

5. Read **Isaiah 49:6**. What does this verse tell you about God's character? What does it tell you about what he thinks about people?

6. Are there situations in your life where God hasn't answered your prayer in the way you thought he would? Jeremiah said, "Just because God is silent doesn't mean he is still." In what ways does this viewpoint of the Christmas Story help you to keep your faith intact?

7. Read **Philippians 2:5-7**. These verses tell us that Jesus did not cling to his rights as being equal to God, but set them aside to establish relationship with humanity! What 3 adjectives would you use to describe Jesus' behavior in these verses?

8. Christmas is the story of reconciliation between us and God! We love God by loving people created in his image. Is there anyone in your life that you need to be reconciled to, apologize to, forgive, or reconnect with during this season?

Tis The Season // Week 1

The Christmas story actually begins with a _____.

The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you." **Genesis 12:1-3**

VERSE TO REMEMBER:

"I will make you a light to the Gentiles, and you will bring salvation to the ends of the earth." **Isaiah 49:6**

"My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations," says the Lord Almighty." **Malachi 1:11**

3 Christmas reminders:

1. God can be _____ to keep his promises.

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you... Don't be afraid, Mary. For you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" **Luke 1:26-33**

2. Just because God is silent doesn't mean he is _____.

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you... You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." **Luke 1:26-33**

MESSAGE NOTES *(continued)*

3. Christmas is the story of _____ between us & God!

And that's the way it was with us before Christ came. We were like children; we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this world. But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.

Galatians 4:4-5

BOTTOM LINE:

There is no place so low that God will not descend to have relationship with you!

WHAT'S MY NEXT STEP?

Want to learn the WHY behind the WHAT? Discover WHY we started Westbridge Church, why we do things the way we do them, and how you can be a part of it moving forward! Join us THIS AFTERNOON for our NEXT STEPS CLASS at the Operations Center in Colonial Mall in St. Michael! Simply show up today @ 2pm for this one hour class to discover your next steps!

“Be doers of the word and not hearers only...” James 1:22



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Our Groups are currently on break for the holiday season. Use these questions for personal study and reflection during this season, and our groups will launch again in January!

1. How do you feel as you head into the Christmas season this year? Is it a positive time or a negative time for you?

2. Do you find it difficult to believe the details of the Christmas Story? Why or why not?

3. Can you think of a time in your life when God felt distant or silent? What happened? How did that experience ultimately impact your faith?

4. Read **Genesis 12:1-3**. In what ways does God's promise to Abraham change your view of the Christmas Story?