

Argyle LifeGroup Discussion Guide
Week 1

“The Story of Jesus: The Birth of a King”

1. Tell of someone you know that “changes the room” when they walk in.
2. Talk about the ways our world was changed when God came to us.
3. In this study, we will talk about the “heavenly story” and the “earthly story”. Describe your understanding of the heavenly story. The earthly story.

4. The Gospel of John gives us five names for Jesus in chapter one. Read the scripture and then discuss the meaning of each name:

“The Word”

John 1:1-2 (NIV)

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was with God in the beginning.

“The Light”

John 1:4-5 (NIV)

- 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.
- 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

“The Son of God”

John 1:18 (NIV)

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

“Lamb of God”

John 1:29 (NIV)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

“The Messiah”

John 1:35-42 (NIV)

35 The next day

John was there again with two of his disciples.

36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said,

“Look, the Lamb of God!”

37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"
They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"),
"where are you staying?"
39 "Come," he replied, "and you will see."
So they went and saw where he was staying,
and they spent that day with him.
It was about four in the afternoon.
40 Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two
who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.
41 The first thing Andrew did
was to find his brother Simon and tell him,
"We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).
42 And he brought him to Jesus.

5. What did Pastor Rick mean when he said, "In the earthly story of Christmas, there is a skeleton in the closet."

6. An angel came to Joseph in a dream and said this:
Matthew 1:20-21 (NIV)
"Joseph son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,
because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."
"She will give birth to a son,
and you are to give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins."

How did this truth change the earthly story of Christmas?

7. Matthew 1:23 (NIV)
"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel"
(which means "God with us").

Why is it so important that Jesus was born of a virgin?

8. Close by discussing the meaning of this statement by Pastor Rick:
"And just like in Mary's case, as Jesus grew in her,
He just had to eventually come out.
The same is true of us today.
As Jesus' life grows in us,
he will eventually come out of us, too."