

Christmas with 3Crosses

“Christmas in One Word”

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- As a leader you **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.

DISCUSSION

Opening Prayer: (1-5 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week’s message, here’s some suggestions of how your group can invite God into your time together.

Thank the Lord for sending His one and only Son to be born into this world to live the righteous life that we could never live. Thank Jesus for the gift of his sacrifice on the cross on behalf of humanity while we were still sinners so that we may be counted righteous in Jesus Christ. Finally pray that the Holy Spirit would open our eyes to God’s humility so that we can truly grasp the Christmas Spirit as we give graciously and serve humbly this Holiday season!

Discussion: (30 minutes)

What’s Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into the final week of our series titled *Christmas with 3Crosses*. Pastor Danny focused our attention on the humble circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus in order to express the importance of Jesus’ mission of salvation. Pastor Danny uses excerpts from the story of Jesus to show how God is continually orchestrating events to bring about his will, emphasize Jesus’ mission of salvation, and reflect the humble nature of God through Jesus Christ.

“Jesus came because he loved us, he came to serve us, he came for us. I don’t think the Ritz Carlton was on the mind of God when he was designing His trip to planet earth, I think you and I were.”– Pastor Danny Strange

Suggested Questions

Check-In: Review *Matthew 1:18-25*: Last week, our discussion revolved around the story of Joseph as he wrestled with the balance between human reason and obedience to a divine message. What did the Lord reveal about your complex situation this week and the relationship between your human rationality and your call to faithful obedience?

Study Tip: Primarily, scholars believe that Luke's writings are an attempt to exonerate Paul (Acts 28:11-31) by influencing a Roman named Theophilus (Lk. 1:3, Acts 1:1) who is described as κράτιστε ("kratiste" translated as *most excellent* or a *governor*). Luke does this by presenting a historical account of the gospel that is neutral towards Roman authority and distinctly Jewish in nature. This approach attempts to alleviate the perceived threat of the widespread Christian movement across the Roman Empire but is also able to minister to the Gentile readers who are facing the threat of 1st century persecution. As you read Luke 2, consider God's sovereignty over Roman rulers, working through humble Jews, extended to Gentile readers, and continued on 2000 years later!

- **Objective #1: Identify God's orchestration in your life directing you towards humility.**

Primary Texts – Luke 2:1-20: Pastor Danny points out that God orchestrates Jesus' birth to result in the traditional manger scene in order to emphasize God's humble mission as the lamb of God that would be an unblemished sacrifice for all sinners. What are the ways in which God has directed you towards Jesus' humility throughout your life or recently throughout the Christmas series?

Supporting Texts – Philippians 2:6-8 (Humility); Micah 4:8, 5:2, Matthew 2:1-6 (Bethlehem); John 1:29, Revelation 5:1-14 (Lamb)

- **Objective #2: Survey humble obedience to strengthen your calling to obey in 2020.**

Primary Texts – Luke 2:21-40: This passage introduces us to several unmentioned characters such as the shepherds, Simeon, and Anna the prophetess who are all expressing humility and faithfulness to God's commands throughout the narrative. What are some of the common attributes of the people involved in the Christmas event that you have observed this series and how can you best apply them to your life?

Supporting Texts – Exodus 13:2, Leviticus 12:1-8 (Birth Laws); Isaiah 8:14-15, 42:1-9, 49:1-7, 60:1-3 (Jew and Gentile)

- **Objective #3: Remember God's gracious gift of Jesus and share that gift this Christmas!**

Primary Texts – Luke 2:41-52: As we conclude this series, reflect on what the Son of God has done in your life, then ask what is one way to extend this gracious gift to someone you will see this Christmas?

Supporting Texts: Luke 19:28-44, John 13:1-17, Mark 2:42-45 (Humility), Exodus 20:5, Isaiah 6:1, Revelation 19:11-21 (Glory)

Closing Prayer: (5-15 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.

Thank our Heavenly Father for choosing to gracefully open our eyes and hearts to His truth! Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to open our eyes to the significance of Jesus being born in this world and orchestrating this Christmas event through humble people. Pray that the graceful truth of the gospel message would spark in us a grace and compassion to give, receive, live, and worship humbly as we interact with the community around us!

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

-Further Reading and Exploration! *Read the book of Philippians:* In this week's study guide, we briefly addressed the core verses of Philippians (2:6-11). The church at Philippi existed within a Roman Colony and faced many of the same pressures as Paul did when he was imprisoned at the end of Acts 28. However, Paul calls the church to unite and grow in light of the gospel message, one in which God humbles Himself to suffer so that he could rise from the grave and we can rejoice! As you read the book, pay close attention to the real-life examples Paul offers for those who have committed to Jesus' way of life, those who have not, and how suffering becomes the source of joy for many!

- Find out how to pray for two people in your group this week! Pray that they would continue to find new ways to experience God's grace as they remember that God has decided to move His will forward through their humility!

-Follow along with our Advent Devotional! Follow this link to find our [Christmas with 3Crosses Advent Devotional](#) or go and pick one up at the church!

-Explore New Ways to Give this Holiday Season! Visit our [Christmas with 3Crosses](#) website to find out more ways to partner with different ministries to share the grace that God has given us!

- Sign-Ups for the New Community Group Season begin January 26th, 2019! If you have any questions, feel free to email AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org