

JESUS CAME TO FREE US
December 18, 2023 • Luke 2:8-14
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INTRODUCTION:

A. Fear is an emotion we don't associate with Christmas — unless you're just now realizing that you forgot to get a present for your mother-in-law!

Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy all to all people."
— Luke 2:9-10

B. What causes fear?

- F.E.A.R. False Evidence Appearing Real

C. One thing does lead to another:

- Triggering event
- Emotional response
- Internal conversation
- Chosen response

D. God's here!?

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. — Romans 3:23

- Do we respond like the shepherds when God shows up?
- It is "Good News," not bad news, that Jesus has come.

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. God sent His Son into the world not to condemn the world but to save the world through Him. — John 3:16-17

I. JESUS CAME SO THAT WE COULD KNOW THE REAL GOD

A. How do you picture God?

B. Some people have some fearful images of God.....

C. Who is God really?

- All-knowing (Proverbs 15:3)
- All-powerful (Isaiah 46:10-11)
- All-present (Psalm 139:7-12)
- All-loving (I John 4:7-11)

II. JESUS CAME SO WE CAN KNOW THE GOD WE BELIEVE IN

A. Christmas declares that God made the first move!

This is real love — not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. — I John 4:10

B. Moving from fear to joy:

- It is matter of **knowledge**
 - God's purpose for us is peace and life (Romans 5:1)

° Sin has separated us from God's purpose (Romans 3:23)

° Jesus Christ enables us to be in relationship with God again (I Peter 3:18)

- It is a matter of **believing**

But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.

— John 1:12

- It is a matter of **receiving**

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in...

— Revelation 3:20

CONCLUSION: