

Conversation Starters

- What are some things that you cannot do?
- Do you ever have trouble asking for help on a task?

Discuss

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus. His birth was significant because it was God coming to earth in human form to do something that we cannot do – rescue ourselves. The Bible teaches us that God created us to be in a relationship with him and that we are separated from him by sin. And the only way we can be rescued is by him, which is why we celebrate Christmas.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men...He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.” (John 1:1-4, 10-11, NIV)

- How have you typically celebrated Christmas?
- What do you know about Jesus?
- How should what you know about Jesus affect how to celebrate Christmas?

We celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, but the whole story is that he later died, taking our sin with him. And then Jesus rose from the dead overcoming sin and the death that it causes. And it is by Jesus that we can put our sin to death and live in a restored relationship with God. God did this because he is a lovesick Father.

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth...” (John 1:12-14, NIV)

- Do you think of the whole story of who Jesus was when you celebrate Christmas?
- Do you think of God as a lovesick Father?
- How does this image of God change your perspective on him?

We can respond to the Christmas story in several ways. If you do not know Jesus, it is worth a closer look. And you can do that at Meck (Mecklenburg Community Church). If you already know who Jesus is and have entered a relationship with him, you can respond with worship and gifts that are close to his heart (see Advent Conspiracy “Give More”).

- Where do you stand with Jesus?
- Are you willing to take a closer look at who he is?
- What step can you take to grow in your relationship with Jesus and how you worship him?

Next Steps

Reflect on the story of Jesus. Decide on how you want to respond to that story.

Further Reflection

See John 1:1-14

Pray

God, thank you for coming to us through Jesus. Thank you for providing a way for us to be restored to a relationship with you. In response to that I would like to [insert your response here – example: “learn more about you” or “bring these gifts” etc.].