

SIMPLE CHRISTMAS

December 13, 2009

ICEBREAKER:

Take some time to get to know each other with some open sharing:

- What images come to your mind when you hear the word “Christmas”?
- What are some of your favorite memories of Christmas?
- What is one of your favorite Christmas traditions?

INTRODUCTION:

As a group, read the Christmas story in Luke 2:1-20. **As you read it, ask God to show you something new from the story.**

React to this statement: “The Christmas story is both ancient and timeless.”

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. The nativity is the premier decoration. For a minute, look past the figurines. What is the great “back story” that is going on? Is it just a baby in a hay trough?

2. Over 40 clear Old Testament prophecies refer to the coming of a Messiah, all of which were fulfilled by Jesus Christ in the New Testament. Can you think of some of these prophecies? (Here’s a hint: Psalm 110:1; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Micah 5:2; Hosea 11:1)

Why is this significant?

3. Based on Roger’s sermon, what can we learn from the names given to Mary and Joseph’s first-born son? (Matthew 1:23; Luke 2:11; Isaiah 9:6-7; John 1:29)

4. React to the following statements:

- God’s gift of Christmas is Himself—God with us-Immanuel.
- If God is with you, you are never alone.
- Unless we bring the meaning of Christmas to our celebrations, we will miss the meaning altogether.
- The hope of Christmas is the confident assurance that God is in control and knows what He’s doing.
- Giving glory to God in the highest (as the angels did) means just that—giving God the highest place in our lives.
- “Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, and Heaven and nature sing.”
Isaac Watts
- (Based on the song words above) No room for Jesus means no way for you to truly appreciate Christmas.
- Don’t be so upset when culture prohibits the sights and sounds of Christmas. Instead, do all you can to proclaim the meaning of Christmas personally.
- Christ was the real star of Christmas—and, eventually, He ended up on top of a tree.

THINK ABOUT IT (Something to memorize or chew on)

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 (NLT)