



The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told to them.

Luke 2:28 NRSV

A POST PYT Impact Bible Study

The end of the story is not the end. The end of this story is a reminder that there are next steps to be taken, more story to be shared.

For participants at the 2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium this is also OUR story. This is our reminder to return. Not to the Triennium (though, we kind of wish we could) but to return HOME (or, the place we landed when we left the Triennium). To return “glorifying and praising God for all that we have heard and seen...” A reminder that, just like the shepherds who went to Bethlehem (with haste) to see “the thing that had taken place” and then returned home with hearts on fire and words of praise, we have more to do.

It is not enough to just “go and see.” That’s just the start. The angel, the shepherds, the baby, they were just the start. There was a “next” part. All those that had seen - then returned home to tell. To live. Now is your time, our time, THE time to GO and tell. Tell yourself. Tell each other. Tell God. Thank God. Tell someone in your circle of friends. Tell those around you by living a life that demonstrates Jesus’ life. A life that serves others, that listens for love when there seem to be no signs of love. Tell those around you by living a life that is hopeful. By living a life that is lovingly fierce and courageous. Returning to “GO and TELL” means “returning” from the lessons learned at Triennium to the place you call home or homes - to TELL. The Triennium was not the end. It was the invitation! What a perfect season to remind ourselves of what it means to GO. First you GO, then you RETURN and then you TELL!

Read

Read the story of the shepherds, the Angels and the baby Jesus. Luke 2:8-28.

Read More

Read the last verse in this story several times. Luke 2:28.

Reflect

Think about the story of the shepherds. In order of the story’s events what were the emotions the shepherds might have felt? In order of the story what were the actions of the shepherds? What did the shepherds see in Bethlehem? What does the story tell us about what the shepherds felt when they saw the baby Jesus in Bethlehem? What did the shepherds do after they saw the baby? Why did they do this?

If you were one of the shepherds (and, in a way, you are ... we all are!) what would you say when you “returned” from this experience?

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Remember (For those who attended the 2016 Triennium)

What do you recall about the opening day and night of the Triennium? About the theme “Go and See”? Putting yourself in the role of the shepherd - making a journey to the Triennium - hearing from “angels” and preachers and prayers and new friends - what is something you are prompted to say in response to what you saw and experienced?

(For anyone using this reflection)

What is a message of glory and praise for God that you feel? How can you share this message?

Review

Watch the clip from the sermon “Go and See”: <https://youtu.be/GuW9sWEy9v0> What invitation or nudge do you get from this message? Does it make you want to do anything, say anything? In the clip the preacher says “...your job, your task, is to pay attention; and when you see something you _____.” What is it that we are called to do? When you pay attention to what God is doing - what do you see? How can you share this in your life?

Respond

Prayer *Dear God, just as Mary did so long ago, I want to ponder all of this in my heart. I want to live with your word, with your will, with your love. I pray that we will remember that the story is not the end; that the story is a reminder to GO. To return. To tell YOUR story. To tell about your love. In the name of the one who was born to return all love to all of the world, Amen.*

Three Things

Responding is more than reading. Responding is also action. Now that you’ve seen and heard - what will you say and do?

List three things that you will do to praise God; to show that you have hope, to demonstrate that you have seen something!

1.

2.

3.

You are invited to share your “3 Things” on the Presbyterian Youth Triennium Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/Triennium/>

