary and have a life of being known, valued, and having purpose.

E. Because of Jesus, ordinary life never has to be ordinary again.

How I envision the notes going...

Nobody wants to be ordinary.

There is no such thing as an ordinary life.

You are more than just a “just a .”

You are known

- **The world might not ever know your name. But the God who made the world calls you by name.**

You are infinitely valuable

- **Worth is determined by how much someone is willing to pay**

Your life has a purpose

- **The extraordinary usually looks pretty ordinary at first glance.**

Because of Jesus, ordinary life never has to be ordinary again.