



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH



Current Series

Message Notes

Christmas
at **Riverside**

Why Christmas Matters

Dec 8, 2024 • Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



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MESSAGE NOTES

Just what is the _____ of Christmas?
Christmas is an _____ to us...

So why did God come to earth more than 2,000 years ago in the _____ of a human being?
He came to:

1. _____ Our Misconceptions About God

People tend to think of God in the way that's most convenient and less _____ to them.
We can be sincere but be sincerely _____.

While _____% of Americans believe in God or some higher power, the problem is that many people's idea of God is distorted from what the Scriptures reveal about God.

Note **John 18:37; 1:18**

In Christ, God has a _____.
Jesus shattered _____ people have about God.

Note **Luke 2:32**

What does _____ do?
It helps us see things as they _____ are.
If you don't know Jesus, you're in the _____ and stumbling through life (note **John 14:9; Matthew 1:23**).

2. _____ God's Love

Christmas is a personal invitation from God Himself to us that God delivered _____.

Note **John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10; Ephesians 3:18-19**

God's love is long enough to last forever; wide enough to be everywhere; deep enough to handle all our _____; and high enough to hold on to us no matter how high the _____ of life crash in on us.

3. Make a _____ with God Possible (Note Ephesians 5:1)

Whether or not your parents planned you, _____ planned you.
There are accidental parents but no accidental _____.
One day your heart will stop beating, but that's not the _____ of you.

God has done everything possible so you can know Him _____.
He even took the _____ and came to earth Himself.
Note **Romans 5:11**

Not only does God want you in His _____...
He wants you to be His _____.

No one becomes a follower of Jesus _____...
You have to make a _____ to start a relationship with God.

This Christmas at Riverside:

- Have you ever said, I _____, to Jesus Christ?
- If you say, I _____, to Jesus, it will _____ change your life, both on this earth and for all eternity.
- Note **Galatians 3:26**
- Christmas isn't about what's under the tree...
- ...it's about the One who hung on the _____.

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

App: Message Notes/Connect Card **Or:** [MYRC.LINK/CONNECT](https://myrc.link/connect)



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What is your favorite Christmas movie and why?

1. Pastor Tom said that one of the reasons for Jesus coming to this earth was to help us “delete our misconceptions about God” (See **John 1:18**). What are some common misconceptions about God you have heard or may even still believe?
2. Jesus said in **John 14:9**, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” Take a few moments to discuss the significance of Jesus’ statement as a group. How does this truth challenge and/or expand your view of God, the Father?
3. Read **Luke 2:32**. Pastor Tom said that light “...helps us see things as they really are.” What has the light of Jesus helped you to see from God’s perspective and what other things are only now being slowly illuminated?
4. Pastor Tom called Christmas “...a personal invitation from God Himself to us that God delivered in person.” Read **John 3:16** and **1 John 4:9-10**. What does this invitation tell you about God’s disposition toward this world, including you?
5. The result of saying “YES!” to God’s invitation is a loving, living relationship with Him (See **Romans 5:11**). It’s clear, as Pastor Tom said, that “Not only does God want you in His family...He wants you to be His friend.” If you have never said “YES!” to God’s invitation to this friendship, what more are you waiting for; what is keeping you from saying “YES!” today?

PERSONAL GUIDE

Day One: Matthew 10; Psalm 99

Day Two: Leviticus 9; Proverbs 6

Day Three: 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Samuel 19

Day Four: 2 Peter 2; Jeremiah 33

Day Five: Job 37; Acts 15

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner’s Bible Reading System.



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MESSAGE NOTES

Just what is the purpose of Christmas?
Christmas is an invitation to us...

So why did God come to earth more than 2,000 years ago in the form of a human being?
He came to:

1. Delete Our Misconceptions About God

People tend to think of God in the way that's most convenient and less threatening to them.
We can be sincere but be sincerely wrong.

While 90% of Americans believe in God or some higher power, the problem is that many people's idea of God is distorted from what the Scriptures reveal about God.

Note **John 18:37; 1:18**

In Christ, God has a face.

Jesus shattered myths people have about God.

Note **Luke 2:32**

What does light do?

It helps us see things as they really are.

If you don't know Jesus, you're in the dark and stumbling through life (note **John 14:9; Matthew 1:23**).

2. Convey God's Love

Christmas is a personal invitation from God Himself to us that God delivered in person.

Note **John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10; Ephesians 3:18-19**

God's love is long enough to last forever; wide enough to be everywhere; deep enough to handle all our hurts; and high enough to hold on to us no matter how high the floods of life crash in on us.

3. Make a Relationship with God Possible (Note Ephesians 5:1)

Whether or not your parents planned you, God planned you.
There are accidental parents but no accidental babies.
One day your heart will stop beating, but that's not the end of you.

God has done everything possible so you can know Him personally.
He even took the initiative and came to earth Himself.

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Not only does God want you in His family...
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No one becomes a follower of Jesus accidentally...
You have to make a choice to start a relationship with God.

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- If you say, *I do*, to Jesus, it will forever change your life, both on this earth and for all eternity.
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