

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

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# SERMON SERIES

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TRUSTED | BIBLICAL | FIELD-TESTED

Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students to proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, and biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series are exactly what you're looking for!

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete detailed sermon outlines, discussion questions, and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

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## SERIES OVERVIEW FOR GOOD NEWS, GREAT JOY, ALL PEOPLE: Remembering the Impact of Christmas

As our culture looks to live faster and faster, we can often get caught up in the hustle and hurry of the holiday season and forget the purpose behind the things we say and do. Christmas can become just another routine with no real impact on our lives. In order to grasp the significance of Jesus's arrival on Earth, we must slow down and remember that Christmas is more than a one-night event. It's the long-awaited fulfillment of God's promise to His people.

## "GOOD NEWS, GREAT JOY, ALL PEOPLE" COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **Session 1 – Fear Not (Luke 2:10)** | This world is full of things that strike fear and anxiety in us. But what if we asked ourselves how Jesus’s arrival addresses our fear problem? We’d see that because Jesus has come to be with us, we no longer have to be slaves to our fear.
- **Session 2 – Behold (Luke 2:10)** | We may not realize it, but we behold many things – people, dreams, or ourselves. When the shepherds are told to behold the coming of the Savior, they are invited to observe the power and glory of God. We are given that same invitation and should therefore behold Jesus because He has come to save us from our sins.
- **Session 3 – Good News (Luke 2:10)** | In a world riddled with bad news, it’s tempting to strive to do good things that improve our world, but we always seem to come up too short. It’s easy to forget that, in Jesus, God has given us good news that overcomes everything else that surrounds us. The Gospel is good news because Jesus did for us what we could never do for ourselves.
- **Session 4 – Great Joy (Luke 2:10)** | Most of us can recite by heart what Jesus saves us *from*, but what about what He saves us *to*? It can be easy to believe that our faith is only about the future, but that leaves our present pretty gloomy. However, because the Holy Spirit lives and works in us, we have access to great joy every day.
- **Session 5 – All People (Luke 2:10)** | We can sometimes believe that we aren’t worthy of Jesus’ love because of something we’ve done or the sin in our lives. While it can be easy to disqualify ourselves from being saved, the Gospel truth is that Jesus came to save all people from their sins. Jesus’s arrival shows that God’s plan from the beginning has been the redemption of all people.

## "GOOD NEWS, GREAT JOY, ALL PEOPLE" IS PART OF YM360’S SERMON SERIES LINE OF RESOURCES AND IS IDEAL FOR:

- Any large group setting
- Mid-week youth service
- “Master teacher” format

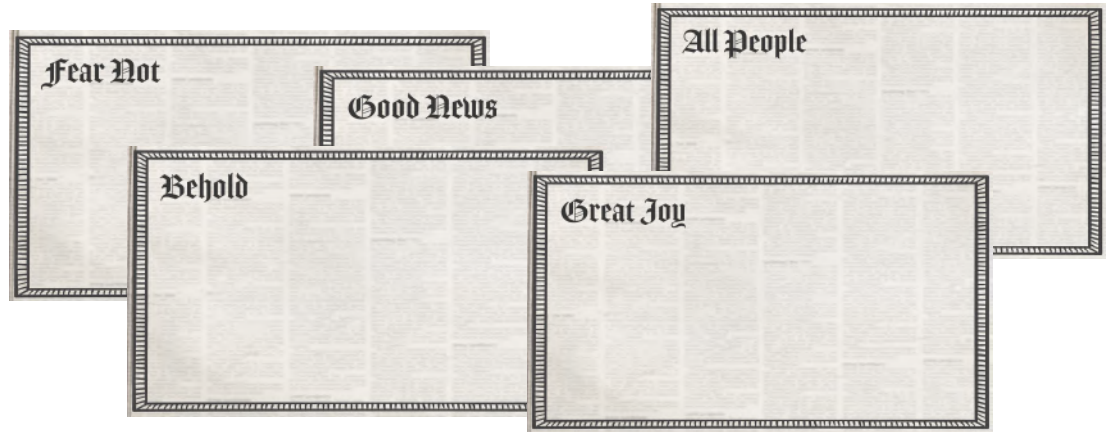
# BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

