

LIFE GROUP LESSON

No Darkness • Week of December 15

1. Do you celebrate Christmas? If so, why?

Have you ever wondered how Christmas is celebrated in Heaven? Since the entire revelation of the Bible is about the SON, God's Word becoming flesh, we can be certain that heaven does not mimic the trendy cultural expressions of the 'Holiday Season' as we do today. Throughout the years, many Christian churches have attempted to integrate the baby Jesus with surrounding beliefs and notions. But from beginning to end, Heaven's Christmas forever proclaims the eternal, foundational truth fully expressed in a Person:

"Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. And they sang in a mighty chorus: 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered—to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing'" (Revelation 5:11-12).

John says in his epistle, that we are not to 'believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit.' But we 'must test them' to see if they really do speak by the Spirit of God. The proof of solid, foundational Christianity is rooted in the incarnation. God descended to us. God's Christ came to this world in a real human body, was born at a time set by Heaven, atoned (covered, paid) all sin through shed blood on the cross, and was raised to life on the third day—these truths are essential to a full and accurate understanding of Christmas.

Read **1 John 4:1-16**

2. "This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins" (v10). Stop for a moment and envision Heaven as revealed in **Revelation 5:1-10**. Write down three specific things that stand out to you from these ten verses in Revelation—

If you ever find yourself in a prideful state, perhaps indifferent to the fact that Jesus' shed blood covers your sin – just remember, you were born into this world like everybody else. Some day you will die and leave this world, like everybody else. No one is exempt from death. But praise God, because of Christmas—the Lord Jesus Christ came to put death *to death!* Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

3. We are all re-born (come to new life) the same way, through the work of Christ on the cross and by His resurrection power. Close by reading **1 John 5:20-21** and share briefly how this series *No Darkness* has impacted your life.

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Text: I John 4:1-10, 2 Timothy 3:1-5

PLAIN TRUTH:

Real Christianity is rooted in the _____,
_____ and _____ of Jesus.

1. Look and listen for _____.
2. The _____ lives in us if the
_____ lives in us.
3. A _____ experience is always a
_____ experience.

December 14 & 15, 2019

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