



MOVEMENT
BIBLE PLANS



Movement's Rich, Matt & Cesca invite you to go on a journey together exploring the Christmas story. Over the next 4 days or sessions in this plan you'll cover the world changing events of 2000 years ago. Each day is packed with Bible readings and an overview that retell the events of the day, a reflection designed to help you think a bit deeper about what happened, questions to make us think/talk about what Christmas really means and a prayer to end.

How to use this Bible Reading Plan

Step 1

Read the day's Bible verses

Step 2

Next up read Matt's Overview that gives us an idea what's going on

Step 3

Read Cesca's or Rich's Reflection

Step 4

Check out the questions we've created for you to think about, or to use in a discussion with a friend or a group

Step 5

Pray - this can be done in any way you feel

Helpful tips...

Why not do this with a friend? You might want to grab a pen and a notebook to write down your thoughts as you use this Bible reading plan. Finally, if you're struggling with what to pray at the end of each day then why not use our suggested prayer or even the Lord's prayer?

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."

Hebrews 4:12



DAY 1



Today's Bible Reading

Isaiah 9:6-7 & Luke 1:26-30

Overview

Today's scripture readings of Isaiah 9:6-7 and Luke 1:26-30 set the scene for the whole of this Christmas Bible Reading Plan. In our Old Testament reading, Isaiah prophesied of the coming child of God who'd be known as the "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace". But who is this child? Well, our passage in Luke tells us of the encounter Mary had with the Angel Gabriel, where he tells Mary, "you have found favor with God! 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus", "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God."

Cesca's Reflection

Have you ever been waiting for something for so long that you're surprised when it actually happens? Or has something ever happened in a completely unexpected way? Christ, the Messiah coming to the world was long awaited and being born to a young, unmarried, normal woman was totally surprising. The amazing thing about these passages is the way that it shows God's bigger plan coming to fruition. Isaiah prophesies that a child will be born long before the angel Gabriel breaks the news to Mary. But why was it so important for Jesus to come?

Isaiah gave a glimpse into God's plan for a perfect ruler and a peaceful eternity. The world had darkness and injustice in it and so needed something holy and pure to come and counsel with love, bring God's kingdom of light and maintain it justly and righteously. Jesus Christ is this light source and Mary was a willing servant who trusted God and prepared her life for Christ to come. Mary made herself available to receive the gift of Jesus and in doing so helped to bring this kingdom that Isaiah prophesied to an earth that so desperately needed it. We still need this light of Christ today - Jesus didn't just come as a baby all those years ago. He is the prince of peace everyday and celebrating Christmas reminds us that He is here with us.

Just as Mary was willing to accept the gift of Jesus, so can we, not just for the good of ourselves but for the good of this world that desperately cries out for a wonderful counsellor and a light of hope. Christ came in a perfect love as a baby and still reigns today.

Questions

- No.1 How do you think Mary felt when she found out Christ was coming?
- No.2 What ways can you prepare for Jesus to come into your own life?
- No.3 Are you willing to be totally surprised by God this Christmas?

Let's Pray

Father God, thank you for sending your son Jesus, may we never forget the gift You have sent to us in Him. Amen



DAY 2



Today's Bible Reading

Matthew 1:18-24 7 Luke 2:1-7

Overview

In today's reading of Matthew 1:18-24 and Luke 2:1-7, we read of the birth of Christ. First we learn that while Mary was still a virgin, "she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit." Then we hear about the Angel appearing to Joseph in a dream, telling him to trust God and to marry Mary, despite what her pregnancy looked like. Due to the census ordered by Augustus, the Roman emperor, we see them travel to Bethlehem, where the baby Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger, as there was nowhere else for them to stay. Yet in this messy scene, we see the fulfilment of God's promise, of Immanuel, meaning "God with us"

Rich's Reflection

For lots of people Jesus as a baby is all they know or think of when they hear his name, but if we read on in the Bible Jesus didn't stay as that baby, no he became a toddler, then he became a boy, then he became a teenager, then he became a young adult and eventually he became a man in his 30s.

You see, although he entered the world as a baby, helpless and in need of being looked after, he didn't stay as that baby that everyone thinks of at Christmas. No, he grew up and experienced what it was like to grow up from baby to a fully grown man, learning how to crawl, walk and talk just like we do.

He would have experienced going through things like puberty as a teenager, dealing with things like his voice breaking, being told what to do by his Mum. He would have learned what it was like to have a job learning how to become a carpenter. You see Jesus' public ministry didn't start until He was aged 30 but He did live among us for 30 years before that, so he knows first hand what it's like to be human and what it can be like to face new challenges in life.

Christmas is a time of year we celebrate Jesus coming to earth as a baby yes but it's important that we remember he didn't stay as that helpless baby. He came to be a real presence in our lives and to help us in the tough times and celebrate with us in the good times. When we read about his time here on earth later on in the Bible we read that he truly understands what it's like to be full of joy and sadness, he really did come to be God with us, Jesus our Emmanuel!

