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

**Message Recap:** We reduce Christmas to forgiveness. We can't live up to God's standards, so he sent Jesus to make things right. Maybe your entire experience with God has been: nobody's perfect, but God forgives. That message isn't necessarily incorrect, but it's incomplete. The message of Christmas is bigger and better than that. Who needs Christmas? We all do.

### » Main Points

- Jesus didn't come to forgive us for our sins, he came to save us from our sins.
- Sin kills things.
- Christmas is a standing invitation into a relationship where sin is no longer your master.

### » Getting Started

- What is one of your favorite Christmas memories?
- Why is it so special to you?

### » Observation

- Read and reflect on Matthew 1:18-24; Romans 6:12-14, 23
- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

#### reachout

- The week between Christmas and New Year a lot of people are off of work and around. Find ways to connect with your neighbors this week. Ask how their Christmas was, offer to help out if they're traveling, etc.

#### growdeep

- Reread Matthew 1:18-24, paying attention to verse 21. What do you think Joseph thought the people needed to be saved from? How did the angel's message contrast with that?
- Do you tend to view the story of Christmas as Jesus providing forgiveness for your sins or as Jesus setting you free from sin? What has shaped your view of the Christmas story?
- Is it difficult for you to believe that sin doesn't have to be your master? Is it difficult to believe that Jesus has set you free? Why or why not?
- Look back over Romans 6: 12-14. What do you think it would look like for you to "offer yourself to God?" How would your daily life be different?

#### partner with families

- Christmas isn't over on December 26th. We believe Jesus came to give us full life and that following Jesus makes life better. Have each person in your family pick someone to pray for during the month of January. Pray for opportunities to share that following Jesus makes life better.

### » Next Steps and Prayer

- Does sin currently master you? What can you do to remind yourself that sin is not your master because Jesus has set you free? How can your group or trusted friends support you?
- Close by thanking Jesus for giving you life to the full, for saving you from slavery to sin, and for rescuing you from the power of sin.