

12/24/17 | The Night Before Christmas: Bethlehem

"Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.'"—John 7:37b, NIV



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever been excluded or shut out because you weren't good enough? What was that like?
2. If Jesus ever excluded people, He never would have had shepherds at his birth. What does this say about the shepherds who visited the infant Jesus? What does this say about the Lord who invited the shepherds? Do you think the shepherds felt worthy of such an invitation? Do you think we have to feel worthy to be invited to follow Jesus?
3. Consider this piece of a Christmas song. What does it mean? What does "reconciled" mean? Whom was reconciled, and how was the reconciliation brought about? Whom is the song addressed to?

*"God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise!"
—Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

A Savior for all

4. Read Isaiah 45:20-25. Whom is God talking to? In the verses, is there a difference between who is invited to be saved and who will be saved? Why or why not?
5. Read Matthew 9:10-13. Who does Jesus say needs a doctor? What does this tell us about who Jesus is? What does this tell us about who we are?
6. Acts 10:34-48. What was Peter's conclusion? What was the significance of Jesus coming to save even the "Gentiles" (non-Jews)?

7. 1 Timothy 2:1-6. Whom does God want to be saved? Whom did Jesus give Himself as a ransom for?
8. 1 John 2:1-2. Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for whose sins? How does that give you hope this week?
9. 1 John 4:12-16. Whom is Jesus the Savior of? Who may admit that Jesus is the Son of God? Who may live in God?
10. Why is it so important to realize that Jesus came for all people? How does that change the way you celebrate Christmas this year?
11. Read the following verses. Do you think Jesus intends to exclude people from Him? Why or why not?

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Romans 8:13, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

TAKEAWAY: Pick one (or more)

- Worship in 2018
- Invite someone to Church
- Peace and quiet
- Nativity