



Who Needs Christmas: God Did

The Christmas story didn't begin with shepherds watching over their flocks, wise men following a star and a young couple that couldn't find a place to have their baby. It began much earlier than that, and it was more epic than anyone could have imagined.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

Guess how many ornaments are on the Christmas tree. (Of course you need to know the right answer)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What part of Sunday's message stood out to you? Was there anything you disagreed with or that encouraged you? What about the Christmas story inspires you?

"God needed to stage a demonstration. The world needed an illustration. We needed to see it to believe it."

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:4–5; Romans 5:7–8; Acts 3:14–15; Matthew 1:20–23

Context: The events of Christmas would be unbelievable if the story weren't so remarkable. The story began in Genesis with a promise that through one man, the entire world would be blessed. God was moving with a goal: to bring the world to the exact point in time when Jesus would arrive.

- Read Galatians 4:4–7. What is Paul trying to communicate to the the Galatian Church about Jesus? How can we apply that to our lives today?
- During the message, Andy said, "The events of Christmas would be unbelievable if the story wasn't so remarkable." What is Christmas story to you? Is it unbelievable, remarkable or some of both?
- Read Romans 5:6–8. What is Paul saying about God's love for us? How is this demonstrated in the Christmas story? What concepts from these verses that we can apply to our lives today?
- During the message, Andy said, "Jesus' death demonstrated the magnitude of our ingratitude and the magnitude of his love for us." Why do we so easily forget how much Jesus loves us? How can we internalize this love in our lives so we can "shine our light" to the people around us?
- What can you do this Christmas season to show gratitude for God's love for you, via the Christmas story? How can this group help you?

MOVING FORWARD

The world needed Christmas. So God staged a demonstration and documented it so the world would know. He did it because we needed to see it to believe it. God had to be **with us** so we could know he was **for us**.

LIVE IT OUT

Memorize: Romans 5:8

Journaling: Write about how God has demonstrated his love to you in both salvation and in walking with you in a relationship.

Prayer: Ask God to give you a heart that is grateful for His love in your life (and all of the ways that is manifested).

Accountability: Share with the group who you are going to invite to Christmas Eve service and ask them to encourage you and keep you accountable.