

God is: PRAISEWORTHY!

As we read Luke 2 telling attribute of God almost **PRAISEWORTHY!** What does means **“to be worshipped,** continuing the Christmas about Mary and Joseph), example of **PRAISING** God! and familiar story of the birth



about Jesus’s birth, our next jumps off the page! **God is** it mean to be **“praiseworthy?”** It **honored, and adored”!** We are story (the past two weeks we read which provides us with a great Let’s continue then with the loved of Our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Scripture lesson: **Luke 2:1-20** **The Birth of Jesus**

Memory verse: **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests!” Luke 2:14**

Thinking about it: Our Bible story for today tells the incredible account of Jesus’s birth! We ALL know this story—it is the centerpiece of our faith and this Christmas season. God became human and came to us as a baby who would grow up to be the Messiah, Our Savior, Jesus Christ. It is so wonderful to hear again the story of when He came into the world. I would like us to stop and think about it from a different perspective. We often overlook just HOW anticipated Jesus’s arrival was to those who waited for Him. Prophets and teachers and regular people yearned for the day when the Messiah would come. The writers throughout the Old Testament gave readers signs and symbols to watch for that would point to the coming Savior. The people were hoping and waiting for Him.



In the story, however, it is clear that it wasn’t just PEOPLE who were expecting Jesus to come. The ANGELS were also longing for the Messiah to arrive! And when Jesus was born, an angel of the Lord announced His birth to shepherds in the fields, ***“Do not be afraid! I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people! Today, in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10)*** And then our text says a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, ***praising*** God and saying, ***“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests!” (Luke 2:14)*** Can

you imagine the amazement of the shepherds when they saw and heard this astonishing sight in the sky! The angels themselves sang **praises** to God for sending His Son, Jesus, into the world! They immediately worshipped God for His gift of love and grace in this special baby!

When the shepherds heard the good news they hurried to find Mary and Joseph and worship Jesus. Afterwards they spread the word about what they had witnessed, and then they

“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) Again, those who received and shared the good news of Jesus’s birth **PRAISED GOD!** And we can too! **God is PRAISEWORTHY!**

Questions to ponder:

- How would you have responded to seeing and hearing the good news of Jesus’s birth from a HUGE group of angels?
- Why were the angels and shepherds so excited to praise God?
- Why do we praise God?
- What are ways we can praise God?

Video suggestions:

“The Christmas Story: Luke 2: 1-20” (clip from ***The Nativity Story***) a short video showing scenes from ***The Nativity Story*** set to Luke 2:1-20.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCKpwaRxlww>

The Christ Child: A Nativity Story #Light the World—a 17 minute short movie depicting the Luke 2 story, SO BEAUTIFULLY DONE!! (Not in English)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXWoKi5x3lw&list=TLPQMTYxMjlwMjDGwFa6y8mvVQ&index=4>

Suggested activities:

- Taking a cue from the second video suggestion, which ends with the verse from Acts 10:38, stating that Jesus went about doing good, I encourage you all to find ways to love and serve others during this Christmas season and beyond! Try to do good for others—family, friends, or neighbors—and do so without them knowing it was you! This deeply pleases God and shows Him praise in an unexpected way!
- Take time during this Christmas season to find ways to PRAISE GOD! Thank Him for the blessings in your life. Sing Christmas carols and praise Him! Stop and notice all the ways that God shows His love for you, beginning with the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ!

Prayer:

Great and God, You are worthy of our praise! We are so thankful for Your gift to us, Your Son Jesus Christ! Help us to focus on the joy and wonder of this season, so that we might sing praises to You, just like the angels and shepherds did when Jesus was born! In Jesus name we pray, AMEN.