Questions

No.1 What do you think about when you hear the name Jesus?

No.2 Why do you think Jesus lived a normal life before his ministry began at the age of 30?

No.3 Have you ever experienced Jesus' presence in your life?

Let's Pray

Jesus, thank you that You came to be with us so we would never have to be alone. Amen



DAY 3



Today's Bible Reading

Matthew 2:1-12 & Luke 2:8-20

Overview

In today's readings of Matthew 2:1-12 and Luke 2:8-20, we read about all those invited to the birth of Christ. First we see the wise men, sent by King Herod, travelling from the East, following the star in order to meet the prophesied coming King. We see the gifts that they brought, of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and the foreshadowing of the life in which this baby Jesus would live. But instead of returning to King Herod, who wanted to kill the baby Jesus, God warned the wise men to travel home using another route. However, it's not just the wealthy or wise who were invited. Lowly shepherds received the news from a host of angels whilst out in their fields, leading them to the baby Jesus, lying in a manger and ultimately to praising God for all that they had heard and seen - as it was just as the angel had told them!

Cesca's Reflection

Receiving an invitation is so exciting. Whether it's to a party or to someone's house for dinner, an invitation welcomes you to join with others. Being invited shows that you are known by someone and that they want you to celebrate with them. It means they value your company, your input and what you bring. It also provides the one that invites you with an opportunity to welcome you and give you joy.

God invited lots of people to celebrate the birth of Jesus - I wonder what Mary thought about all the visitors! In Matthew 2 we hear about the wise men meeting Jesus. God knew that the best way to ask the wise men to join His celebrations was to make the invitation personal. They studied the stars, so that's what their invitation was, a huge bright star leading them straight to Jesus. I'm not sure any fancy invitation can ever top that! God knew who he was inviting.

God also invited the shepherds. Shepherds who couldn't have been more different to the wise men if they tried. No rich robes or gifts but working clothes and sheep. Yet they get a magnificent invitation filled with glory. God shows the shepherds that this good news is for everyone and the shepherds can't wait to meet Jesus, hurrying to meet Him and then share the good news with everyone.

Here we see completely different, separate people united through an invitation to meet Jesus. Whoever you are, you're invited to come meet Jesus. God knows you and values your presence at His party. This Christmas let's joyfully accept our personal invitation. .

Questions

No.1 How do you think Mary felt when she found out Christ was coming?

No.2 What ways can you prepare for Jesus to come into your own life?

No.3 Are you willing to be totally surprised by God this Christmas?

Let's Pray

Father God, thank you
that You know each one of us and You are always inviting us to meet with You. Amen



DAY 4



Today's Bible Reading

John 3:16-17

Overview

In today's reading of John 3:16-17 we learn why the baby Jesus was born into this world. We read of the Jesus who came not to judge, but rather to save the world. And we see the loving God who was prepared to sacrifice His one and only son in order that anyone who believes in Him would not perish, but have eternal life with our Father in heaven

Rich's Reflection

It's easy to get caught up in all the hype around Christmas and forget what it's really all about isn't it? You've got Father Christmas, inflatable reindeer, Christmas trees on every corner and everywhere you go someones got a festive hot drink like a Christmas themed Toffee Nut Latte in their hand. Then let's not forget all about the food and home baking that goes into overdrive with homemade mince pies or Christmas cake and then there's Christmas shopping for gifts and even though some of those things are fun or tasty, they're not what Christmas is really all about!

Christmas means "the Mass of Christ". It's a celebration of Jesus, God's one and only son coming to earth to be our saviour and it's also a reminder of God's love for us. You see Jesus was sent down from heaven by God on a rescue mission, to be a living sacrifice in exchange for our sins, or in simple terms the bad things we have done in our lives that are stopping us from being connected to God. So when Jesus died on the cross 33 years later, the payment for our sin was paid in full, allowing us to have a fresh start with God.

Friends, this is good news and news that we shouldn't keep to ourselves. I believe we are all called to be people who live and tell the story of Jesus being at work in our lives and the Christmas story is a part of all our stories as that is where it all started some 2000 years ago. So this Christmas why not share what Christmas is really all about with your friends and family and more importantly thank God for sending his son Jesus.

Questions

- No.1 How can you focus more on the true meaning of Christmas this year?
- No.2 What do you think the cross means for your life today?
- No.3 Who could you share the story of Jesus with this Christmas?

Let's Pray

Jesus, thank you that You came to die on the cross for each one of us, may we never forget what You have done for us. Amen



Prayer is one of the easiest ways for us to speak directly to God

Creating your own prayers

Sometimes it can be helpful to pray and ask God to continue to reveal things to us about the verses we read in the Bible. We can also ask Him to show us things that He wants us to work on in our lives. Or we can simply spend time thanking God for the things He's already shown us.

The Lord's prayer

Sometimes we don't always know what to say in prayer to God, so it can be helpful to use the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.



MOVEMENT

We've also created audio recordings for each day available at wearemovement.net/bibleplans