

# So Much More

## More Than a Holiday (Week 1)

LifeNotes

### TALK IT OVER

#### Main Idea

**Christmas is the promise we can expect so much more than we could hope or imagine.**

#### Key Scriptures

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" Luke 2:8-14

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. John 1:14

Now to Him who is able to carry out His purpose and do so much more than all that we dare ask or think, infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

**We expect much from the Christmas holiday, but often very little from Christ.**

#### Start talking.

- What are your expectations for the Christmas holiday?
- How does that differ from what you expect from Christ?
- Describe a time/experience where God surprised you with so much more than you expected.

#### Start thinking.

- Read Luke 2:8-14. What did the shepherds expect their night to look like? Why did they end up leaving their sheep? How might that experience have impacted the rest of their lives?
- Read John 1:14. Where was Jesus before he made his "home among us"? Why didn't he remain in heaven? What motivated Jesus to become human and draw close to all of us?
- Read Ephesians 3:20-21. How does this connect to our expectations during Christmas?

#### Start sharing.

- What keeps you from expecting much from Jesus?

- Pastor Joel mentioned we can expect Jesus to love us, bless us, and be with us. Which connects closest with you?
- Why does this matter for you during this Christmas season?

#### Start doing.

- Receive it. Whether it is your first time to believe in Jesus as Lord or not. How might this Christmas be different if you daily chose to remind yourself of all you have received from Jesus?

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12

- Rest in it. Stop striving and working so hard to try and earn what has already been freely given. What will you do this Christmas to rest in the peace that Jesus promises you?

Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Psalms 62:5

#### Closing prayer.

Jesus, thank you for the overwhelming gift of Christmas. Thank you for blessing us beyond what we could have hoped or imagined. Help me to lean closer into you and to expect your love, blessing, and presence through all my life.