



my perfect Christmas

Pt. 3: The Star Still Shines

Questions for further study and application:

Day 1 During the Christmas season, it can be easy to lose sight of Jesus with all the festivities, parties, and traditions that happen throughout the month. Losing that focus can lead to a chaotic, stressful, and downright disappointing Christmas. It's not to say that you shouldn't enjoy traditions and celebrations, you simply need to be careful about how you choose to spend your time. Your connection with Jesus is something that can dwindle when schedules become too busy. Read Isaiah 9:6 (NIV). He's a Wonderful Counselor, a Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. What can you do to make time to reflect on God's greatest gift of Jesus?

Day 2 Worship is the act of attributing worth. It's giving a place of honor, priority, and high value to something or someone. Read Romans 1:25b (NLT). What do you find yourself worshipping this time of year? If you are unsure, think about what types of things or people are getting and keeping your attention. Is it your kids, your job, or maybe material possessions? The devil uses all types of things to distract you from Jesus, who is the only one worthy of your worship. Ask God to help you keep the focus on Him by making wise choices, listening to wise voices, and help you remember that He is the One that gives true meaning to Christmas.

Day 3 Take time to reflect on your blessings from this year. During the busyness of life, it can be easy to forget all the things God has done for you. Read Psalm 145. David is encouraging you to look back on things God has done for you and give Him all the praise. How has God come through for you? Think about the times He's protected you, forgiven you, provided for you, or simply given you breath. Now, take time to give thanks and worship God. Don't let life's setbacks overshadow God's many blessings in your life.

Day 4 Read 2 Corinthians 9:7-8. Giving is the strongest display of what is truly in your heart. Where you choose to spend your money is a direct reflection of what is most important to you. In John 3:16, you see that God loved us so much that He gave His only son so we can have eternal life. This is a perfect example of how God gives big. As you take steps to become more Christ-like, you must learn to be generous with your money, your resources, and your time. While God doesn't need your money, He does want you to become more like Him. So, if you've said yes to trusting Him with your eternity, why wouldn't you say yes to when it comes to trusting Him with your income?

Day 5 Read Matthew 2:11. The wise men came to worship Jesus and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. A lesser known aspect of the Christmas story is that right after they left, an angel told Joseph to take Mary and Jesus and leave to escape King Herod's mission to kill all male children under two. Because of the generosity of the wise men, they were able to escape to Egypt. Their giving led to salvation. When you are generous with your time, talent, and money, you are helping with the salvation of so many others.

What's New?

Christmas is the best time of the year to bring your family and friends to Waters Edge. You can find invite cards at your campus. Grab some and simply say "come and see!" You get them there, and God will take care of the rest.