

Life Group Leader's Guide

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Special Edition



First Baptist Church of Eugene

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THE CHRISTMAS STORY - PART I

Jesus is Born - Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7



WARM-UP

This month, more than a billion people will celebrate Christmas. The reason to celebrate Christmas has transformed to mean many things to many people over the ages. But for those of us who seek the truth about its meaning, we will never tire of hearing about the wonder and miraculous birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.

Six months before Jesus' birth, the angel Gabriel visited Zechariah and announced that his wife Elizabeth, who was old and barren, would be with child and give birth to a son (Luke 1:1-26). They were to name him John (to be known as John the Baptist). John would be filled with the Holy Spirit from birth and was sent by God to turn the hearts of His people to repentance and to make ready for the coming Lord Jesus.



STORYTELLING

Listen to the Stories: Ask three people to prepare ahead of time to tell each story below in their own words (2-3 minutes each). They don't need to worry about perfection. Ask each to tell the story as if they had just seen it happen and were recounting it to a friend.

- **Luke 1:26-38** An angel tells Mary about Jesus
- **Matthew 1:18-25** An angel tells Joseph about Jesus
- **Luke 2:1-7** Jesus is born

Rebuild: As a group, now open your Bibles and rebuild each story (for the facilitator, ask questions like “what happened first?” “what happened next?”). Focus on the main characters, locations, and events.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY - PART I

Jesus is Born - Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- How did Mary and Joseph respond to the angel’s instructions? How do you think you may have responded?
- What are a few of the character attributes that you admire most about Mary and Joseph? Which ones would you like to develop more for yourself?
- What are some of the names and plans that were revealed by God regarding His Son Jesus? Have any of these been fulfilled? Which ones?
- What were some of the things that you think Joseph was concerned about at the time in addition to caring for his wife and child? What things concern you in the midst of caring for your family?
- In what ways do you see Faith in this story? Love? Giving? Forgiving? Rescuing? Changing? Rejoicing?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?

What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- Why do you think God specifically gave us these passages about the birth of His Son?
- What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?



WRAP-UP

- Who will you share this with this week?
- Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY - PART 2

Shepherds and Magi Visit before Jesus' Family Escapes to Egypt

Luke 2:8-21; Matthew 2:1-23



WARM-UP

The miraculous birth of a child was foretold to both Mary and Joseph by the angel. They were told the child would be a boy, they were told what God's plan for the boy would be and they were even told what to name the child. What an amazing display of faith and obedience by both Mary and Joseph. All of this was to happen in a totally unnatural way. God provided all of the information that was needed for both Joseph and Mary to follow His plan up until the child is born. Let's see how the rest of the story unfolds.



STORYTELLING

Listen to the Stories: Ask three people to prepare ahead of time to tell each story below in their own words (2-3 minutes each). They don't need to worry about perfection. Ask each to tell the story as if they had just seen it happen and were recounting it to a friend.

- **Luke 2:8-20** Shepherds Visit Jesus
- **Matthew 2:1-12** The Magi Visit Jesus
- **Matthew 2:12-23** Jesus' Family Escapes to Egypt

Rebuild: As a group, now open your Bibles and rebuild each story (for the facilitator, ask questions like “what happened first?” “what happened next?”). Focus on the main characters, locations, and events.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY - PART 2

Shepherds and Magi Visit before Jesus' Family Escapes to Egypt

Luke 2:8-20; Matthew 2:1-23



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Why do you think God sent the Angel and Heavenly Hosts to the lowly Shepherds in the fields?
- What part of the Shepherds' role do you think we are intended to play?
- What were some of the worldly events going on amidst the amazing work God was doing? What affect did it have on God's plan for His Son?
- In what ways do you see Faith in this story? Love? Giving? Forgiving? Rescuing? Changing? Rejoicing?

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?

What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- What are some of the events taking place around you and what affect are they having on God's plan for you?
- God gave both warnings and instruction to several people in this passage. Have you experienced either of those this week? Would you be willing to share that with us?
- Why do you think God gave us the details in this passage about the birth of His Son?
- What has God put on your heart to do with this passage?



WRAP-UP

- Who will you share this with this week?
- Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY - PART 3 (OPTIONAL)

God's Love for us - John 1:1-18, 3:16



WARM-UP

After Jesus was born, on the eighth day, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present an offering and be circumcised in the keeping of what is said in the Law of the Lord. When everything required by the Law of the Lord was complete they returned to Galilee to their own

town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him. The Gospel of John helps us see the birth and preparation of Jesus, the Son of God, and His relationship to God, to John the Baptist and to all mankind. Let's tell tonight's story.



STORYTELLING

Listen to the Story: Ask one person to prepare ahead of time to tell the story below in their own words (2-3 minutes). They don't need to worry about perfection. Ask them to tell the story as if they had just heard it or maybe even saw it happen, and were recounting this to a friend.

- **John 1:1-18** The Word Became Flesh
- **John 3:16** The Measure of God's Love for us

Rebuild: As a group, now open your Bibles and rebuild each story (for the facilitator, ask questions like “what happened first?” “what happened next?”). Focus on the main characters, locations, and events.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY - PART 3 (OPTIONAL)

God’s Love for us - John 1:1-18, 3:16



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What was John the Baptist’s purpose? What does it mean to witness to testify concerning that light? Can you testify as a witness?
- What are some of the changes that have taken place in our relationship with God since the birth of Jesus?
- What are some of the differences between God’s law and judgment as emphasized by Moses and the mercy, love, and forgiveness highlighted by Jesus.

GENERAL QUESTIONS: What stuck out to you from this passage?

What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about people?



APPLICATION

- Why do you think people call the Bible God’s Love Story?
- In what ways do you see Faith in this story? Love? Giving? Forgiving? Rescuing? Changing? Rejoicing?



WRAP-UP

- What has God put on your heart to do with this passage? Who will you share this with?
- Pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.