

Prepare HIM Room



Prepare Him Room In Your Home

December 13, 2020 Message Notes
PSALM 68:5-6

The holidays and the family... how do we make it through? Well, humor helps. We can find the fun in family dysfunction, can't we? The Christmas Story is full of the unexpected and the dysfunctional too. Have you noticed? A messy humanity is not hard to miss if you look closely at the people in the story.



NOTES

Find the **fun** in family dys-fun-ction. Humor helps.

Dysfunction: something different from what is considered to be normal.

Fun: amusing, entertaining, a surprising pleasure.

The Christmas story is full of unexpected, not-normal functioning:

- a pregnant virgin bowing to God's plan
- lowly shepherds visited by a mighty angel choir
- the Magi guided by a star to the Messiah
- King Herod feeding his fragile ego and jealousy
- Joseph obeying the word of the Lord from a fascinating dream

"I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said."

LUKE 1:38

Skeptics call it "ridiculous, absurd". They say, "if God is in it, he left himself wide open to all kinds of ridicule and insults and jokes."

"Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?"

MARK 6:3

The gospels don't shy away from miracle stories but neither do they disguise the humanity of the people involved.

Ordinary people whom God chooses and uses to do His will in the world.
Ordinary people who make their lives available to God.

Messy and lonely, but willing to open the door of faith when they hear God knocking.

This story is for people like us.

There are many kinds of lonely – illness and grief, the digital age of social media.

God's not afraid to enter the mess of our contradiction and alienation.

The Christmas story creates community and invites investigation



“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun scorched land.”

PSALM 68:5-6

In the Christmas story God meets us in the difficulties and disconnectedness of our ordinary days and lifts us into his story of family, love and freedom.

God chooses and uses ordinary people to do His will in the world.

God becomes part of the human family so we can become part of His.

The Christmas story creates **community** and invites investigation.

The Case for Christmas, by Lee Strobel, explores the evidence for believing that the gospel of grace in Christ is true.

Grace means you don't have to earn or deserve the love of God but you can receive it as a gift, freely given. That gift comes through Messiah as predicted in ancient Hebrew texts written centuries before Christ.

“The Lord will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and you will call him Immanuel.”

ISAIAH 7:14

Immanuel = “with us is God”

Hope: no matter how dysfunctional we may be, God can handle it.

Love: it's the answer to lonely. God loves you and people like you.

God chooses and uses ordinary people like us to extend kindness and the gift of family.

Prepare Him Room – in your home as you notice people.

Listen and get to know them personally. Listen to understand. Don't just listen to reply.

Create community. Invite investigation. Do research. Share.

What if the Christmas story is God so wanting to be with his beloved that he becomes part of the joke so we can be part of his joy?



No matter how messy or lonely our lives, God seeks to bring us into his family creating community in love.

No matter how confusing or desperate our dysfunction, God meets us there in *Immanuel* – God with us. A real person revealed in Jesus Christ who leads us out of captivity and into freedom.

Can God still meet us in the messiness and use us to relieve some loneliness? Yes.

Will you let Him? How?

Pray as Mary does – “be it to me according to your word, Lord.”

Do what Joseph does – follow God’s lead.

Show your strength through kindness. Do the right thing God’s way. See for yourself how God turns awkward into awesome!