## EVERY SERMON SERIES FROM YM360 COMES WITH:

- **Detailed Sermon Outlines** – Every Sermon Series comes with detailed sermon outlines. Teach them "as is" or adapt them to suit your specific ministry context.
- **Discussion questions** – Questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives. You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go.
- **Title and Background slides** – These are designed to be dropped into your favorite presentation software to help you build a creative environment around your sermon. Use them as a backdrop for song lyrics, Scripture passages, teaching points, and any illustrations you choose to display.
- **Artwork for promo and social media** – Social media images, web banners, and a printable poster file are included. Perfect for newsletters, websites, social media platforms, or print them off for posters and bulletin inserts.
- **Logo (including native logo design files)** – We include a logo file and the native design files to allow you to use the logo in ways you see fit.
- **100% downloadable and adaptable**

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

**BACKGROUND AND TITLE SLIDES**



**PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK**



**INSTAGRAM IMAGES**



**LOGO TREATMENT**



NOTE: Each YM360 Sermon Series also comes with the native files of the logo in case you want to replicate the design for other uses.

## **Good News, Great Joy, All People Sermon Series | Session 1: Fear Not**

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**How To Use A YM360 Sermon Series** | YM360 Sermon Series are designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. Each series download provides various elements such as a detailed sermon outline, suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you can use to craft a message that speaks to your students in your specific context.

This series download also includes discussion questions that can be used to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Make sure to leverage the series logo, title slide, background slides, and social media artwork this YM360 Sermon Series provides for promotion and message support. We've even included the native design files to allow you the freedom to use the logo in any way that meets your needs.

This YM360 Sermon Series was created to be suitable for all types of churches and ministry environments. It was intentionally designed to provide you with everything you need while also allowing you the freedom to make it fit your particular ministry context. Nobody knows your ministry like you do. Therefore, we encourage you to make any adjustments to this series you feel are necessary to best fit the needs of your students, church, or ministry context.

**A Prayer Before You Prepare** | God, because you sent Your Son to be with us, we have the opportunity to have a relationship with You. Thank You for fulfilling Your promises and keeping Your Word to people who don't deserve it. I pray that over the next 5 sessions, my students will come to more deeply know You and understand how much You truly love them. I pray that they will be able to see Christmas as more than just another holiday, a time to get together with family, or a day to get gifts. I pray that You would speak through me and use me to show my students that Christmas is the long-awaited arrival of the Savior who came to redeem all humanity. Help them to see the beauty and wonder of God becoming human. Thank You for calling me to these students to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them. Please bless my preparation and delivery so that You may be glorified. In Your Name, Amen.

## Good News, Great Joy, All People Teaching Guide | A One-Page Glimpse Of Everything You Need To Prepare

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**Series Snapshot** | *Good News, Great Joy, All People* is a five-session sermon series that will challenge your students' perspectives of what Christmas is all about. By slowing down and studying in depth the angel's message to the shepherds, your students will come to learn that Christmas is more than a one-night event. It's the long-awaited fulfillment of God's promise to His people. Your students will be encouraged to see the arrival of Jesus as the only thing that brings freedom from fear, great joy, and good news to all people.

**Series Overview** | As our culture looks to live faster and faster, we can often get caught up in the hustle and hurry of the holiday season and forget the purpose behind the things we say and do. Christmas can become just another routine with no real impact on our lives. In order to grasp the significance of Jesus's arrival on Earth, we must slow down and remember that Christmas is more than a one-night event. It's the long-awaited fulfillment of God's promise to His people.

- **Session 1 – Fear Not (Luke 2:10)** | This world is full of things that strike fear and anxiety in us. But what if we asked ourselves how Jesus's arrival addresses our fear problem? We'd see that because Jesus has come to be with us, we no longer have to be slaves to our fear.
- **Session 2 – Behold (Luke 2:10)** | We may not realize it, but we behold many things – people, dreams, or ourselves. When the shepherds are told to behold the coming of the Savior, they are invited to observe the power and glory of God. We are given that same invitation and should therefore behold Jesus because He has come to save us from our sins.
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- **Session 5 – All People (Luke 2:10)** | We can sometimes believe that we aren't worthy of Jesus' love because of something we've done or the sin in our lives. While it can be easy to disqualify ourselves from being saved, the Gospel truth is that Jesus came to save all people from their sins. Jesus's arrival shows that God's plan from the beginning has been the redemption of all people.

