

LifeGroup Sermon Series Study

2020-2021

Series Three



“A Picture of Christmas”

Article



I carry in my head many images of Christmas.

It's evening, people are riding in an open sleigh heading home from church. I see smoke rising from a chimney where a family is gathering at their parent's house; and inside, the stockings are all hung on the mantle, the table

set and food prepared for the evening meal.

But I love other images that tell the Biblical story of Christmas - an angel speaking to Mary telling her an impossible story of what will happen; of a baby born in an unlikely place; of Mary carefully wrapping cloth strips around the baby; and of a star guiding Magi to come and bring gifts to this one of a kind child who will save the world.

It is so easy to blow right through Christmas in a normal year. But with everything that is happening in our world today, make an effort to stop for a moment and see the complete picture of Christmas. You will be glad you did.

For His Kingdom,

Pastor Doug

“A Picture of Christmas: A Virgin”

Matthew 1:18-23

Lesson 1

I. Purpose:

- A.** To help us understand who Mary was.
- B.** To help us know what Mary endured to be the mother of Jesus.
- C.** To help us see how we can follow Mary’s example.

II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A.** How are you doing with taking your next step?
- B.** How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A.** Review the points of the Pastor’s message.
- B.** Sermon outline: A Picture of Christmas.

Scene #1: A Virgin. Matthew 1:18-23

- This mother (_____) the world by being a virgin.
- She gave birth to a (_____).
- They called Him Immanuel, (_____) of the world.

- C.** Additional scriptures to look at: **Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:26-38; John 3:16.**

IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

- A.** What do you think Mary was like before she experienced the angel’s visit?
- B.** What do you think was going through Mary’s mind when the angel said she was going to have a baby?

Lesson 1 cont.

- C. What do you think was going through Joseph's mind because of his dream?
- D. How did Mary deal with her pregnancy becoming known?
- E. What do you think it was like to give birth to the Son of God?

What do you think Mary was thinking during the delivery and after the birth?

- F. Why was the name "Jesus" important?
- G. What is the connection between the names Jesus and Immanuel?
- H. Did Mary take a step of faith that God had called her to take? How?
- I. What is the next step of faith God is asking you to take?

V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If Lesson One is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is your next step?

VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

Spend a few minutes praying together out loud about your next step.

VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are **Luke 2:4-12**.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, watch online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

“A Picture of Christmas: A Baby”

Luke 2:4-12

Lesson 2

I. Purpose:

- A.** To help us understand the humanity of Christ.
- B.** To help us know the significance of Jesus being wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.
- C.** To help us see the servant that Jesus really was.

II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A.** How are you doing with taking your next step?
- B.** How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A.** Review the points of the Pastor’s message.
- B.** Sermon outline: A Picture of Christmas

Scene #2: A Baby. Luke 2:4-12

- He was born in the town of David (_____).
- A first (_____) baby wrapped in strips of cloth.
- The (_____) was found lying in a manger.

- C.** Additional scriptures to look at: **Isaiah 7:14; Ezekiel 16:4; Matthew 1:16-20.**

IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

- A.** Why do you think Jesus came as a baby?
- B.** What do you think Jesus was like as a baby?

Lesson 2 cont.

- C. Is it significant that baby Jesus was wrapped in strips of cloth? Why?
- D. Is it significant that baby Jesus was lying in a manger? Why?
- E. What did it require for Jesus to come into the world in this way?
- F. Jesus went all in for us, becoming a servant. What does it take for us to go all in for Jesus?

V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If Lesson Two is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is your next step?

VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

Spend a few minutes praying together out loud about your next step.

VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are **Matthew 2:1-12**.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, watch online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

“A Picture of Christmas: A Star”

Matthew 2:1-12

Lesson 3

I. Purpose:

- A. To help us understand how the star could be in the East and the Magi be from the East.
- B. To help us know the significance of the star.
- C. To help us see that we need to continue to seek and follow the star God has given us.

II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)

- A. How are you doing with taking your next step?
- B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)

- A. Review the points of the Pastor’s message.
- B. Sermon outline: A Picture of Christmas.

Scene #3: A Star. Matthew 2:1-12

- A rising (_____) suddenly appeared.
 - It was (_____) in the heavens and followed by the Magi.
 - It moved to the house where the (_____) was.
- C. Additional scriptures to look at: **Numbers 24:17;**
Jeremiah 23:5-6; Micah 5:2.

IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)

- A. Why was the star significant to the Magi?
- B. How did the star connect to Old Testament prophecy?

Lesson 3 cont.

- C. How could the Magi see the star in the East and be from the East?
- D. Is it significant that the star moved? Why or why not?
- E. What motivated the Magi to follow this star?
- F. What do you think it cost the Magi to follow this star?
- G. What star are you seeing in your life that God wants you to follow?

V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If Lesson Three is an area that God is speaking to you about, then what is your next step?

VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

Spend a few minutes praying with the person to your right about your next step.

VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scriptures next week are **Matthew 1:16-2:13** and **Luke 2:1-20**.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, watch online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

“A Picture of Christmas: A Celebration”

Matthew 1:16-2:13 and Luke 2:1-20

Lesson 4

- I. Purpose:**
 - A. To celebrate what we learned in this series.
 - B. To celebrate how God spoke to us in the last three weeks.
 - C. To give God honor and glory for what He did for us.

- II. Community that Cares: (10 minutes)**
 - A. What is the next step God is asking you to take and how are you doing?

 - B. How are you doing with your 5-5-5 this week?

- III. Community that Learns: (15 minutes)**
 - A. What spoke to you, challenged you, or encouraged you the most in this series?

 - B. What is one thing you learned, relearned, or were reminded of as we looked at the last three weeks of scriptures?

 - C. Additional scriptures to look at: Reread **Matthew 1:16-2:13** and **Luke 2:1-20**.

- IV. Community that Applies: (20 minutes)**
 - A. Before this series what was your understanding of the virgin, the baby Jesus, and the star?

 - B. What amazed you the most about Mary’s commitment to follow God?

Lesson 4 cont.

- C. What impressed you the most about what Jesus went through to become human?
- D. What was the most significant thing you learned or relearned about how the star impacted the Christmas story?
- E. Has this series motivated you to tell others about Jesus? How?

V. **Community that is Accountable: (15 minutes)**

If God has been speaking to you about this series, then what is the next step you need to take related to this series?

VI. **Community that Prays: (5 minutes)**

Spend some time praying silently about the next step that you are attempting to take. Pray for strength, boldness, and wisdom.

VII. **Community that Looks Ahead:**

- A. The scripture next week is **Psalms 23**.
- B. If you missed Sunday's sermon, listen to it online at www.lifewatercc.org before the next Life Group.
- C. Reflect on next week's questions during your five minutes of daily silence.

“A Picture of Christmas”

Filling in the blanks

Lesson 1:

- This mother (**shocked**) the world by being a virgin.
- She gave birth to a (**son**).
- They called Him Immanuel, (**Savior**) of the world.

Lesson 2:

- He was born in the town of David (**Bethlehem**).
- A first (**born**) baby wrapped in strips of cloth.
- The (**baby**) was found lying in a manger.

Lesson 3:

- A rising (**star**) suddenly appeared.
- It was (**seen**) in the heavens and followed by the Magi.
- It moved to the house where the (**Savior**) was.

"A Picture of Christmas"

Prayer Requests

DATE	PRAYER REQUEST	ANSWER

"A Picture of Christmas"

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