

CHRISTMAS IS HERE...

Part 1.0 ... so let's RECEIVE Him! John 1:12

The arrival of Jesus was the PREMEDITATED plan of God revealed 100's of years in advance.

Three of several hundred foretelling of Jesus' life on earth

- **Isaiah 9:6-7** – In the 8th Century BC Isaiah foretold the EXACT TRIBE
- **Micah 5:2** – In the 8th century BC Micah foretold the EXACT TOWN
- **Isaiah 7:14** – Isaiah also foretold the uniqueness of JESUS' MOTHER

Jesus was/is the gift to be RECEIVED John 1

- The darkness did not COMPREHEND Him vs. 5
- The world did not KNOW Him vs. 10
- His own people did not RECEIVE Him vs. 11
- But as many as RECEIVED Him... BELIEVE in His name vs. 12
 - ▶ Receiving means to bring to the CENTER of everything, not simply an ADD-ON
 - ▶ Receiving means KNOWING Him, not just knowing about Him
 - ▶ Receiving means EMBRACING the total package of who Jesus is
 - ▶ Receiving leads not to BENEFITS, but to a POSITION that includes benefits
 - ▶ Receiving leads to being GIVEN the RIGHT to become CHILDREN OF GOD

Life Group Questions – Dec 8th, 2019

John 1:12-13; *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

QUICK REVIEW

1. Re-read Matthew 1:18-25. Joseph, Mary's husband, was going to secretly send her away even though he had the right to publicly disgrace her. Why is it so important for Christians to react with tenderness to circumstances that may call for severe response?

2. In the above passage, we find that Joseph was a remarkable man in many ways. What parts of this passage show his self-control? Why do you think Joseph was so compliant in his difficult circumstance?

MY STORY

1. In order to receive something, it must first be offered or delivered. Describe what happens during the act of receiving a gift. What does it mean to reject what has been offered?

2. Describe a time when you refused something only to later find out it would've benefitted you greatly. Why do you think you responded that way? Did you not appreciate or comprehend the value of the offering? Did you question motives? Why do we reject things we don't understand?

3. Share about your conversion experience in "receiving Christ by faith." Has your story changed over time? How so?

GOING DEEP

1. As believers, were we bestowed anything by the arrival of Jesus? What about those who aren't believers? What position do Christians hold that non-believers do not?

2. What happens when things are exposed to an intense light? Why do we still prefer staying out of the light? Do we not comprehend who Jesus is? Doesn't this mean we are accepting the darkness? Explain. What's keeping you from living fully in the Light?

3. Jesus is not an add-on to some "to do list." When we truly receive Jesus, He becomes the very center of our lives. What does a Christ-centered life mean? How does this impact our "to do list?"

4. In God's eyes, can you hold a position that includes Kingdom benefits without knowing Jesus? What does it take to embrace the "total package" of who Jesus is?

PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?

2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for **you** to remember?