

December



By Justin & Courtney Rose

Age 30 & 28 | Mayfair Community Church | Metropolitan Division



When Christ came into the world, He took on human nature while still fully keeping His godliness. Think about what it means that we share nature with the One who is both human and divine, and what that means for how salvation works in our lives.

1

We often think about Christmas as Jesus coming into the world to grow up and die for our sins. We associate His death and resurrection with the beginning of our salvation. However, salvation began for the universe when the Word of God (Jesus) became a human being who entered into the fallen created realm. Christmas is the beginning of salvation.

2

Jesus (the Son) entered into creation because it was the Father's will that all might be saved. Because Jesus was obedient, it meant salvation for us all. How can you focus and strive to be more obedient to the will of God?

3

"Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly-minded, For with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand." — "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" from the Liturgy of St. James

4

On your Christmas list this year, don't forget those who are in need. Replace one item on your wish list with something that will bless others. Consider asking friends and family to donate to a Salvation Army children's home in another country, or provide a scholarship for camp.

5

Christ faithfully came into the world, knowing that He would die in order to redeem creation. Jesus promised that the Christian life would be one of struggle (Luke 9:23-25). Ask Jesus to help you be more faithful, even faithful to death.

6

For many people, Christmas is a time of luxury and excess including sweets, spending money, and social engagements. Instead of indulging this season, consider fasting and denying yourself to refocus on the true meaning of Christmas (Isaiah 9:6).

7

Humans are very focused on the physical and often forget about the mystery of God. That is why the Israelites were not supposed to make graven images. In order to help the Jews see God more clearly, God became a part of the physical world as a human. Consider this idea and what it means for how Jesus is truly the Messiah.

8

One of the consequences of sin entering into the world during the Fall was that people were no longer fully human in the way God intended. We were "dehumanized." When we become Christians and receive grace, we are "re-humanized" through Christ who became a human at Christmas.

9

Christians follow Christ because Jesus is the ultimate example of what it means to be a human who is completely faithful to God. Because of Jesus, we can live holy, redeemed lives completely faithful to the Father. Reflect on 1 Peter 1:13-15.

10

Jesus is considered a "Revelation of God." We are able to see God in completeness because Jesus "reveals" God to the world. As you pray today, ask Jesus to reveal more of the Father to you. Read Jeremiah 29:12-13.

11

When Jesus took on a physical human body, His divine purity began redeeming our physical forms. It is not just our souls that are saved by Jesus, our whole being is changed, making it possible for God (the Holy Spirit) to live inside of us (2 Corinthians 6:16).

12

During this time of year, the lack of sunlight in many places, and the complicated emotions the season stirs up, can have people not feeling their best. Remember to check in with yourself to recognize how and why you're feeling the way you are. Practice some self-care, and take time each day to stop and pray. Why not do that now?

13

Christmas and Advent are not just about Jesus' coming as a baby. They also help us look forward to when Jesus will ultimately come again. Christmas is about looking to the past and looking to the future. How can you change your perspective this Christmas?

14

What is the true meaning of Christmas? The world around us certainly tells us Christmas means certain things; but what do the Bible and the Church say about Christmas? Read the Christmas story in Luke 1-2.

15



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Jesus talks a lot about the Kingdom of God throughout His ministry. Sometimes we can see the Kingdom of God being played out most powerfully during the Christmas season. Take a moment to reflect on where and how you've seen the Kingdom at work today.

16

The power of sin is so great that had Jesus not come into the world, creation would've been completely corrupted. All the good we see in the world today is because of God's intervening. Make a list of blessings you see around you, and thank God for how He is saving the world.

Study **1 Peter 1:3-5**.

17

Imagine if you saw Jesus in real life. Imagine you ate a meal, had a conversation, or walked together. How would your life be changed? Even many people who saw the Son of God face-to-face never believed fully. Pray that God would show His face to you and renew your faith and hope. Read

Lamentations 5:12.

18

For many people, Christmas is a very lonely time. Pray that Immanuel (God with us) would be present for the people in your life. Rest in the fact that Immanuel is the God who was with us, is with us, and will be with us.

19

Spend a few moments meditating on this phrase: "Christ came into the world out of sheer love for the Father and love for creation." How can you make this Christmas season be about God's love for you and others?

20

"King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful,
His own self for heavenly food."
— "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" from the Liturgy of St. James

21

Consider the faithfulness of Mary as she agreed to let her body and life be devoted to the service of God (**Luke 1:26-38**). Ask yourself how you can serve God with the humility that Mary offered to God.

22

Reflect on Joseph's faithfulness. Even in the midst of shame and confusion, Joseph chose to honor God by not disgracing Mary and by calling Jesus His son. Read **Matthew 1:18-25**. Joseph devoted His whole life to the will of God. How can you devote your whole life to God?

23

Consider all the characters who play an important role in the Christmas story. Watch "The Birth of Jesus – Gospel of **Luke Ch. 1-2**" by *The Bible Project* on YouTube, as a refresher of who these people are and how God used so many unlikely people.

24

"Prince of peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power give to all who suffer... your gift of wholeness and peace."
— Christmas Liturgy of the Church of England

25

Take some time to pray for your officers and corps leaders who've worked hard this Christmas season. Ask God to give them health, rest, peace, and refreshment.

26

"Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You may now dismiss Your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel" (**Luke 2:29-32**, NIV).

27

Simeon was faithfully waiting for his whole life to see the Messiah. When he met Jesus he was very old. Is your faith ready for the long haul? How long would you be willing to wait to see God come through on His promises?

28

The prophetess Anna lived in the temple full-time for most of her life. She recognized baby Jesus as the Son of God. She preached to all the faithful after her encounter with Him (**Luke 2:36-38**). How can Anna inspire and challenge your faith?

29

Consider the new year. Take time to reflect on the past year and how God has worked in your life. How can you devote yourself to Him and create habits in the new year that address your spiritual life?

30

Soon it will be a new year; reflect on how God makes things new and redeems our past. What in your last year could you let God make new? Watch the video, "Gungor 'Beautiful Things'" by *RELEVANT* on YouTube.

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