



Group Leader Guide - Week 1

Sermon Recap

Danny focuses on the remarkable and often challenging aspects of the Christmas story, highlighting how it begins with God's seemingly impossible promise to Abraham centuries before the birth of Jesus. He underscores the journey of faith that Abraham undertook, believing in a future blessing for all nations despite the odds. He emphasizes that just when hope seemed lost, God fulfilled His promises through Jesus, bringing light into a world shrouded in darkness. Ultimately, Danny calls everyone to recognize the need for Christmas and invites both believers and non-believers to let their light shine or step into the light of Jesus.

Ice Breaker

If you were one of the wise men following the star to find Jesus, what unique gift would you bring and why?

Discussion Questions

- ▶ What are some of the different perspectives on Christmas, and how do these perspectives affect people's feelings about the holiday?
- ▶ What are some of the miraculous pieces of the Christmas story that might be challenging for people to believe?

Read Scripture

Genesis 12:1-3 NIV

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

² "I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.^[a]

³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."

Luke 1:26-38 NIV

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called^[b] the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Discussion Questions

- ▶ What is the connection between the promise God made to Abraham and the story of Christmas?
- ▶ How did the journey of the Jewish nation from Abraham to Jesus show God’s plan to bless all people?
- ▶ Danny answers the question of 'Who needs Christmas?' by saying that God decided the world needed Christmas. How does this relate to hope in our lives?

Prayer

- Ask God to help you remember the significance of hope this week.
- Pray for opportunities to share light in your interactions with others.
- Seek guidance for how to shine brightly as a reflection of His love.

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