



Everyone recognizes the look of Christmas. What everyone needs to recognize is that Christmas should change how we look at everything. This series will explore some of life's greatest themes through the lens of the birth of Jesus.

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1** We love to look at our lives and our families through the lens of Christmas. At no other time of the year do we mail or post more pictures of ourselves. Why do you believe that is true?

**2 CHRISTMAS reframes how we picture everything.** Christmas challenges us to look at everything in a new light because it announces the most starting claim in history. **Read 1 John 4:2-3.** How does the truth that "God came to earth as a man" change how we look at everything? Give some examples.

**3 GOD... is on the throne.** We live in a world that often seems out of control, or even worse, under the control of very dark powers. How does the story of Christmas encourage us to live with hope in the midst of a world where the "Herods" seem to be winning?

**4** Rick reminded us that "Bethlehem was not a last-minute brainstorm of God" (see **Genesis 3:15**). Why is that significant and how does it fit into the one big story of salvation that the Bible is telling?

**5 GOD... is in our midst.** Christmas pictures a God who is not only over it all, but who has chosen to be in the middle of it all with us. **Read Matthew 1:22-23.** How does the picture of a God who understands reframe the way we view and cope with the hardships of life? Share an example of how this has been true in your life.

**6 GOD... is on our side.** Christmas doesn't just picture a God who is with us but a God who is for us. In fact, it announces the good news that God is willing to do for us what we could never do for ourselves. **Read Matthew 1:21 and Luke 2:10-11.** How does Christmas reframe the diagnosis of the human condition? Why is understanding this so crucial?

**7** God became a man to take our place so that we could have a place with Him forever. **Read 1 John 4:10.** Why is this such "good news"? Christmas is a great season to share this news with your "one". Spend some time as a group praying for the people in your life who need to be reminded of this great news. Encourage everyone to look for opportunities to boldly share this truth with others.

#### Closing thoughts

**JESUS is the best way to picture God.** The birth of Jesus challenges the popular narrative that God is distant and angry and in need of being appeased. Christmas is God wanting you to know who He really is. **Read John 1:14, 18.** Jesus did not come to change God's mind about us; he came to change our mind about God. This Christmas season make every effort to see God through the lens of the coming Jesus. It will change the way you view everything else.

