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The Meaning of Christmas

Introduction:

Luke 4:14-22

Above all else, Christmas Means...

1. ...that _____ keeps His _____

He promised to send the Anointed One – the Christ – and He did!

2. ...that _____ is God's _____

see Isaiah 9:6-7

No matter how much of a mess we make of things, He will not leave us without a means of rescue!

3. ...that _____ is God's _____

Jesus promised that He (the Son) did not come to condemn, but to rescue all who simply believe (trust) in Him!

The Big Idea:

Christmas reminds us that even when life seems to be spinning out of control, God remains on His throne. He has not forgotten us, even in our sufferings. And we have been blessed in order that we may be a blessing to others in their sufferings...

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS OR PERSONAL/FAMILY REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. If you are willing, briefly share with the group one of your best OR worst Christmas memories. It could be funny and light-hearted, or more serious and consequential, but share with sensitivity to the rest of your group.

Ponderings:

2. For so many first-century Jews, the world seemed to be spinning out of control. Centuries of living under political oppression, massive poverty, sickness and disease, etc. was the way of life for most. Yet, at just the right time in the quiet of a tiny town called Bethlehem, God sent His deliverer...
 - Why do you think God's most significant blessings often come in the least impressive ways, humanly speaking?
 - What does Jesus' humble arrival tell us about the limitless ways God works behind the scenes even when the vast majority of people don't notice what He's up to?
3. Of the three major realities discussed about the true meaning of Christmas, which is the most impactful for you personally in the season you are currently in and why?
 - God always keeps His commitments
 - Goodness is at the heart of God's character
 - Grace is the basis of God's covenant
4. How should Jesus' choice NOT to finish the last sentence of the Isaiah 61 prophecy (about not yet bringing God's judgment to the world) encourage you in the everyday life you are living?

Promptings:

5. The Scripture is clear that we are blessed in order to "be" a blessing to others who are suffering or are in some way "in need." Discuss with your group how you intend to "be" that blessing to someone as we come to the end of 2019...