The First Noel

Christmas Playlist | Week 1
Nate Marsh| November 29, 2026

1. Shepherding Was Demanding, Low-Status Work
2. Shepherds Often Worked Through the Night
3. Their Sheep May Have Been Used for Temple Sacrifices
4. The Shepherds Were in the Same Region Where David Had Tended Sheep

1. THE _____: Good News for Everyone

Luke 2:10-11

Savior. Messiah. Lord.

- Savior means humanity needs rescuing.
- Messiah means God is fulfilling His promises.
- Lord means this child is more than an ordinary baby.

2. THE _____: Great Joy in Every Season

There's an important difference between happiness and joy.

- Happiness is often connected to what's happening around us.
- Joy is grounded in who God is and what He has done for us.

Nehemiah 8:10

The name Immanuel, connected to the promise in Isaiah 7:14, means "God with us."

3. THE _____: Good News That Demands a Response

Luke 2:15-17

Questions for Further Study

1. Icebreaker / Team Building: What's your favorite Christmas song, and what memories or traditions does it bring to mind?

2. Read Luke 2:8–11. God chose ordinary shepherds to receive the announcement of Jesus' birth. What does this reveal about God's character and the people He chooses to use?

3. Read Romans 5:8 and Ephesians 2:8–9. The angel announced that a Savior had been born "to you." Why is it sometimes easier to believe God loves others than to personally accept His love and grace?

4. Read Luke 2:10 and James 1:2–4. The angels promised great joy, not an easier life. How is biblical joy different from happiness, and how can we experience that joy when life is difficult?

5. Read Luke 2:15–17 and James 1:22. The shepherds immediately responded to what God revealed to them. What sometimes keeps us from acting on what God is calling us to do?

6. Personal Reflection: The shepherds couldn't keep the good news to themselves. Who is someone you could share the hope of Jesus with this Christmas, and what practical step could you take this week?