

REFLECTION GUIDE

12.10.23

INTRO

The Christmas story began in Genesis with God’s promise that through one man, the entire world would be blessed. Apparently, the world needed blessing--but it wasn’t only the world that needed Christmas. God needed it, too.

THOUGHTS

PRAYER

Gracious God, I can’t thank you enough for demonstrating your love through Christ, our Emmanuel. Thank you for coming to be *with me*. Your presence with me each day brings me hope, love, joy, and peace. Help me to show my gratitude by cultivating these things in my life so others might know you are with them as well. Amen.

DIGGING DEEPER

- Talk about a time you had trouble convincing someone else of something you knew to be true. What did you say?
- Galatians 4:4-7 says, “But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, ‘Abba, Father.’ Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.” [NLT] In what ways does our culture tempt us to relinquish the freedom we enjoy as God’s children?
- When you think of the Christmas story, do you tend to view it as unbelievable or remarkable? What are some of the things that have shaped your view of Christmas?
- Romans 5:6-8 says, “When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” [NLT]
 - What are some truths about God that you wouldn’t know if Jesus hadn’t demonstrated them?
 - Is it difficult to believe God loves you this much? Why or why not?
- What can you do this Christmas season to show gratitude for God’s choice to demonstrate so much love for you?