### Good News, Great Joy, All People Series | Session 1

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**Large Group Teaching Summary** | This world is full of things that strike fear and anxiety in us. But what if we asked ourselves how Jesus's arrival addresses our fear problem? We'd see that because Jesus has come to be with us, we no longer have to be slaves to our fear.

**Key Takeaway** | Because Jesus has come to be with us, we no longer have to be slaves to our fear.

**Scripture Focus** | Luke 2:10

**What You May Need** | *Optional Illustration: A Promise Waited For (Personal Story), Optional Illustration: Misplaced Trust (Personal Story)*

### I. Introduction

- A. Welcome to our new series, *Good News, Great Joy, All People!*
1. What do you think of when you think of Christmas? Santa Claus, gifts, Christmas trees? Maybe if you're trying to get on my good side, you'd say that you think of a nativity scene or baby Jesus. But how many of you thought of shepherds and angels? What about fear, joy, good news, and other people? The majority of us don't think about these kinds of things very often when we think about Christmas, but what if this is what Christmas is all about? I believe that God wants us to take our thinking about Christmas and the Christmas story a little bit deeper. Jesus's arrival on Earth is more than just a one-night event that happened in a manger. BY SENDING JESUS TO BE WITH US, GOD IS FULFILLING A LONG-AWAITED PROMISE. So maybe there's something He wants to show us that we've been glossing over.
  2. To dial in on the Christmas story, we're going to slow things down a bit in this series. We're going to take one single verse from Luke chapter 2, study it, dissect it, and try to learn what Christmas is all about. In this sometimes overlooked verse, God reveals what He is doing in a beautiful and shocking way. Over the next five sessions together, we're going to look at five different parts of Luke 2:10 to see what God said, why He said it, how Jesus lived it out, and what it means for our lives today.
- B. ***Optional Illustration: A Promise Waited For***
1. ***NOTE: Tell a story of when you waited an extended amount of time for a promise or commitment to be fulfilled. Emphasize how hard it was to wait and how excited you were when it was accomplished.***

### II. Tension

- A. WE LIVE IN A WORLD FILLED WITH THINGS THAT STRIKE FEAR IN US. Fear of the unknown, fear of being lost/alone/abandoned, fear of evil in the world, and fear of death are just a few on a long list. If you look at the world around us, there are terrible things going on all over the place. I don't have to go into much detail or give you some crazy example to try and prove it to you because chances are you've probably encountered some type of tragedy, close call, or some other negative experience that has left you scared, anxious, or overly cautious in at least one area of your life. And honestly, you don't even have to be involved in a close call or tragedy to be afraid of the possibility that something bad might happen to you.
- B. While it can be good to be cautious so that you can prevent mistakes, when caution turns into fear, it can start running rampant and controlling your life without you even realizing it. Before long, fear is ruling over you, and you're a slave to it. If you're unsure where you stand, let me give you a picture of what being a slave to fear can look like. Being a slave to your fear can look like feeling anxious often, worrying about things you have no control over, or feeling hopeless or helpless when things start going downhill. WHEN YOU'RE A SLAVE TO YOUR FEAR, YOU'LL PUT YOUR TRUST IN ANYTHING THAT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL SAFE. And the options are plentiful because we live in a world that prioritizes immediate gratification. We're in a "get it now" kind of culture, so we can fill the need for safety in as many ways as we want.

### C. *Optional Illustration: Misplaced Trust*

1. **NOTE: Tell a story of a time you were fearful/anxious/worried about something and you sought out something other than God to fill your need for safety. Emphasize how you may have felt safe in the moment, but it didn't work out in the end.**
- D. But how often does that actually work out for you? The things we put our trust in to make us feel safe fail us more often than not, and then we're right back where we started. Whether it's friends, popularity, a long list of rules and guidelines, or whatever else you use to make you feel safe, it will fall short. Every time.
- E. You may be thinking to yourself right now, "So what hope do I have in a world full of things that cause fear?? And how is the Christmas story supposed to fix our problem of being afraid?" Let's jump into Luke 2 to take a look at how the Christmas story addresses our fear issue.

