



Maybe Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!

Matthew 2:1-18

Explore the More

1. Christmas is the assurance that God is active and sovereign in our stories.
2. Christmas is the reminder that people matter to God.
3. Christmas is the invitation to experience the supernatural on an ongoing basis.
4. Christmas is an opportunity to enjoy the wonder of worship.
5. Christmas is the introduction to what life can and should look like.
6. Christmas is the challenge to accept Jesus' authority in your life.

GROWTH *guide*

For those who are passionate about their faith!

When we think of the Christmas story we are immediately drawn to Luke 2, as it provides most of the details that we know about Jesus' birth. But other passages deal with the story, as well. Let's explore those this week.

Through the New Testament in 2018: Revelation 8-14

Monday | **Galatians 4:1-6**

What are the differences between a slave and a son? How does Christmas make us sons? What does it mean "when the time had fully come"? Do you ever doubt God's timing in your life?

Tuesday | **John 1:1-18**

On what is our right to become sons of God based? Why is important that Jesus became one of us? How was John able to promote Jesus? How are you making much of Jesus in your story?

Wednesday | **Isaiah 9:6,7**

Which of the names of Jesus in Isaiah's prophecy means the most to you? How have you experienced Him in these ways?

Thursday | **Matthew 1:18-24 (Isaiah 7:14)**

What do you think it would have been like to be in Joseph's situation? What assurance did the angel give him? What is the significance of the name of *Jesus*? Of the name *Immanuel*?

Friday | **Philippians 2:5-11**

How did Jesus model humility? How did He model obedience? What was the end result of His willingness to become a man?

Sunday preview | **Philippians 4:4-9**

As you look to the new year—how do you plan to have more joy and peace in your life? What is God's plan given for dealing with the issues of stress and anxiety?