

**Celebrate Christmas: 3 of 3**  
**“It’s All About Jesus”**  
**Cornerstone Church of Poway**  
**December 24, 2023 – 5:00 PM**  
**Pastor Ed Turley**

**Big Idea:** God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things when we trust Him.

But when the **right time** came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. <sup>5</sup> 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**.

**Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT2) Remember Verse**

### **Why Did Jesus Come?**

#### **1. Jesus Came To Understand Us**

Therefore the **Lord himself** will give you a sign: The **virgin** will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him **Immanuel**. **Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)**

The people walking in **darkness** have seen a **great light**; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. **Isaiah 9:2 (NIV)**

For to us a **child is born**, to us a **son** is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**. **Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)**

Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect **like us**, his brothers and sisters, so that He could be our **merciful and faithful** High Priest before God. Then He could offer a **sacrifice** that would take away the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, He is able to **help us** when we are being tested. **Hebrews 2:17-18 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Jesus Came To Rescue Us

“Today in the town of David a **Savior** has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth **peace to men on whom His favor rests.**” **Luke 2:11-14 (NIV)**

Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the **Son** also became **flesh and blood**. For only as a human being could he die, and **only by dying** could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.  
**Hebrews 2:14 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Jesus Came To Forgive Us

For you know that God paid a **ransom** to save you from the **empty life** you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver.  
<sup>19</sup> It was the **precious blood of Christ**, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

**1 Peter 1:18-19 (NLT2)**

“Let us then approach the **throne of grace** with confidence, so that we may **receive mercy** and **find grace** to help us in our time of need.” **Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### **My next right step, I will:**

- [ ] Accept God’s gift of salvation.
- [ ] Trust that God understands my pain.
- [ ] Accept God’s complete forgiveness.

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**Family Corner:** [Read the Christmas Story as a family.]

**Ice Breaker:** What is your most memorable Christmas? Why?

### **The Christmas Story**

<sup>1</sup> At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census.  
**Luke 2:1-3 (NLT2)**

<sup>4</sup> And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David’s ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee.

<sup>5</sup> He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them. **Luke 2:4-7 (NLT2)**

<sup>8</sup> That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, <sup>10</sup> but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.

**Luke 2:8-10 (NLT2)**

<sup>11</sup> The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! <sup>12</sup> And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.” **Luke 2:11-14 (NLT2)**

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” <sup>16</sup> They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. **Luke 2:15-18 (NLT2)**

<sup>18</sup> All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished, <sup>19</sup> but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them. **Luke 2:18-20 (NLT2)**



### **A Christmas Letter from Jesus**

When you look for me at Christmas,  
You won't need a special star.  
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,  
I'm right here where you are.  
You may not be aware of me  
amid the celebrations.  
You'll have to look beyond the stores,  
and all the decorations.  
But if you take a moment  
from your list of things to do,  
To close your eyes and say a prayer,  
I'm waiting here for you.  
You're the one I want to be with,  
You're the reason that I came!  
And you'll find me in the stillness  
Where I'm whispering your name.

By Jan Mahannah