

“Miracle on 34th Street”
Series: “*Christmas Classics*”
(Part 1 of 4)

Open: Watching Christmas movies is a fun part of the season. What is your favorite Christmas movie and why? (How the Grinch Stole Christmas, White Christmas, Jingle All the Way, The Christmas Story, It’s a Wonderful Life, or Christmas Vacation)

Explore: Read Micah 5:1-4.

Micah was a prophet who wrote to warn Israel of God’s impending judgment and coming defeat by the Assyrians. Along the way Micah reveals God’s miraculous plan not only to rescue the Jewish nation from captivity, but ultimately the world.

1. What is the tone at the beginning of Chapter 5 (vs. 1)?
2. These verses were written 700 years before the birth of Jesus. What predictions concerning Bethlehem did Micah make (vs. 2)?
3. How long would Israel be abandoned (vs. 3)? What is the connection between this verse and the birth of Jesus?
4. What did Micah say the promised ruler would do for all people of the earth (vs. 4)?

Reflect: Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. What does Christmas mean to you?
2. The miracle of Jesus’ birth is that God came down to our level. Have you ever thought about what Jesus gave up in order to become one of us? Explain.
3. Christmas is traditionally a time of gift-giving. Ultimately, Jesus gave His life so that we might be saved. How has the true meaning of Christmas changed your life?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 15:17-20. The birth of Jesus gives us hope for eternity. What is one thing you are looking forward to about heaven?
5. Mary had her concerns when the angel of the Lord visited with news of a coming child. What doubts or concerns do you have this holiday season? How can the family / CARE Group pray for you?

Live:

As a group: Christmas is a time to celebrate. If you haven’t done so already, plan a Christmas party. Feel free to invite guests and serve food or play the white elephant gift game. Regardless, celebrate the birth of Christ with others.

On your own: Read through Luke 1:26-34. Reflect on the events of that very first Christmas. Put yourself in the shoes of Joseph or Mary. Finally, thank God for giving us the greatest gift of all time – the gift of life through His Son.

Listening Guide Notes

^[26] “In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ^[27] to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ^[28] The angel went to her and said, ‘Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.’” **-Luke 1:26-28 (NIV)**

The miracle of Jesus’ birth means....

1. “I matter...

“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” **-Isaiah 7:14b (NIV)**

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem...” **-Matthew 2:1 (NIV)**

^[5] “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus ^[6] Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ^[7] but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ^[8a] And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself...” **-Philippians 2:5-8a (NIV)**

2. “...to a Savior...

^[10] “The angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ^[11] Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.’” **-Luke 2:10-11 (NIV)**

“And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!” **-Philippians 2:8 (NIV)**

3. “...who is alive...

^[17] “...if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ^[18] Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ^[19] If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. ^[20] But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” **-1 Corinthians 15:17-20 (NIV)**

“...if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” **-Romans 10:9 (NIV)**

4. “...and can handle my doubts.”

“‘How will this be,’ Mary asked the angel, ‘since I am a virgin?’” **-Luke 1:34 (NIV)**