

Bridge LifeGroups are **currently on winter break**. We will continue to offer study questions each week in this simplified format, which can be useful for personal devotions and/or discussion starters for LifeGroups that choose to meet for a portion of the winter break.



connecting

Lesson Aim: To explore the heavenly perspective that Christmas is war and how that impacts our lives as followers of Jesus.

Prayer: Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

Icebreaker: What comes to mind when you think of the Christmas nativity scene?



growing

1. In his message Sunday, Scott mentioned that while angelic activity in Scripture is sporadic at best, we see an avalanche of angelic activity around the time of Christ coming into the world. **Read three or more of the following passages of Scripture: Matthew 1:19-22; 2:12-13, 19; Luke 1:11-20; 1:26-37; 2:9.** What are some different ways you see angels at work in these situations?

2. **Read Hebrews 1:14.** Have you ever sensed that God has provided angelic help in your life? Tell your group about it.

3. **Read Revelation 12:1-10.** Describe the woman, the dragon and the child. Who does the woman represent? The dragon? The child?

4. How does this compare and contrast with our typical depictions of the Christmas nativity scene?



sewing

5. What does this teach us about the battle between Satan and demonic evil against Christ and His followers for today?

6. What are some ways others in your LifeGroup can pray for you in the spiritual battles you face today? How can you pray for them?



reaching

Close in prayer by focusing on these requests for help in spiritual battles.

Christmas is...

Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor
December 18, 2011

CHRISTMAS
at The Bridge

CHRISTMAS IS... ____ ____ ____

INTRODUCTION:

- Christmas according to our culture
- Christmas for the Christ follower
- Origins of the Christmas holiday
 - 1) Constantine the Great - AD 336
 - 2) Protestant Reformation "reversal"
 - 3) San Nicola to Santa Claus
- Revelation 12:1-7a
- Christmas is ____ ____ ____

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

- One who will rule/reign (Psalm 2:9)
- One who will destroy God's enemies (Isaiah 9:1-7)
- One who will undo the work of Satan (1 John 3:8b; 5:19)
- One who will bring a sword (Matthew 10:38)

WHERE DID ALL THESE ANGELS COME FROM?

- Matthew 2; Luke 1-2
- Fact: There were at least 9 angelic interventions around the time of the birth of Jesus Christ
- Question: Why all this avalanche of angelic activity?
- Answer: To protect the vulnerable little Christmas baby

WHAT DID THE MAGI WANT?

- Matthew 2:1-2
- Jewish contact with people from the East (Numbers 24:15-19)
- The Parthians - Rome's most feared enemy
- They were seeking a powerful political ally to help them defeat the Roman Empire

IS THIS WAR STILL GOING ON?

- Genesis 3:15... *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*
- 1 John 3:8b... *"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."*
- Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:25
- Luke 19:10... *"The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."*
- Romans 16:20... *"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."*
- APPLICATION #1: Have you made your decision to switch sides of loyalty in this war?
To which army do you belong?
- APPLICATION #2: Are you living like a good soldier... on the offense and not just the defense?