



The Beginning of Christmas

The Christmas Story doesn't begin with Mary & Joseph, it begins with Abraham and Sarah.

The Christmas Story doesn't begin with a baby, it begins with an impossible promise.

The Impossible Promise

The story of God's promise to Abraham is filled with moments of impossibility

- Abraham & Sarah can't have children
- Jacob's son Joseph is almost killed by his brothers before he saves the whole family
- Israel, the "great nation" is a nation of slaves in Egypt
- The kingdom of Israel is divided, conquered by multiple nations, and scattered

And when everything seemed lost, and no one expected it, God kept His promise, and Jesus was born.

Living Proof

God is active, even when it seems like He's not.

God decided **the world needed Christmas** so that He could fulfill His promise to bless all peoples, everywhere.

We are living proof of the fact that God keeps His promises.



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The Impossibility of Christmas

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Appetizer

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. How do you feel heading into this Christmas season? Is this a positive or negative time for you?

Entree

1. Read **Genesis 12:1-3**
2. How does this promise to Abraham change your understanding of the Christmas story?
3. How does this "zoomed out" view of the Christmas story change the way you understand your own role in God's plan and promise?
4. What does it tell you about how God feels about the world and everyone in it?

Dessert

Break into groups of 3-4 and discuss the following questions with each other.

1. Have you ever experienced a time when God seemed silent, or distant? What did that experience do to/for your faith?
2. How have you witnessed or experienced God's faithfulness?

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