

(Not So) Silent Night

(Not So) Silent Night - Week Two: God Favors You

Connect

What are some of your favorite things about the weeks leading up to Christmas? What kind of Christmas gifts did you ask for when you were a kid?

Grow

1. Read **Luke 1:26-38**. How did thinking about Jesus' birth from Mary's perspective add new depth to the story? Did anything from Mary's response surprise you?
2. Jon highlighted Jesus' humanity: Jesus was born, Jesus lived, and Jesus died. How does thinking about the things you have in common with Jesus expand your view of Him?
3. Read **Colossians 1:15-20 and 2:9**. Not only was Jesus fully human, He was also fully divine! Jesus existed before His birth and He still exists after His physical death. How does Jesus' divinity help us worship Him properly?
4. Read Mary's joyful response in **Luke 1:46-47**. When Jesus lives in you, JOY comes out. Has God ever taken something painful and redeemed it as a great source of joy in your life?
5. What must it have been like for Mary to see Jesus on the cross? What emotions and thoughts do you think she had?
6. Mary was the only one who saw Jesus both in the cradle and on the cross. How does thinking about the Christmas story from this perspective bring new meaning to "you gave your one and only son..." in John 3:16? If you are a parent, can you imagine doing that?
7. When Jesus lives in you, JOY and LOVE will come out of you. Why do you think this is such a natural response to the presence of God in your heart, mind, and life?

Pray

Thank God for sending His one and only Son for us. Ask Him to help you see the opportunities around you for joy and love to come out.

Next

Over the next three weeks ask for God to provide opportunities for you to make it clear to people you meet that you've been to both the cradle and the cross of Jesus; and, like Mary, you understand the significance of both.