

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Come and See // Dwelt Among Us
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December 24, 2021

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What's your favorite family Christmas tradition?

Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Outline:

- I. The War in the Manger v. 1-11
 - a. By addressing Caesar and his power influencing Mary and Joseph, Luke invites us to see the start of a war between two kings, two kingdoms, and two versions of power
 - b. The end of this war points to the beginning by showing us which of the two lasted longer
Q: Why did Luke point out these worldly vs. heavenly kingdom differences?
- II. The Peace in the Manger v. 12-17
 - a. Here Luke describes how Jesus came in a humble manner, but there was also an immense power supporting his presence
 - b. This powerful army of angels came not to immediately win the war, but praise God and proclaim the peace that will come from this child
Q: How does a manger and an angel army provide insight to Jesus' ministry?
- III. The Response to the Manger v. 18-20
 - a. These various responses to the good news of the Christ child provide us with the opportunity to reflect on which way we respond
 - b. The hope and joy that comes from this Christmas story are a constant source for us no matter what cultural or personal wars may be waging
Q: What were the responses of those who heard, Mary, and the shepherds?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) *How does the cultural war Jesus faced compare to the ones we're facing today?*
- 2) How does Jesus' beginning and then his eventual victory show us how to live?
- 3) What does the angel army's presence and Christ's humble beginnings teach us?
- 4) How do you respond to the story of Christ's arrival?
- 5) Why does the same story provide refreshed peace, hope, and joy?

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you came for us, and as we gaze on your manger we find our hope in you. We find that darkness, pain, and suffering are not the end of the story. Gazing on your manger, we find peace that our sin, brokenness, and the evil at work in our hearts is not the end of the story because you brought forgiveness and new life. We pray that we would grab hold of those truths and as we do, help us experience joy no matter what because of who you are. The one who's come for us. In your holy name we pray, Amen.