

Christmas Can Still Change the World

December 22, 2019

Scriptures: Matt. 1:21-23; Luke 2:10; Eph. 2:14; John 2:2

Bottom Line: Because of Christmas, we are at peace with God and are now free to love one another and discover the joy that this life of love brings.

Surprise #1: God Is With Us to Deliver Us

Sometimes God being with Israel meant He was coming close to judge them for disobeying the law. This time God is with Israel to save them from their own inability to obey the Law.

Surprise #2: God is Not Just with *Us*

Jesus shows up and tells Israel that God is not just with *them*. He hangs out with all the wrong people and opens up the Kingdom of God to everyone.

Surprise #3: Jesus Redirects our Focus, and Brings us Joy

Jesus allows us to stop worrying about whether we're good with God and focus on loving others the way He loved us.

This shift in focus promises incredible joy for you.

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LISTENING

Have someone in your group answer one (or more) of these questions:

- What is your biggest fear?
- What is one regret you have in your life?
- How have you experienced God's goodness in a tangible way?

After they share, tell them what you heard.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. When do you find it difficult to believe that you and God are ok?
 - a. What would change in your life if you never had to worry about this again?
3. Jesus is good news that brings great joy to all people.
 - a. In what ways have you seen this to not be true?
 - b. How do we communicate this story in a way that really is good news to all people?

HUDDLE UP

Break into groups of 3-5 and discuss the following questions together.

1. What is robbing you of joy this Christmas?
2. How can a shift in focus help you reclaim that joy?

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