



Today's Scripture

December 22, 2019

MATTHEW 1:21-23

LUKE 2:8

PSALM 95:1

MATTHEW 2:11

ZECHARIAH 2:10

MATTHEW 1:23

ISAIAH 7:14

ISAIAH 9:2

MICAH 5:2

ISAIAH 9:6-7


JOHN 1:4-6


ISAIAH 53:5-6



MATTHEW 11

1 COR. 1:26-31

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Family & Community Discussion

The details that surround the birth of Jesus are important because they speak of God's nature and character (meek and lowly). The exact date of His birth has no significance whatsoever, which may be why God chose not to mention it. The fact is that Jesus was born, that He came into the world to atone for our sins, that He was resurrected to eternal life, and that He's alive today. This is what we should celebrate with our gifts, celebrations, and songs. We are told in the Old Testament Zechariah 2:10 "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the Lord." The New International Version says, "Shout and be glad, O Daughter of Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you," declares the LORD." That is exactly what Jesus did in what we celebrate as Christmas.

DISCUSSION

What Christmas traditions does your family have?
 How might we be mixing culture & Christianity in an unhealthy way today?
 What would it look like to redeem our culture's celebrations during Christmas?

EXPLANATION

What is it God has promised from the two sections in Isaiah?
 What does it mean that Christ is Immanuel?
 Why did Christ come to the lowest people in society?

APPLICATION – READ MATTHEW 1:21-23

Have you ever held an alternative religious belief?
 Can you speak into this idea of having to be "good enough" to find enlightenment or the divine?
 Have you ever felt "good enough?"
 What hinders you from putting your full trust and faith in Jesus?

As a community, pray over those who do not believe; that they come to realize their brokenness and need, and experience much joy as they come to realize that they don't have to be good enough, because Jesus is and accepts and loves them today.

MISSION

With today's cultural segregation (classes, racism, sexual identity), who are considered the 'lowest' people in our society?
 How is Christ inclusive with that people group?
 What does the message of this Good News sound like to that group?
 How can you befriend and speak this truth into their lives this Christmas?