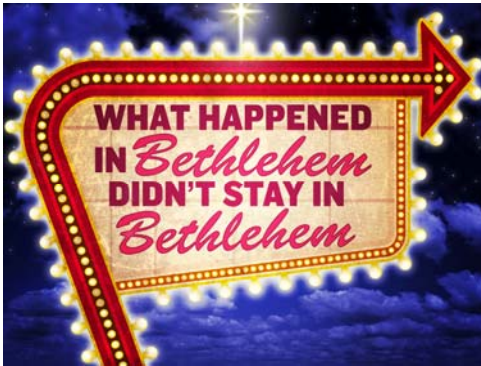


en·gage

to involve oneself or become occupied; participate: *engage in conversation*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009

**"WHAT HAPPENED IN BETHLEHEM
DIDN'T STAY IN BETHLEHEM" PART 3 OF 4**



SERMON TITLE: "Reaching People"

MAIN POINT/PASSAGE

- ▶ "Defrosting someone for Christ will only happen when we discover their story."/Luke 2:15-20

SERMON REVIEW

- ▶ What insight, principle, or observation from Sunday did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ▶ In your own words, what do you believe is the key to Christianity's survival through the years?
- ▶ Explain the phrase "defrosting non-believers".
- ▶ Do you avoid opportunities to "defrost" at family get-togethers and social gatherings? Explain.
- ▶ What would have happened to the gospel had Jesus and the apostles only "modeled" Christianity rather than discover stories?
- ▶ What "defrosting" stories do you have? Share your experiences with the group.

DIGGING DEEPER (The following question are from The Serendipity Bible for Small Groups.)

- ▶ Read Ephesians 2:1-10
- ▶ What does it mean to be "dead in sin"? What caused this?
- ▶ Why must God take the initiative to give life? How does Christ's experience (1:20-23) compare to ours (vv. 5-7)?
- ▶ What is the relation between wrath and love (vv.3-4)? Between grace and works (vv.8-10)?

APPLICATION

- ▶ What are you doing with this gift of grace?
- ▶ If you have not already done so, create an impact list (see the panel on the left). Identify people who you will intentionally take the opportunity to discover their story. Share with the group your first step (i.e. phone call, look up number, take out to lunch, etc.)

Personal Prayers

1. Start your small group time off with prayer.
2. Ask for personal prayer request. In other words, have group members share request about them, not friends or family members.
3. Do the same for praises.

Impact List

Have 2-3 people share about people from their impact list.

1. What is the next step in their friendship with that person?
2. How can your small group pray for them?

Close to God

1. Have 2-3 people share what is happening in their "Close to God" time.
2. How have they grown closer to God?
3. How can your small group pray for them?

SPECIAL NOTE - FEBRUARY IS "GROUPS IN ACTION" MONTH

More information will be coming soon! Each group should identify a "Faith In Action" coordinator (or two) and begin brainstorming on a project that your group can do during the month.



Restoring our communities with Christ... one life at a time