

# AMAZING GRACE

## 3. Grace in a Box

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Luke 2.1-20 and John 1.1-14

**17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

- John 1v14. Why do you think John chose not to tell a traditional nativity story? In what ways is the nativity story the perfect story of Grace *and* Truth?
- Did Sunday's message affect the way you think of the Christmas story? If so, how? What details or insights were new to you?
- v17. The shepherds '*spread the word concerning what had been told them*'. What things hold us back from spreading the good news of Jesus at Christmas time?
- We heard that the Magi actively practised things forbidden in the Bible (Deuteronomy 18.10). Does the grace message mean that God is now okay with sorcery and the occult?
- Who have you invited (or who are you planning to invite) to Metro Carols? What are the challenges in that and what's your experience been?
- How can we as a group grow in our welcome, witness and worship this Christmas? Which of the three is our biggest challenge? Which is our biggest opportunity?

Big Idea: 'Christmas shows us the right response to Grace is to Welcome unreservedly, Witness fearlessly and Worship wholeheartedly.'

Break down into smaller groups and pray together. Pray for a further revelation of God's Grace shown to us in Christ Jesus. Pray for God to draw out of us the appropriate response to grace. Pray that we would be those that Welcome, Witness and Worship with all we have.

Pray also for the preparation for Metro Carols and for all those that will come along who don't normally go to church. Pray for an atmosphere of incredible welcome, witness and worship. Pray for the grace of God to be with us all over Christmas.