

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 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?

