



## **“Low” & Behold: Behold | December 26, 2018**

### **Discussion Guide**

#### **The Scoop**

Christmas always comes and goes way too fast. But what if we could make it last even longer? Hear more about how this could work in your life below.

#### **Key Verses**

##### **Luke 2:8-12 (NIV)**

*“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”*

#### **Discussion**

The few weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, we are all bombarded with big announcements from companies trying to sell us their products. It's either the “Biggest Sale EVER” or “Don't Miss It!” We do the same thing when we want to announce things in our life as well. We don't want anyone to miss it. And as it turns out, an announcement is a huge part of the Christmas story.

1. Have you felt bombarded by big announcements this year?
2. When you make an announcement, either personal or professional, do you do it this way? Why might this be so? Why do we so desperately want people to pay attention to us?

Back when you were a kid, you probably wished that Christmas happened every day of the year. As an adult, you might still wish it could last even just a little while longer. We get so excited, and then it's gone before we know it. The truth is, it's not that hard to make the spirit of Christmas last. If we were only to possess the Christmas story in the way that God tells it, as a beautiful announcement of the birth of a savior, we could carry it with us all year long.

3. What about Christmas makes you wish it lasted a little while longer?
4. Do you feel like you possess the Christmas story in your heart all year long? Why or why not?

In Luke 2:8-12, an angel shows up to bring God's message to shepherds out in their fields. The angel tells them good news; that the savior of the world has come. They are terrified, but the angel reassures them not only in their present fear, but also to assure that they are included. This savior is for them. The Christmas story isn't meant for just December 25. This is the story of God coming to Earth in human form because he loved us so much he couldn't stay away.

5. Why do you think the angel showed up to the shepherds, of all people?
6. What is it about the Christmas story that makes it so significant? Why should we carry it with us every day and not just December 25<sup>th</sup>?

#### **What's Next?**

Behold, something awesome has happened. Christmas is the most beautiful story of the greatest news we could ever hear. The angel appears to the socially low, the shepherds, to make a statement. A savior has come, and he is for all people. Even the poor, the marginalized, and the outcasts. There is nobody who is too broken, too low, too dirty, too gross, or too screwed up to experience His love.

This week, as you live out your faith and enter into a new year, carry that message. Walk around regularly and tell people about a God who loves them even when they don't deserve it. Continue to live a life and use your words to share the good news. Take one act in the next week to start a habit of living Christmas beyond the day. Tell one person this week that they are loved, or forgive someone who doesn't deserve it.