

TO GO

1. How do you typically respond when bad things happen, whether caused by you or someone else? Why do you think many people tend to retreat and cover up when they experience these kinds of trials?
2. Read Luke 2:8–14. What do you observe about the context for the announcement by the angel? To whom is he speaking? How does this encourage you?
3. What does the angel say specifically about the Messiah's arrival? Why is this good news? How does this good news compare with what the world might typically think of as good news?
4. Why is it significant in v14 that the first thing the angel choir sings about is the glory of God? What can we apply from that example in our own relationship with God? What does it say about God's priorities and our priorities?
5. Read Luke 2:14 again. How does the concept of *Pax Romana* influence our thinking about this passage? In what ways does our world need peace these days? In what ways do you need peace?
6. Read Romans 5:1–2. Linger on each individual phrase and respond to each one in prayer, being sure to thank God for the peace that he offers through Christ.