

Main Idea: The birth of Jesus Christ fulfills the earliest prophecy in the Bible and demonstrates God's faithfulness.

Incarnation

The incarnation demonstrates **God's immutable attributes** in the person of Jesus – attributes that are as relevant today as they were in the beginning. In week 1 we examined God's sovereignty; last time, His mercy.

- **Today: Faithfulness. Christmas demonstrates God's faithfulness.** In the very beginning when we first turned from God, He promised to make a way (Genesis 3:15). Jesus is that way.

Jesus and Faithfulness

When **mankind walked away from God** in the **first of many examples of our fickle loyalty and unfaithfulness**, God promised to make a way. Jesus is the only baby in history born for the sole purpose of dying. Jesus was born to die, proving God's eternal faithfulness.

- **Faithfulness = God is steadfast in affection and loyalty; He can be trusted.**

Jeremiah Knew Uncertainty

Jeremiah is known as "**the weeping prophet.**" He was a grown man who cried a lot. Jeremiah was a prophet in the **7th century BC**. This was a time of exile for God's people. The days were difficult and the people were stubborn. That's why Jeremiah cried. He was a **contemporary of Daniel** and he wrote 2 books in your OT: Jeremiah and Lamentations.

Portioned Compassion – Lamentations 3

Jeremiah says that every day God delivers a fresh supply of **loyal love and compassion**. The promise is NOT for 2023 or 2024. The promise is for today. God's faithfulness is a gift we receive day by day, not month by month or year by year. Contrary to popular understanding, following Christ is NOT about getting set up for tomorrow. No. Following Christ is about walking in His faithfulness today.

Family Night Big Idea

Your children should understand that God is faithful. He always keeps His word. By sending Jesus to die for our sins, God made good on a promise He made all the way back in Genesis 3.

Discussion Starter – Read Lamentations 3:19-27

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "What does 'faithful' mean?" Ask, "What is it about God that never fails (v.22)?" Ask, "Why do we trust Jesus?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "How has God proven Himself faithful to you?" Ask, "Why do you think it's good to experience difficulty when we are young (v.27)?" Ask, "How can God's faithfulness help us when things are difficult?"

Prayer

"Father, thank You for Your faithfulness. Help us remember that You are loyal and compassionate. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Holiday Party, Wednesday, Dec. 14th. The Hunt is December 21st. Need parents who can drive.

Gravity: Not Today

Today's Songs

Joy to the World

Little Drummer Boy

O Little Town of Bethlehem

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Mother/Son Basketball Game

Sign up in KidsJAM or online by December 28th. We have 14 Tickets left. You need to reserve your ticket if you would like to go. It is Saturday, January 7th and tickets are \$15. Join us!

Twelve the Night Before Christmas

Join us next Sunday, Dec. 18th at the 9:30 Service for our KidsJAM Christmas program.

Christmas for Families

Gifts are due next Sunday, Dec. 18th. Please wrap and identify with a removable tag with family information. Take gifts to the Community Room.

Christmas Eve Service

December 24 at 6pm. No church on Christmas Day.

New Year's Day Service

We will have one service on New Year's Day at 10:00am. Mark your calendar and pass the word.