



***The Silence Was Broken by the
Voice of an Angel***
Date: 12/04/2016

Pray Together

Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

Read Together

For 400 years, the people of God had experienced prophetic silence. From a human perspective, questions abounded, greater and more complex than ever before. Had the God, who revealed Himself as the covenant-keeping Creator of all things, broken His promises? Removed His blessing from His people? Abandoned them all together?

But from the Divine perspective, the Triune God had been actively preparing His creation to receive a new and living word. Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God had spoken by His prophets, but now God the Father would speak by His Son (Hebrews 1:1-4).

God was breaking the silence and divinely ordaining messengers to proclaim the incarnation of His Living Word.

Discuss Together

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.

- God used angels to proclaim the incarnation of Jesus. The incarnation is the theological belief that God appeared in human form and took upon Himself full humanity. By living a fully human life, Jesus revealed God the Father to His creation and poured out the Holy Spirit upon those who trusted Him. Read the following passages and discuss why Christ's incarnation matters.
 - Luke 1:26-38
 - John 1:1-18
 - Philippians 2:5-11
 - Hebrews 4:14-5:10
- Why do Christians insist that the incarnation is an essential theological belief? How is the incarnation evidenced in a passage like Romans 5?



- God uses angels as servants to carry out some of His plans on earth. One of their servant roles is to bring God’s message to His people (Luke 1-2). Hebrews 1-2 outline Jesus’s superiority over the angels. Using Hebrews 1-2 as your guide, discuss some of the reasons that Jesus is superior to angels.
- Oftentimes the miraculous—that which appears to be impossible to mankind—leaves God’s people with disbelief and confusion. And throughout Scripture God uses His angels to provide divine perspective on how He is working. In Luke 1:11-17, Gabriel provides Zechariah with divine perspective about his son who is to be born. Identify some of the truths about the son who is to be born. Do you find yourself sympathetic or critical of Zechariah's response of unbelief (Luke 1:18-22)? Why?
- In periods of doubt and uncertainty, how does a disciple of Christ find assurance and peace? Identify passages of Scripture that support your answers. Share a time when God ministered assurance and peace when you were facing uncertainty.
- God has broken His silence. How should the Body of Christ “go there” with this message? How do you personally need to “go there” with this message?

There were thus two things which the Savior did for us by becoming Man. He banished death from us and made us anew; and, invisible and imperceptible as in Himself He is, He became visible through His works and revealed Himself as the Word of the Father, the Ruler and King of the whole creation.
—Athanasius, On The Incarnation

Pray Together

Pray through John 1:9-13. Jesus, the True Light, enlightens everyone. Celebrate Him!