### III. Scripture

- A. Leading up to this verse, an angel had appeared to two other people before the shepherds – Zechariah and then Mary. In both cases, they were frightened by the appearance of an angel. And in both cases, the angel had an important message to share. The story is no different here with the shepherds.
- B. Read [LUKE 2:10](#)
- C. Imagine you're in a field late at night doing your job, watching over sheep, minding your own business, and suddenly, an angel appears out of nowhere surrounding you with a blinding light. How would you respond? Probably pretty similar to the shepherds, right? You'd be afraid. You'd be terrified of what was about to happen to you. That's precisely how the shepherds felt in Luke 2. Visits from angels weren't common. It's not like angels just popped up here and there to talk to people. Usually, when an angel appeared, someone was about to get punished for doing something wrong in the eyes of the Lord. So it makes sense that the shepherds were "*filled with great fear,*" as verse 9 says.
- D. Which makes the angel's first words to the shepherds very interesting. The very first thing the angel does is comfort the shepherds by telling them not to fear. The angel isn't bringing punishment to the shepherds but a declaration of something new God is doing in their midst. The angel tells the shepherds that they have no reason to fear because, as the angel goes on in verse 11, "*a Savior, who is Christ the Lord,*" has been born unto them that very night!
- E. Do you remember when I said that God was fulfilling a long-awaited promise by sending Jesus to Earth? That promise can be seen in Isaiah 35:4 when God, speaking about how He's going to save His people in the future, says this, "*Say to those who have an **anxious heart**, 'Be strong; **fear not!** Behold, your God will come with a vengeance, with the recompense of God. **He will come and save you.**'"*
1. Did you hear it? "[FEAR NOT BECAUSE YOUR GOD WILL COME AND SAVE YOU.](#)" Sounds pretty similar to Luke 2:10, doesn't it? The shepherds have no need to



fear because the angel is coming to inform them that the promise they have waited so long for has finally arrived. They have reason to celebrate and rejoice. With the coming of the Savior, all threats of worry and anxiety melt away.

- F. This is why Jesus came! This is a part of what Christmas is all about. The eradication of our fears through the arrival of Jesus. BECAUSE JESUS HAS COME TO BE WITH US, WE NO LONGER HAVE TO BE SLAVES TO OUR FEAR.
1. Why? Because He came to be with us for a very specific reason. Have you ever thought about the fact that Jesus lived and walked on the same planet that we do? Have you ever considered that He came to live in the same world we've agreed is full of things that cause fear in us?
  2. Jesus willingly stepped into this broken, fear-stricken world to be among us. But He didn't fall victim to its attacks. In John 16:33, Jesus Himself says that we can have peace in Him because He has overcome the world. JESUS OVERCAME THE THINGS WE FEAR AND FEAR ITSELF SO THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO BE ENSLAVED TO THEM.

#### IV. Application

- A. With that being said, there are two ways I think we can begin to live a life that honors God and is not controlled by our fears.
- B. PUT YOUR TRUST IN GOD
1. As I mentioned earlier, when we have fears that overwhelm and enslave us, we put our trust in the closest thing that we think can provide safety. And there's no shortage of options. You can run to your phone, your friends, your popularity, your possessions, your rules and regulations so that you can have some sense of control, or whatever else you're tempted to trust in. But these things can't offer much. They can offer you an illusion of control where you feel as though you're safe inside your own personal bubble, but it's just an illusion. It's not real. It's not lasting. As soon as you put your phone down, as soon as your popularity declines, as soon as one of your possessions becomes outdated or broken, your safety net is gone.
  2. Instead of putting your trust in these temporal, fallible things, put your trust in God. He can be trusted. He keeps His promises. He doesn't fail, decline, or fade away. He is eternal. And the safety that He offers isn't an illusion. It isn't fake. It's more real than you could imagine. The Creator of the universe cares deeply about your life, so you can experience true, genuine safety in Him.
- C. HOPE IN JESUS
1. Jesus came to free you from being controlled by your fears. I can't say that to you enough. However, while we are truly freed from being controlled by our fears when we give our lives to Jesus, we will still experience fear, anxiety, and worry. We will still be tempted to let our fears control us and take us down a road that only leads to anger, hopelessness, and self-justification (trying to be in control of our own lives).
  2. But because Jesus came to be with us, lived among this world, and overcame this world, we don't have to take the brunt of our fear's attacks anymore. We have a place to go. We have someone to hand them off to. 1 Peter 5 says that

we can cast all our anxieties on God because He cares for us. We can place our hope in Jesus because He overcame this world, and that includes our fears and anxieties. Although we will face our fears and maybe even suffer from anxiety, we can now turn to Jesus and hand them to Him instead of trying to handle them on our own. We don't have to resort to a place of hopelessness. We can have hope in Jesus.

