



INTRODUCTION

We're glad you're here, as Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year! It's a season for singing Christmas carols, exchanging Christmas cards and gifts, hanging colorful lights on houses and trees, attending after-work parties and enjoying Christmas Eve services.

But why? Why do we celebrate Christmas? What does it reveal about God and his amazing plan for humanity?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is the celebration of Christmas a big deal in your home? If so, why? If not, why do you think it isn't?
2. What are some of the traditions or celebrations you have chosen to follow—or not follow—during the Christmas season, like decorating, gifts, food choices, elves, etc.? Was the intention to follow (or not follow) these for tradition's sake or for a different reason?
3. Read Luke 2:1-14. Having read some of the Christmas story, what aspects make sense to you? Which don't? Why or why not?
4. What effects do you see in our culture today that seem to have originated from this account which happened over 2000 years ago?
5. The Christmas story brings together two attributes or qualities of God that are most prominent when it comes to how we interact with him: God is love, and God is holy. What would the world, your own family or your life be like if God was only love? Only holy?
6. Read Matthew 1:21. If you believe Jesus came to save His people from their sins, how does that impact your understanding of the truth of the Christmas story?
7. How might you take steps to apply this lesson to your life?

APPLICATION

How do we know the Christmas story is true? We know it, because it just makes sense, especially when we know all of it. There are the Old Testament prophecies; the words and actions of Jesus' closest friends, who died as martyrs with the message of the risen Christ on their lips; we can see a world changed by the birth, death and resurrection of a man named Jesus; and we can see changed lives around us.

We have reasons for believing these things are true, and this should give us confidence in our faith. The bottom line is that God sent his Son into the world, because we needed a Savior. We needed someone who would be willing to pay the price for the things we've done wrong. Through Jesus, both the holiness of God and his love for us are expressed.

That's the story of Christmas. That's the story that points to a cross and for the day the Savior was born. Jesus came to us as a baby, lived a sinless life, and died in our place for what each of us has done wrong. God only requires that, by faith, we place our confidence in Jesus to be our Savior. Merry Christmas!

KEY VERSES

Luke 2:1-14
John 1:17
Luke 2:11
Matthew 1:21
John 1:29b
Isaiah 53:5-6
John 3:16
Isaiah 9:6-7a
John 3:16