

Christmas Day



REFLECTION GUIDE

If someone asked what traditions you do every year around Christmas, what would you tell them? Do you set up your tree the day after Thanksgiving while listening to Christmas music or do you remove the radio station that plays Christmas music from your presets for a month? Whether you're a Christmas lover, hater, or somewhere in between, there's bound to be things you do every year because it's the Christmas season.

Q. What are some of your favorite traditions? If you're with family or friends, share your favorite traditions with one another.

Since this is Christmas Day and we are people who celebrate the Christ for which

it is named, we want to both remember and look forward to what Christ's coming means for us.

Remember:

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his
shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. - Isaiah
9:6*

These are words given to the prophet Isaiah hundreds of years before the birth of Christ.

Q: What promises are made about what the coming Messiah would be like? When you think about Jesus' life recorded in the New Testament how do you see this fulfilled?

Right Now:

One of the great truths we celebrate at Christmas is the mystery—the reality that God, who is spirit, descended to Earth and took on a physical body in order to live our life with us. He experienced humanity, and in so doing, he has experienced the depth of human suffering as well as the height of human joy. What's different about His coming is that he doesn't have to hope for light and restoration. He IS Light and Restoration.

Q. When you think about where you are today, how have you seen Jesus fulfill these verses? If it's hard for you to see that, where/how would you want to see him come to fulfill these verses?

Prayer:

Jesus, Son of God, Light from Light, God from God, let us rest in the truth that you are Emmanuel—God with us. May that truth seep into our thoughts today, into our hearts tomorrow, and become part of our moments and hours as we live out our faith in your redemption.

Looking Forward:

The Advent season is about both the remembering of Christ's birth that happened two thousand years ago, but it's

also about a second mystery still to come. As Christians we believe that Messiah will come again and he will restore and remake his Kingdom when he does. This is an all too familiar hope that the Israelites felt as well as they waited and believed in his coming.

*Of the increase of his government and of
peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his
kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it with justice
and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.*

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. -

Isaiah 9:7

Q: What word or phrase jumps out at you most and why? What does this verse stir in your heart or mind about the hope we live in now and can also hold onto for the future?

Prayer:

Father, you are a good God who has given us a Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace in your Son. We pray that this day would be an ushering in of the hope offered in Christ to our hearts, our homes, our church, and our lives. We look forward to your coming again with hope and belief in who you say you are and what your Kingdom will be like.

This guide was written and distributed by Redemption Church of
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All scripture is quoted from the ESV Bible.
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