





### The Tension of the Advent Season

"At Christmas there is so much about which to feel happy and joyful. But I'm not finding it that way! There are ghosts lurking behind the scenes stealing every bit of hope and joy that I have. Life's issues destroy the joy that should be there. I just wish I could just skip Christmas!"

### **The Ghosts of Advent**

LOVE



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LOVE

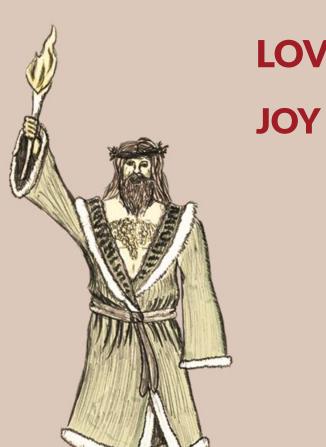
**Broken relationships, dysfunction, brokenness** 



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JOY

Sadness, depression, loneliness, darkness



#### **The Ghosts of Advent**

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JOY

Sadness, depression, loneliness, darkness

**PEACE** 



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**LOVE** 

**Broken relationships, dysfunction, brokenness** 

JOY

Sadness, depression, loneliness, darkness

**PEACE** 

Chaos, stress, anxiety, turmoil



#### **The Ghosts of Advent**

LOVE

JOY

**PEACE** 

**HOPE** 

**Broken relationships, dysfunction, brokenness** 

Sadness, depression, loneliness, darkness

Chaos, stress, anxiety, turmoil



### **The Ghosts of Advent**



LOVE

**Broken relationships, dysfunction, brokenness** 

JOY

Sadness, depression, loneliness, darkness

**PEACE** 

Chaos, stress, anxiety, turmoil

**HOPE** 

Darkness, pain, unresolved issues, hopelessness



The Ghosts in the Christmas Story

**Luke 2:8-10** 

• Fear

"Do not be afraid"



The Ghosts in the Christmas Story

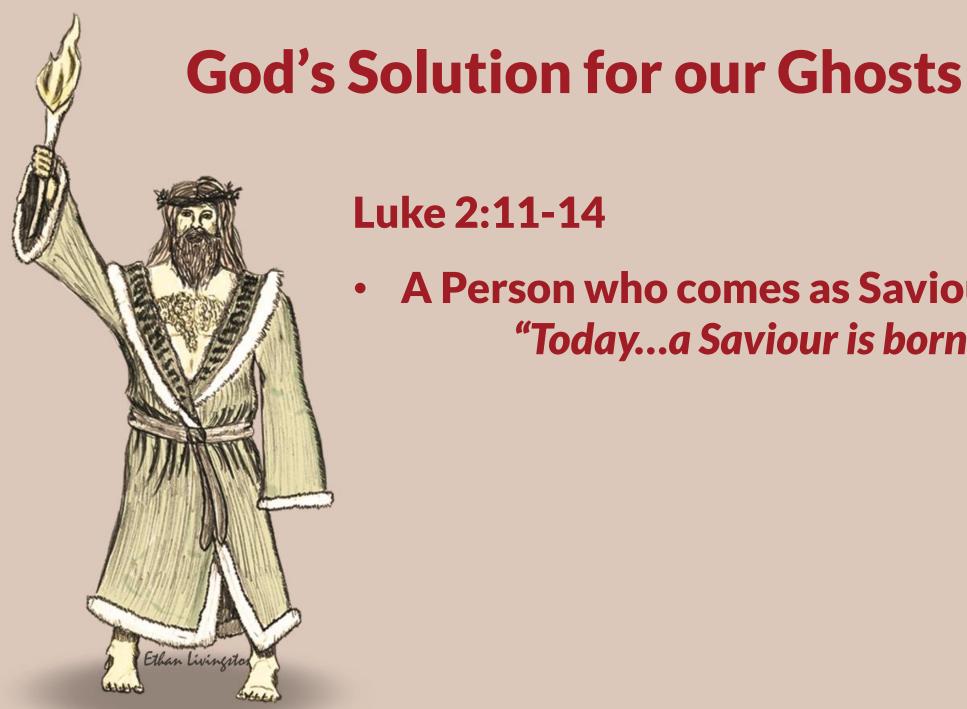
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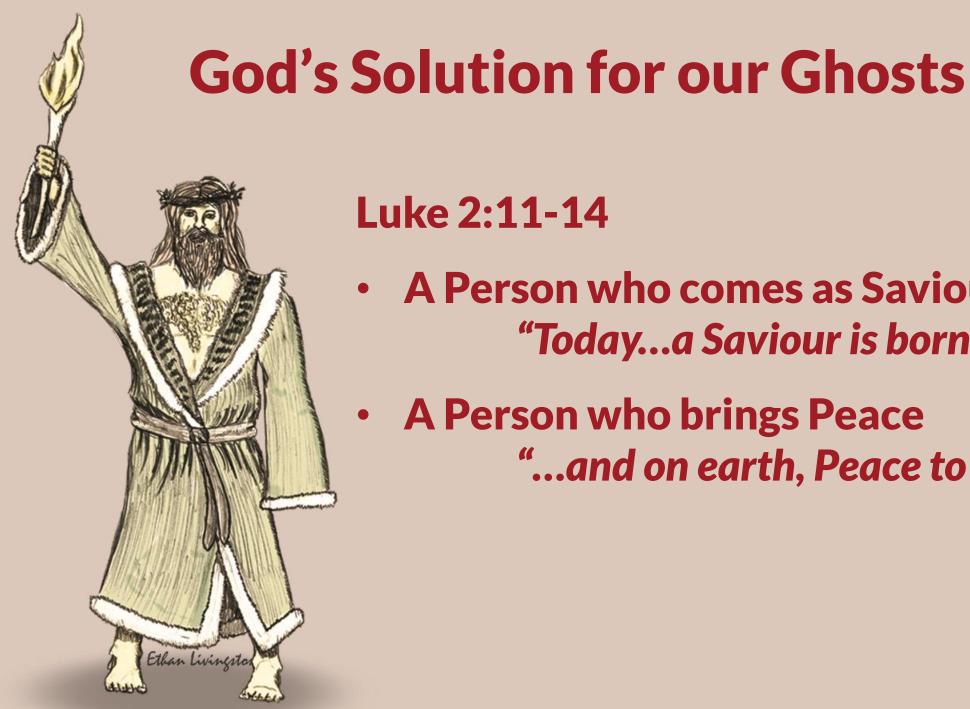
Hopelessness

"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people!"



Luke 2:11-14

 A Person who comes as Saviour "Today...a Saviour is born"



- A Person who comes as Saviour "Today...a Saviour is born"
- A Person who brings Peace "...and on earth, Peace to all men"

### How to confront our "Ghosts Present"?

"The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy.

I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full!"

John 10:10

1. Realize that God wants to help us address (conquer) the "ghosts" in our lives



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- 1. Realize that God wants to help us address (conquer) the "ghosts" in our lives
- 2. Make a plan to actually confront your ghosts.
- 3. Pursue the peace that Jesus promises to all who seek Him.