

USE THESE QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PROCESS THE MESSAGE IN YOUR PERSONAL STUDY TIME OR WITH YOUR GROUP.

Message Recap: The Christmas story began in Genesis with God's promise that through one man, the entire world would be blessed. Apparently, the world needed to be blessed, but it wasn't only the world that needed Christmas. God needed it too.

» Main Points

- God needed to stage a demonstration. The world needed an illustration. We needed to see it to believe it.
- Love must be shown to be known.

» Getting Started

- Talk about a time you had trouble convincing someone else of something you knew to be true.
- What did you say?

» Observation

- Read and reflect on Galatians 4:4-7; Romans 5:6-8; Acts 3:14-15; Matthew 1:20-23
- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

reachout

- Sometimes, we want to convince people about God; it's much easier to show them God's love consistently. Then they will see something different in our lives and want that for themselves. How can you show God's love to the people around you this week?

growdeep

- Reread Galatians 4:4-7. In what ways does our culture tempt us to behave like slaves even though we're God's children?
- Reflect on this: "The events of Christmas would be unbelievable if the story wasn't so remarkable." Do you find the Christmas story unbelievable or remarkable? What has shaped your view of Christmas?
- Reread Romans 5:6-8. What truths about God you wouldn't know if Jesus hadn't demonstrated them?
- Which statement is easier for you to believe? Jesus' death demonstrated *the magnitude of our ingratitude* and *his love for us*. Why is it difficult for you to believe the other?

partner with families

- It can be hard to convince someone to believe what's true. As a family, play a few rounds of "Two Truths and a Lie." Basically, pick 2 true things and one untrue statement about yourself, and have your family guess which is false. Give everyone a couple of chances. Then talk about why you're thankful for the true story of Christmas and God's gift to us in Jesus.

» Next Steps and Prayer

- What can you do this Christmas season to show gratitude for God's choice to demonstrate his love for you? Set aside time throughout the next few weeks to practice gratitude for all Jesus has done in your life and those around you.
- Who is close to you but far from God who needs to know God's personal love for them. How could you invite them to a Christmas Eve service with you this year?
- Close in prayer by thanking God for sending his Son to demonstrate his great love for us.