

REFLECTION GUIDE

12.17.23

INTRO

We often reduce Christmas to forgiveness. We can't live up to God's standards, so Jesus came to make things right. This message isn't incorrect, but it's incomplete. The message of Christmas is bigger and better than that!

THOUGHTS

PRAYER

God of grace, I am so thankful that you want me to live life to the fullest. With each choice I make help me to remember that allowing sin to control my life is not freedom. Thank you for coming to save me from anything that would take away from the abundant life I am offered in Christ. Amen.

DIGGING DEEPER

- What is one of your favorite Christmas memories? Why is it special to you?
- John 6:35 says, "Jesus replied, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'" [CEB] Is it difficult for you to believe that Jesus wants you to experience fulfillment? Why or why not?
- Do you tend to view the story of Christmas as Jesus providing forgiveness for your sins or as Jesus setting you free from sin? What has shaped this view?
- Is it difficult for you to believe that sin doesn't have to be your master? Is it difficult to believe that Jesus has set you free? Why or why not?
- Romans 6:12-14 says, "Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace." [NLT]
 - What do you think it would look like to offer yourself completely to God?
 - How would it change your daily life?
- Does sin currently master you? What can you do to remind yourself that sin is not your master because Jesus has set you free?

