

a Thrill of



H O P E
CHRISTMAS

The Week of December 20, 2020
Luke 2:1-20
Conversation Guide

Intro

- Are newborns really as beautiful as we think they are?
- How helpless is a newborn? What can they do for themselves and what are their needs?

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The Christmas Story Revisited

- Read Luke 2:4-7 (NIV)

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

- What do you think this experience was like for the newlyweds as they traveled far to find no one with a room available?

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- How mind boggling is it for the Creator of the Universe to take the form of a helpless baby in an insignificant country and a tiny town?
- How does the humble start of Jesus fit God's story of redeeming man by giving Himself to provide a way?

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Do You Know This Baby Boy?

- Read Colossians 1:16-17 (NIV)

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

- What truths does this reveal about Jesus and the nature of God?
- How do these truths speak to you?
- Why do people sometimes like Jesus the baby in the manger but resist seeing Jesus as the Son of God?

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- Read John 1:1-3, 14 and John 10:30 (NIV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created . . . The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

I and the Father are one.

- Who is Jesus according to these passages?

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Christmas: A Demonstration (of Ultimate Love)

- Read Philippians 2:5-11 (NLT, most scholars see this as a hymn used in the early church).

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

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Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- To what degree of love and humility did Jesus go for us?
- How can you follow in the steps of Christ as outlined in this passage to have His attitude?

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- Why is it we have such a hard time accepting Jesus as the One we will all bow to one day?
 - Who loves you the most?
 - Who knows you the best?
 - Who wants the best and has the best plan for your life?
 - Why do we resist the most logical thing which is to give our life to the One who gave His life for us?
- Read this passage from Pastor David's sermon:

“So as we stand here just 5 days from Christmas, I want to ask you as clearly as I possibly can to make his coming of value and worth in your own life by accepting Christ's offer of forgiveness. I want to invite you to be honest with yourself about your own sinfulness and recognize how it separates you from God and

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then to embrace his offer of payment of sin on your behalf. Because that is what Christmas represents. It represents the opportunity to be at peace with God and live the life that he desires for you. So today as we prepare for Christmas will you ask yourself honestly if you have chosen to actually believe in and follow Jesus who's birth we celebrate? If you have not, I beg you to do so today."

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Christmas: A Declaration

- **Recite the Christmas Story together:**

“I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God who became man, lived a perfect life, died for sinners, rose from the dead and now reigns at the right hand of the Father.”.

- **Close your time together in prayer**