

GETTING STARTED

Luke 2:7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

“Each of us is an Inn Keeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.” – Neal Maxwell

- Briefly share your story of when you welcomed/received Jesus as your Savior. (John 1:11-13)
- Share a time when you may have shut Jesus out of some aspect of your life.
- Are you keeping Jesus at the door during this season of your life in any way or have you given Him the keys to have full reign and authority over your entire life?

DISCUSSION

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:10-13)

- Though the world was made through Jesus, the world did not recognize him or welcome Him. Why do you think the world didn't recognize its own Creator?

Pastor Lee talked about how pride can close our hearts and minds to Jesus. He referenced the pride of Satan in Ezekiel 28:17 and Isaiah 14:13-14. God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble. Philippians 2:3-8 provides a wonderful picture of the humility modeled for us by Jesus.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- Discuss the portraits of humility in the “Christmas Story” with regard to some of the key characters (Jesus, Joseph, Mary, shepherds, etc.)

Making room for Jesus this season ...

- When everything is “perfect” in your life, what will you do to continue making room for Jesus?
- When things are messed up and falling apart, how will you remember to make room for Jesus?
- What are some ways that you may be able to make room for Jesus by humbling yourself this season?

A Prayer For December: Dearest God, please never let me crowd my life full to the brim. So like the keeper of Bethlehem's Inn, I find I have no room for Him. Instead, let my heart's door be ever open, ready to welcome the newborn King. Let me offer the best I have to Him Who gives me everything. –author unknown

DIGGING DEEPER

The theme of John's Gospel is that Jesus is the Son of God (John 20:30-31), and in the first chapter he proves his claim. You cannot help but see that Jesus is God's Son because of the names and titles He bears, the works He performs, and the witnesses who knew Him personally and declare who He is. Take some time on your own to read and reflect on John chapter 1 as you work through the short study on the next page.

Christ's Names Prove He is God's Son

Match the appropriate name of Jesus to the verses below: (The Son of Man, The Christ, The Light, The Lamb of God, The Word, The Son of God, The King of Israel)

_____ (1:1-3, 14)

_____ (1:4-13)

_____ (1:15-18, 30-34, 49a)

_____ (1:19-28, 35-42)

_____ (1:29, 35-36)

_____ (1:43-49)

_____ (1:50-51)

Christ's Works Prove He is God's Son

Match the appropriate works of Jesus to the verses below: (He baptizes with the Spirit, He gives men salvation, He has intimate knowledge of men, He created the world, He forgives sin, He reveals God to humanity, He opens the way to heaven)

_____ (1:1-4)

_____ (1:9-13)

_____ (1:15-18)

_____ (1:29)

_____ (1:33)

_____ (1:42, 47-48)

_____ (1:50-51)

Witnesses Prove that Jesus is God's Son

John uses the word "witness" often in his Gospel (1:7-8, 15; 3:26, 28; 5:31-37; 8:18; 15:27; 18:23). The witnesses of the Bible can be trusted because they had a personal contact with Jesus, and they gained nothing from men by witnessing for Him. In fact, they suffered for it. There is no evidence that they lied; their witness should stand in court today.

Match the appropriate witnesses of Jesus to the verses below: (Nathanael, John the Apostle, The Holy Spirit, Philip, John the Baptist, Andrew, The Old Testament Prophets)

_____ (1:7, 15, 29)

_____ (1:14)

_____ (1:30, 45)

_____ (1:33-34)

_____ (1:41)

_____ (1:45)

_____ (1:49)