



Part 2 Discussion Guide

Face the Issue:

Merry Christmas!

In part two of our Christmas series “The Rest of the Story”, Jeremy shared with us that there is another side to Christ coming into this world and that is the spiritual side. That is sort of an unseen world for us.

H.G. Wells was an English author who was famous for his science fiction novels like The Time Machine and The Invisible Man but he also wrote a short story called “The Country of the Blind”. It’s about a hidden valley in Ecuador where all the inhabitants are blind due to an illness. The blindness has been passed down through 15 generations of people so that now there is no memory or conception of sight or what it even means to see.

It is into this valley that a seeing man literally falls into from a high cliff. He tries to explain what it means to see but the people of the valley cannot understand what he is talking about and they think he is crazy.

The man falls in love with the chief’s daughter and wants to marry her. The chief talks to a doctor about the man and the doctor tells him the only way to cure the man is to remove his eyes and then he will be sane and “a quite admirable citizen”. The man is told the only way he would be allowed to marry his love was to lose his sight.

On the day that the man was preparing to lose his eyes, he went for a walk in the morning. He saw the beauty of the dawn and the valley. He realized that the valley, even with the woman he loved, with its blindness was “a pit of sin”. He ran away and escaped the valley with his sight and life.

That is where we live—in the country of the blind—a world oblivious to the light. It is not only pitiful; it is deadly. Jesus said, “Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.” Jesus had his own name for “the country of the blind.” He called it “the world.”

Read John 8:12. How is the story of Christmas a story of sight coming to a blind world.

Into the Word:

Read John 2:12–17.

Jesus was righteously angry. But Jesus doesn’t always react this way against sin. Even though He has plenty of reason to be angry with sin, we usually see Him reach out to those in sin. Here He is angry because those who purport to worship God approach Him without reverence. They had lost sight of the nature of God and what it meant to truly worship Him.

The whole story of the Bible is God’s attempt to get man to see His glory. He revealed in His law. He revealed it in His miracles. He finally revealed it in Christ. Christmas is a celebration of the birth of a

Child but the rest of the story is that Christmas is God sending the Light of the World to a people that had gone spiritually blind. A people that needed to see God, know Him, and grow in Him.

Have you ever felt zeal for God? If so, how would you describe it?

What about a time that you should have felt zealous for God but failed?

How was Jesus' zeal different than our zeal?

Apply The Word

Read John 2:23–25.

Many were drawn to Christ to experience the miracles but when Jesus revealed that life was really about self-sacrifice, surrender, repentance, a cross, death, bearing a cross, Jesus knew that they would be gone. They were fair-weather followers. They were spiritually blind.

What first drew you to Christ? Was it something He could do for you? Explain.

How has your faith matured beyond that reason to now keep on following Him?

How can Christmas be a good time to reexamine your reasons for following Christ? To recover your spiritual sight?