

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

PRECEPT

JOHN 1

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴In Him was life, and the Life was the Light of men.... ¹⁴And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" ¹⁶For in His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known.

PROMISE

Why celebrate Christmas? Because God came down to us, he didn't stay distant. Instead, he became flesh — he stepped into human weakness, hunger, pain, and temptation. God didn't ask us to climb up to him; he came down to us; this is the miracle of Christmas. Jesus reveals God perfectly; he came to show us that He is full of compassion and is slow to anger. That God heals, restores, and forgives, He loves the broken and sinners. Christmas is God giving us a gift we don't deserve — Himself. We celebrate Christmas because Jesus brought grace upon grace. Through Jesus, God became a father we can know, love, and approach. He didn't come to give information — He came to give relationship; Jesus brought us close to the Father.

RECEIVE HIS GRACE. Stop trying to earn God's favour through good works or religious performances. We can never save ourselves. Without God, we are nothing, so receive His grace with arms wide open.

WORSHIP HIM AS GOD. Treat Jesus not as a seasonal mascot, but as the one who deserves your whole life, every day of the year. Seek and worship Him with all your heart, and you will find Him.

MAKE HIM KNOWN. Every year, we celebrate Christmas, we share food, we gather for parties, we give away gifts, but when was the last time you shared Jesus with someone? David Jeremiah said, "All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ."

PRACTICE

1. **Celebrate.** How do you try to keep Christ in Christmas?

2. **Understanding Christmas.** This Christmas, who do you want people to see in you? And how can we pray/encourage you regarding this?

PRAYER

I. Peace

- Pray for God's peace to fill our hearts, our homes, our communities, and our world.

II. Community

- Pray for our community to know Christ fully and deeply and study His Word daily.

III. Leaders

- May God grant them wisdom, strength, and discernment as they guide His people.

IV. Members

- Pray for the spiritual maturity and the growth of our attendees.

V. Disciples

- Let us pray for more disciples and disciples to teach others to obey God's commands.

VI. Pastors

- May God's favour rest upon them and may He establish the work of their hands always.

VII. Marriages

- May God guide them and strengthen their commitment to one another.