

AND THERE WAS LIGHT:

Unwrapping the Wonder of Christmas

Year after year people everywhere expect to experience the joy and wonder of Christmas through the gifts, gatherings, traditions and twinkling lights. **But what if this Christmas meant something more?** According to John's Gospel, the birth of Jesus was a historical event of *cosmic proportions*. That's because Jesus was no ordinary child. He is *Immanuel* – the eternal God with us - the fulfillment of ancient prophecies, and the true Light for all mankind. From the very beginning, he was, is, and will always be our only Savior. So how would this Christmas be different if - instead of presents and parties - we chose to be wrapped up in the awe and wonder of almighty God coming to Earth so you can be reborn, fully forgiven, and truly loved by our heavenly Father? Join us this December at The Story, as we begin our journey through the Gospel of John and encounter the true meaning of Christmas: ***The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son... full of grace and truth. - John 1:14***

December 21, 2025 - Christmas is Here

Let's do a quick internal review. How are you really feeling with only four days until Christmas?

In what ways has this holiday season created feelings of fatigue or spiritual dryness?

John 1:14 - The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

What is the Incarnation:

"Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as the truth of the incarnation... It is from misbelief, or at least inadequate belief, about the incarnation that difficulties at other points of the Gospel story arise, but once the incarnation is grasped as a reality, those other difficulties dissolve"

Theologian J.I. Packer

Why is the incarnation such a crucial Christian doctrine? How is it the key to understanding the rest of Jesus' life and ministry?

John 1:14 - The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Word Became Flesh Means

#1 Christmas is all about _____

How does the phrase "Made his dwelling among us" look back to the Old Testament?

What Is the Glory of God:

What is so miraculous about Jesus tabernacling among us?

How does recognizing the glory of the Lord allow us to live in fullness? What does fullness look like for you?

#2 Christmas is all about _____

John 1:16-18 - Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

How was the Law a form of God's grace to the Israelites?

What makes the grace of God better than the grace the world can offer?

#3 Christmas is all about _____

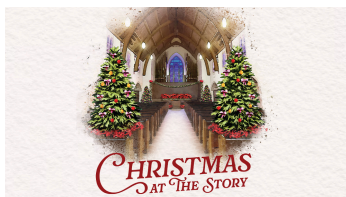
"Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

C.S. Lewis

Instead of looking for the life changing power of the Gospel during Christmas we usually settle for lesser gifts. What have you been settling for this Christmas?

John 20:31 - These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

How can you use the next four to recenter yourself on the true meaning of Christmas? (The Word became flesh)



Christmas at The Story

Eve Eve - Tues. 12/23 @ 6:30pm

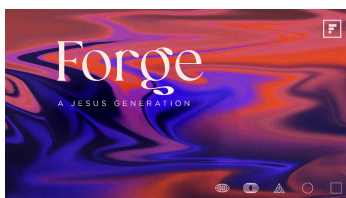
Eve - Weds. 12/24 @ 1:30, 3:00, 4:30 & 6:00pm

Pre-register for nursery: thestory.church/christmas



Worship Schedule for 12/28

On Sunday, December 28th, **we will not have an 8:30am service**; we'll only gather for worship at 9:45 & 11:05am. If you're available, we'd love to have you help us pack up all the Christmas decorations after the 11:05 service. RSVP on thestory.church/events



Forge Retreat for Students

We're excited to travel to The Woodland's Methodist Church once again for their FORGE weekend - February 13-15, 2026! This is a powerful weekend filled with worship, fun sessions and activities, awesome teaching, and more! Visit thestory.church/events to read more and register.