



WHEN YOU FEEL ORDINARY OR UNWANTED BY GOD

WEEKLY ACTION STEP

Identify and write down in your journal one area where you need God's help this week with something that you can't do on your own. Take time in prayer to ask God for His help.

BIG IDEA

God meets us in our most ordinary moments—to meet our most extraordinary needs.

SCRIPTURE

Read Luke 2:4-18

OPENER

I haven't really been thinking about God because I was thinking about _____.

QUESTIONS

1. Pastor John mentions that frequently other things get in our way when thinking about God. What helps keep you focused on God and helps minimize distractions? (see Colossians 3:1-3)
2. In Luke 2:10, the angel of the Lord tells the shepherds, "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people." Of all the people that the angels could have visited, why do you think God sent them to the shepherds?
3. Have you experienced something during this pandemic season that you couldn't do by yourself? How did you see God work in an extraordinary way in that situation?
4. Pastor John said that the shepherds who raised the sheep for the sacrifice were not allowed into the temple. Have you ever felt or been made to feel by others that you were too dirty to be in God's presence? How should you reevaluate that feeling based on Luke 2:8-14?
5. Robbie Brandkampf's mission field is in a refugee camp in Greece. Where is your mission field in Indiana or wherever you reside? Who is the object of your efforts to spread the word concerning Jesus? If you are not currently sharing Jesus with others, what step(s) do you need to take? Share
6. In what ways is God inviting you into the extraordinary today? How do you need to respond?



TAKEAWAY

- God meets you where you feel too dirty or unqualified.
- God invites you into the extraordinary.
- God sends you with His Good News that brings great joy for all people.

REFERENCES

Luke 2:4-18

John 1:29b

Colossians 3:1-3

1 John 1:7-10

DIGGING DEEPER

1. How does the shepherds' experience with the angels compare to that of Zechariah (Luke 1:8-9) and Mary (Luke 1:26-27)?
2. The Jewish word *shalom* is defined as peace, but shalom means much more than a respite from the battles of life. It means well-being, health, prosperity, security, soundness and completeness. It has more to do with our character than our circumstances. Life was difficult at the time Jesus was born, just as it is today. Identify and list parallels in today's culture as in Israel at the birth of Jesus. The government, Greek philosophy and even Jewish religion did not meet the needs of the people's hearts. What was God's response to the circumstances surrounding the people and the condition of their heart?
3. In the sermon there was discussion of how difficult it is for people to see God when their physical needs aren't being met. How does this help you understand the deeper need for caring for the poor and disenfranchised in Jesus' name?
4. The angels said that Jesus' birth was good news (the Gospel) of great joy for all people. It's easy to think of the Gospel as a message to those like us, people that we know. How do we give that message of good news to people different than us, even those openly fearful or angry with us?