

“Yard Ornaments: Baby Jesus”

Series: *Christmas Yard Ornaments*

(Part 3 of 3)

Open: Briefly share the details of your birth or the birth of your first child (where, when, how).

Explore: Read John 1:1-18.

The Gospel of John begins not with the birth of Christ (as do Luke and Matthew), nor does it begin at the start of Jesus’ ministry (as does Mark). Instead, John chose to start his account of the life of Christ at the very beginning, the beginning of time.

1. What is the relationship between the “Word” and God (vs. 1-5)? What facts about the “Word” can be found in the first 5 verses?
2. What was John’s (the Baptist) role in relationship to the Word (vs. 6-9)? How can John the Baptist be an example to Christ followers today?
3. How does the Bible say the world received Jesus (vs. 10-11)? Does that surprise you given the fact that Jesus could be seen and touched? Why or why not?
4. What “right” do those who “believe” in His name and “receive” Him have (vs. 12-13)?
5. When, how and why did God make His dwelling among us (vs. 14-18)? What does the Bible promise we have received as a result of the fullness of His grace?

Reflect: Review key points from the lesson before discussing the questions.

1. What is the farthest distance you have traveled in order to visit family? What are some reasons might people have for making long trips to see family or friends?
2. One of the reasons that the Jews had such a difficult time in accepting Jesus was that He did not fit the image they expected of a “king.” What are some advantages / disadvantages to having a theocracy (God led kingdom) on earth?
3. Read Matthew 26:53. What does this passage tell us about the power and strength of God’s army? What power and strength did Jesus show by going to the cross without a fight?
4. When you picture baby Jesus in the manger, what images come to mind? Put yourself in Joseph and Mary’s shoes. What thoughts and concerns do you think they had that special day?
5. Jesus knows what it’s like to be human; he has experienced everything we experience. Jesus was fully human, yet fully God. How can this truth encourage you today? ...in the weeks and months that follow Christmas?

Apply: Next steps.

As a group: The reason God sent His Son to the earth is because of His great love for us. As members of God’s family, we are to have the same love for others. Pair up and pray that this Christmas season we would be conduits of God’s love.

On your own: The most important decision a person can make is the decision to let Jesus be the Savior of their life. Once we have received him, it is time to let Him be the Lord of our life. How are you doing in this area? What will you do differently as a result of hearing the Christmas story?

Listening Guide Notes

It would make sense....

1. If He would have come as a KING.

“Jesus said, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.’”

-John 18:36 (p. 755)

2. If He would have come as a WARRIOR.

^[50b] “Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. ^[51] With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ^[52] ‘Put your sword back in its place,’ Jesus said to him, ‘for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ^[53] Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?’”

-Matt 26:50b-53 (p. 696)

3. If He didn’t come as a BABY, but He did!

^[4] “So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ^[5] He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

^[6] While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ^[7] and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.” -Luke 2:4-7 (pp. 715-716)