



Not What I Want

December 11, 2016

ICEBREAKER: What is the worst White Elephant gift you have ever received?

MAIN POINTS:

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

EXPLORATION:

1. Read Luke 2:1-7. If you were in Joseph's shoes, what are all of the circumstances that you would consider unfavorable?

(Context Clues- The dangers of traveling with a very pregnant wife, having to travel for a census instead of a vacation, the baby is not mine, Being under Roman rule, Oppressed by a foreign government, No room available for my wife, safety of my child, being stuck in a cave, shepherds showing up to the delivery room).

2. Read Luke 2:1-7. If you were in Mary's shoes, what are all of the circumstances that you would consider unfavorable?

(Context Clues- Feelings of guilt because I can't guarantee my baby safety, inconveniencing Joseph, Joseph is not the daddy, going into labor on the trip, not having adequate circumstances to deliver my child, being alienated from family and familiar surroundings.)

3. Read Luke 2:8-20. What are the unusual and uncomfortable circumstances in this passage? Are any of the circumstances what you would wish for at the birth of your first child?

(Context Clues-Would you want shepherds in the delivery room with you?)

APPLICATION:

1. Consider the following principles. How do they relate to Luke 2?

- A. God does His best work with you with your worst circumstances
- B. God does His best work through the most unlikely people. (Mary)
- C. God does His best work for the most undeserving people. (Shepherds)
- D. God specializes in making His presence known in places you wouldn't expect Him to be.
- E. If you don't seek Him you could miss Him. (Luke 2:19-20).

2. How do the principles above relate to you during this season of your life? Which one seems to be the most pertinent?

3. Read Luke 2:19-20. How do you need to treasure and ponder about the circumstances in your life to see how God might be moving through unfavorable circumstances?

4. 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 and this study.