

## Unvarnished Christmas - Week 3: Come Near

Sunday, December 10, 2023

### 1. God \_\_\_\_\_ near.

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 1:14 (NIV)

### 2. God \_\_\_\_\_ us near.

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters... Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you."

Isaiah 55:1a, 3a

"Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life."

Revelation 22:17b (NLT)

### 3. The call in the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### A. Those \_\_\_\_\_ by.

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night."

Luke 2:8-20 (NIV)

#### B. Those \_\_\_\_\_.

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?'"

Matthew 2:1-2a (NIV)

### 4. \_\_\_\_\_ God calls.

#### A. D \_\_\_\_\_.

"An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:9-11 (NIV)

#### B. I \_\_\_\_\_.

"We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him"

Matthew 2:2b (NIV)

### 5. \_\_\_\_\_ to the call.

"When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' <sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger."

Luke 2:15-16 (NIV)

"After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary..."

Matthew 2:9-11a (NIV)

### 6. Response R \_\_\_\_\_.

#### A. Joyful W \_\_\_\_\_.

"The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told."

Luke 2:20 (NIV)

"... and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh."

Matthew 2:11b (NIV)

#### B. S \_\_\_\_\_.

"When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."

Luke 2:17-18 (NIV)

#### \* Sharing \_\_\_\_\_.

"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

John 16:33 (NLT)

#### \* Sharing the \_\_\_\_\_.

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."

Romans 12:15 (NIV)

#### \* Sharing our \_\_\_\_\_.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

1 John 1:7 (NIV)