

TALK IT OVER

Christmas: Past, Present, Future

Week 2: *Christmas Present*

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Icebreaker: What's one thing you're looking forward to this Christ

Christmas Past Review

- Big Idea: History repeats itself.
- World was filled with darkness, hopelessness, and confusion
- Jesus' birth brought light, hope, and truth

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NLT) For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

The Day is Coming When People

- ✓ **Stop listening to God**
- ✓ **Follow their own desires**
- ✓ **Listen only to what they want to hear**
- ✓ **Reject truth and chase after myths**

Isaiah 8:20-22 (NLT) Look to God's instructions and teachings! People who contradict his word are completely in the dark. They will go from one place to another, weary and hungry. And because they are hungry, they will rage and curse their king and their God. They will look up to heaven and down at the earth, but wherever they look, there will be trouble and anguish and dark despair.

Christmas is our VIP All-Access Pass

1. Access to God

- Matthew 27:50-51 (NLT) Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.*
- Hebrews 4:16 (NLT) So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.*
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2. Access to Jesus

Matthew 1:23 (NLT) "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

John 14:6 (NLT) "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

John 6:67-69 (NLT) Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you also going to leave?" Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God."

3. Access to the Holy Spirit

John 16:7, 13-15 (NLT) But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come...When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.

John 14:16 (NLT) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.

Hebrews 9:27-28 (NLT) And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.

Discussion Questions

1. How did your family celebrate Christmas growing up?
2. How old were you when you began to understand the significance of Jesus coming to earth?
3. What are some advantages we have today that those in the 1st Century did not have?
4. In what ways have you seen the world change in your lifetime (good things and bad things)?
5. What significance does Jesus coming to earth 2000 years have for me today?
6. How are you accessing the presence of God that you have available to you?
7. What could you do this Christmas to experience God's presence more fully?