

Old School Christmas

If Not For Everyone, Then For No One (Wk.3)

LifeGroup Notes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

The “irreducible minimum” of the Christmas message is that it is good news, that brings great joy, to all people.

Key Scriptures

⁸ *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”*
Luke 2:8-12

The message of Christmas is not good news and does not bring great joy if it is not for all people.

The Message of Christmas:

- Is Good News.
- Brings Great Joy.
- Is For All People.

Additional Scripture:

John 3:16
1 Timothy 2:3-6
1 John 4:14
Romans 10:9-13

Start talking.

- Pastor Joel defined “irresistible minimum as: the simplest form of an idea that works”. He presented a mouse trap as an example. What other examples can you think of?
- Describe some “irreducible minimum” questions, invitations, proclamations, etc.
- What simple messages have been the most profound in your life?

Start thinking.

- Read Luke 2:1-15. What are some of the “verifiable” details that Luke included? Why include them?
- What are the key points from that passage?
- Condense those verses into 10 or fewer words.
- Read the Additional Scripture passages.
- What is the unifying theme?
- Why is “all” such an important idea to each of the writers?

Start sharing.

- Which of the Additional Scripture is most significant to you?
- In three sentences, describe the Gospel.
- What are ways people begin to move away from the idea that the Good News is for “all people”?
- How do you shrink the scope of the Good News in your own life?

Start doing.

- What are two practical ways this week you can reinforce to others that the message of Christmas is for everyone?

Closing prayer.

Dear Jesus, may we, like the angel, be the source of good tidings of great joy to all with whom you lead us into contact. May our hearts overflow in love and gratitude to You for who You are and what You have done in our redemption. And from that overflow may we by Your grace and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit spread this great joy to the whole world through the timeless message of the Gospel.