



Journey Group Lesson for “Christmas Reminds Us That Misfits Matter” - December 12, 2010

Getting Started

Think about your best Christmas ever. Tell the rest of the group about it. Why was it so special?

Digging Deeper

You would have expected Jesus to be born in a palace or somewhere fit for a King. He would be the Messiah, the King of the Jews. Even so, God chose a different path for Jesus. Jesus came on to the scene in an obscure little town, Bethlehem. God chose an unclean birthplace, a deplorable environment, a manger. Jesus’ parents, Mary and Joseph, were peasants. God chose unlikely visitors - shepherds - who were despised and “unclean”. This surely was not the best of ways for the King of Kings to be born, or was it?

Do you think Jesus deserved better? Why or why not?

Why do you think God chose to bring Jesus into the world in this way?

Read [Matthew 5:1-12](#). In what ways are Jesus’ words in this passage counter-cultural? Does it really make sense to say to the person who is mourning or the person who is persecuted that they are “blessed”? How does Jesus make this possible? In what ways was the birth of Jesus an example of the words Jesus speaks in Matthew 5:1-12?

Read [1 Corinthians 1:26-29](#). The Bible says God chose the foolish to shame the wise and the weak to shame the strong. In what way does the birth of Jesus demonstrate this? How do the death and resurrection demonstrate it?

Bringing It Home

Read [Matthew 11:19](#) and [Luke 15:2](#). Jesus clearly liked hanging out with the “nobodies” – so much so that He was called a “friend of sinners”. Have you ever stopped to think what it would have been like to spend the day hanging out with Jesus? Have you ever stopped to think that He **LIKES** you and other misfits?

We claim to be Christians – to be little Christs (the literal meaning of the term). If it was said of Jesus that He was a friend of sinners, what should this say about us? Have you ever been accused of being a “friend of sinners”? Why or why?

Christmas teaches us that misfits matter. We could say that Jesus had a “misfit” birth. He loves (and likes) misfits. What are some ways you could extend the love of Jesus to “sinners” or misfits this Christmas season? What are some ways your small group could do the same?

Ask God to help you and your group be like Jesus this Christmas and show His love to others.