

Transformed by Christmas: Jesus Came to Seek and Save the Lost

(Matthew 1:18-23)

Opening Discussion: When is a time someone came to your rescue? What did they rescue you from? How does it feel that Jesus came to seek and save even you? How will you respond?

Transformational Principle: _____ the need for a _____.

1. _____ came to Earth to be our _____.
(Matthew 1: ____ - ____; Luke 19: ____)

For further discussion: Why do you think it was so important for Joseph to know why Jesus was coming? What do you think was going through Joseph's mind? How would you respond to such an announcement? (See Luke 19:1-10: How does the story of Zacchaeus show the fulfillment of the angel's words to Joseph about Jesus? Why is it so difficult for people to admit they need saving? Have you admitted this?)

Notes:

2. **God planned our _____ in a way that would leave no doubt that He is in _____.** (Matthew 1: ____ - ____)

For further discussion: What is so miraculous about Jesus' birth? What 3 miracles did Pastor James talk about in the sermon? How did Joseph respond to the announcement of Jesus' birth? (See Luke 5:20-25: What does Jesus say the purpose of His miracles were in Luke 5? Why do miracles related to the birth of Jesus give further evidence that something more is going on with the baby? Do you find these miracles believable? Why or why not?)

Notes:

Response: Have you _____ that you _____ a Savior? Have you _____ upon Jesus to be your _____?

Transformational Principles

Week 1: Because we are prone to conform, we must let God transform. (Romans 12:1-2)

Week 2: Because of all Jesus has done, surrender what you think you know. (Mark 8:34-37)

Week 3: If we really want to know what to do, abandon the world's ways for God's ways. (Isaiah 55:6-11)

Week 4: Accept that the world's ways are at odds with the ways of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18-30)

Week 5: If you want to be transformed, you must learn to deal with your sinful nature. (Romans 8:1-11)

Week 6: Look past what is seen and believe what is unseen. (Hebrews 11:1-6)

Week 7: Overcome the world with love and humility. (Romans 12:9-21)

Week 8: Recognize that the purpose of our transformation is not personal or private. (Mark 10:42-45)

Week 9: Individual transformation happens best in the midst of united community. (Hebrews 10:19-25)

Week 10: Some may go and some may stay: but working together, God is transforming the world through the power of the gospel. (Philippians 4:10-20)

Week 11: Transformed people do the work of God like it's second nature. (Matthew 25:31-46)

Week 12: Transformed prayer leads to a transformed mind. (Philippians 4:4-9)

Week 13: A transformed heart will change the way you talk to others. (Ephesians 4:29)

Week 14: Transformed people unite in transformed community. (Ephesians 4:1-6)

Week 15: Right attitude speaks louder than right action alone. (Philippians 2:14-18)

Week 16: Transformed people are on the go. (Matthew 1:18-23)