

What Are The Rules?

December 4, 2016



ICEBREAKER: What do you call the game White Elephant, Dirty Santa, Yankee Swap, Pollyanna Swap? Or some other name? Tell some stories about gift exchanges of Christmas past.

MAIN POINTS:

**The only way to see Jesus this Christmas,
Is to seek Him this Christmas.**

EXPLORATION:

1. Read the following prophecies about Jesus birth. Isaiah 7:14, Jeremiah 31:15, Hosea 11:1, and Micah 5:2. Do they make sense to you? Do you think they made sense to the people of the Old Testament? Do you think people at the time of Jesus birth understood them?

(Context Clues- God hid the birth of the Messiah in some amazing riddles. How can a virgin have a child? How can someone be from Bethlehem, Nazareth, and Egypt all at the same time? Why will there be inconsolable weeping and the loss of babies at the time of the Messiah)

- 2. Read Matthew 1:18-2:18. Notice where the prophecies above are fulfilled in this passage. We and Matthew have the advantage of seeing these prophecies fulfilled in hind sight. Do you think many individuals recognized the fulfillment of prophecy as it was happening?**

- 3. Do you think the rules of the first Christmas would have been more fair if God had made the prophecies more obvious? Why or why not?**

- 4. How do these prophetic passages relate to the main point of this study: "The only way to see Him this Christmas, is to seek Him this Christmas."**

APPLICATION:

- 1. How do the main point of this study relates to your Christmas?: "The only way to see Him this Christmas, is to seek Him this Christmas." What things could distract you from seeking Him during this season of your life?**

- 2. Read Matthew 6:33, Hebrews 11:6, and Isaiah 9:6-7. What do these passages indicate about our need to seek Him as a personal Savior and Lord this Christmas. What roles does Isaiah say that Jesus can play in our life?**

- 3. Pray for the people of RPCC to Seek the Savior this Christmas season. Pray for the needs of group members related to this season of the year.**