



● We don't want to **miss** what really **matters** this Christmas.

3 All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census.
 4 And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem...
 5 He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant. Luke 2:3-5 (NLT)

● We risk missing Christ when culture establishes our **schedule**.

8 That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. 9 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, 10 but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. 11 The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! 12 And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." Luke 2:8-14 (NLT)

To prevent the culture of busyness:

- We need to allow **holidays** to become **Holy days**.
- We need to occasionally step away from the **activity** of the culture.

15 When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."
 16 They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.
 Luke 2:15-16 (NLT)

● We need to make time to **worship** Jesus.

- * A Holiday is a **celebration**.
- * A Holy day is an **encounter**.

2 "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." Matthew 2:2 (NLT)

20 The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them. Luke 2:20 (NLT)

11 They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him... Matthew 2:11 (NLT)

Why worship is important:

● Expresses my **affection** to God.

13 The Master said: "These people make a big show of saying the right thing, but their hearts aren't in it. Because they act like they're worshipping me but don't mean it, Isaiah 29:13 (MSG)

● Focuses my **attention** on God.

23 But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way.

24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24 (NLT)

● Articulates my **Awe** of God.

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our "God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:28-29 (NIV)

16 Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.
 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted! Matthew 28:16-17 (NLT)

Application:

- Get **away** with **God**.
- Put yourself in the **nativity scene**.
- Make some **time** to **worship** God.



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
 IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Why?
- Do you find yourself getting sucked into the busyness of the holiday season? Is that a distraction that causes you to miss the Christ of Christmas?
- How does the culture establish our schedule? (work Christmas party, more family events, etc)
- Talk about the difference between holidays and holy days. How do we turn holidays into holy days?
- How can we occasionally step away from activities to connect with God? Create a scenario where you are at a family event. Can you leave the room for a few minutes? What are some other realistic ways to connect with God?
- Do you currently make time to worship Jesus? What does that look like?
- Is worship an important part of you relationship with Jesus? Explain.
- Talk through all the points under: "Why worship is important".
- Which of these are you strong in? Which of these are difficult for you? Is there one that you think is most important? Explain.
- Do you have a plan to help you turn this holiday into a holy day? Share it.

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