3. If you're not sure how to "cast your anxieties and fears" on Jesus, let me give you a couple of ideas. This could look like praying and asking Jesus for help when you begin to feel overwhelmed by emotion or stress. Another idea is to read your Bible every day so that you can grow closer and closer to Jesus. The closer you are to Him, the easier it will be to take your fears to Him.

### V. Gospel

- A. This is what Christmas is all about. The arrival of our Savior to save His people from this world. Like I said before, Christmas is more than a one-night event in Bethlehem. Jesus's arrival on Earth stretched and grew into something that fulfilled a promise from God. But why did we need this promise to be fulfilled?
- B. We needed a Savior because we are sinful, broken people. God created this world in perfect order and in perfect relationship with Him, but because of our sin (anything we think/say/do that rebels against God and His will), we were eternally separated from Him. Rebuilding that connection required something we couldn't provide – a perfect, sinless life.
- C. God desires a relationship with us, so He sent His Son to be born in Bethlehem, live that sinless life in complete obedience to Him, and then die a death that we deserved on our behalf. Because Jesus took the punishment for our sins on the cross and then rose back to life three days later, we're now able to be forgiven of our sins so that we can have a relationship with God. Christmas, the earthly arrival of Jesus, is the beginning of the fulfillment of God's promise.
- D. Now, all we have to do to inherit this promise, be forgiven of our sins, and have perfect communion with God is repent of (turn away from/ask forgiveness for) our sins and confess that we believe Jesus is the Savior we desperately need. When we repent and believe, we are handing our lives over to Jesus, trusting that He will keep us safe. Trusting that He will stick to His word. Trusting in His will for our lives. When we do this, we are restored, redeemed, forgiven, and granted eternal life through the grace of God.

### VI. Conclusion

- A. At the beginning of our time together, you may have asked what fear had to do with Christmas. I hope you can see now that fear without Christmas is a terrible place to be because Christmas, the long-awaited arrival of Jesus, is the beginning of freedom from fear.
- B. Because Jesus has come to be with us, we no longer have to be slaves to our fear. Through faith in Jesus, we can place our hope and trust in something not only greater than ourselves but greater than the things we fear and our fear itself so that we can live

## ***Good News, Great Joy, All People Sermon Series | Session 1: Fear Not***

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unshackled lives. When we give our fears, worries, and anxieties to Him, we can rest assured that we are indeed as safe as we could ever be.

- C. Let's pray.

## **Good News, Great Joy, All People Sermon Series | Session 1 Discussion**

### **Questions: Fear Not**

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**Good News, Great Joy, All People Series Overview** | As our culture looks to live faster and faster, we can often get caught up in the hustle and hurry of the holiday season and forget the purpose behind the things we say and do. Christmas can become just another routine with no real impact on our lives. In order to grasp the significance of Jesus's arrival on Earth, we must slow down and remember that Christmas is more than a one-night event. It's the long-awaited fulfillment of God's promise to His people.

**Large Group Teaching Summary** | This world is full of things that strike fear and anxiety in us. But what if we asked ourselves how Jesus's arrival addresses our fear problem? We'd see that because Jesus has come to be with us, we no longer have to be slaves to our fear.

**Key Takeaway** | Because Jesus has come to be with us, we no longer have to be slaves to our fear.

**Scripture Focus** | Luke 2:10

## **Good News, Great Joy, All People | Session 1 Discussion Questions**

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You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

### **Get Them Talking | An Optional Opening Question To Get Students Talking**

1. What's your biggest fear? What about your biggest irrational fear?

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Read Luke 2:10 & Isaiah 35:4. What does this teach you about God? What does it teach you about yourself?
2. What promise is God fulfilling by sending Jesus? Why do you think it's important that God fulfills this promise and others?
3. What area of your life causes you the most fear and anxiety? Why do you think it's that area? How do you think Jesus addresses that fear in your life?
4. What do you think it means for Jesus to be your hope? Is it important that Jesus came and lived a life just like ours? Why or why not?
5. What are you tempted to put your trust in when you feel afraid or unsafe? Why do you think that's the thing you turn to? What do you feel like it offers you?
6. What would it look like for you to put your trust in God to keep you safe and secure? How can you practically do that this week?
7. What do you think it means to "cast your anxieties and fears" on Jesus, as it says in 1 Peter 5? What's keeping you from doing that in your life right now?