

# Four Opportunities for the New Year

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*Like the shepherds (Luke 2:16-20)*

## **Speak about the good news we experience.**

- Tell one friend about one thing God's fingerprints were on last week.
- Smile at three people you see today. If they say, "You're in a good mood", tell them about this assignment to be a shepherd. Or just thank them.
- Tell one person that you've been praying for that you've been praying for them.

*Like Mary (Luke 2:19)*

## **Reflect on the unfolding story of God.**

- Give yourself 15 minutes a day without any new messages coming in.
- Ask, "God, could you help me see a pattern in your work?"
- Look at a patch of nature. Think about how it is affected by the seasons. Then think about how there may be seasons in relationships or other parts of your life.

*Like Mary and Joseph (Luke 2:21)*

## **Obey the directions we've been given.**

- Obedience often means, "doing what you've been doing". What do you regularly do because it is loving God with your reasoning, your emotional responses and your actions?
- Obedience also means, "putting into practice what you know." What is something you've been afraid to act on? What would be a first step?
- Is there something you keep trying to do that actually was intended for someone else? (Remember, not all babies are supposed to be named Jesus. Just Mary and Joseph's.)

*Like Paul told the Galatians (Galatians 4:4-7)*

## **Live as children, not as slaves**

- When you read this, does your mind say, "But Paul talked about being considering yourself a slave"? Write [jon@socialmediachaplain.com](mailto:jon@socialmediachaplain.com) and ask for clarification.
- What would be the best things about being a child of God?
- Do you worry that Dad is mad at you? Why? Have you asked him about it?

