



Part 1 Discussion Guide

Face the Issue:

Merry Christmas!

This past Sunday we began our Christmas series, “The Rest of the Story”. Jeremy shared with us that even though there was 400 years of Scriptural silence between the last verse of Micah and the first verse of Matthew, the world was not silent. God’s Chosen People, the Israelites, had gone through many changes; conquest by the Greeks, the Maccabean revolution, conquest by the Romans, the rise of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

It was into this world of craziness and chaos that God sent His Son. A world where His people were facing political and social challenges. A world where there were different factions competing for their attention and focus. A world where it was really easy to lose sight of what is truly important in life.

Sound familiar.

God knew His people needed an intervention. They needed a light to follow. They needed a Savior.

John 1:5 says, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

Have you ever been in a physically dark place, such as a cave or a windowless room, with the lights out? If you are in a group, share what that experience was like.

How is the above similar to the world the Israelites found themselves in at the time of Christ’s birth?

Into the Word:

We only have to look around to realize we live in a dark world.

Read the following four verses and discuss what they tell you about the darkness: Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 2 Corinthians 11:14–15; 1 Peter 5:8.

But the good news is, as John 1:5 says, “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.”

Read John 1:1–18.

Why does darkness not overcome the light? Look again at John 1:1–4. The Birth of Christ means the Creator of all things (including the dark powers) will win over darkness.

“In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.” Jesus is the light. The light that shines in the darkness that cannot be overcome is Jesus. And He says, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).

This is the Child that was born on that night at the right time.

Name some ways Christ conquered the darkneses of the world that He was born into when He first came to earth, as evidenced in Scripture. (Hint: How did Christ conquer slavery to a religious system, How did He conquer the pain felt by a people who felt alone, etc?)

How has Christ conquered the darkness in your life? Name some ways.

Apply The Word

We do not normally associate Christmas with a time of war. Blitzkrieg was the word the Germans used for an full on assault of the Allied forces. Blitzkrieg is the furthest thing from our minds during Christmas. We usually use terms like peace, joy, and hope. But the Birth of Christ was an full on assault on the darkness that was oppressing God's people during this particular time of history.

It's more than a nice tale about a baby being born in difficult circumstances. It is the strategy of God and the tactics of the Son needed to save a lost people.

In what ways was the coming of Christ to earth more like a blitzkrieg than a Christmas party?

As you go through this season, what are some ways you can remember that God sent His Son into a dark world just in time to save you?