

## **The Gospel of Christmas**

*The Kingdom of Light Has Come*

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# **The Kingdom of Light Has Come**

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## **John 1:1–14 NLT**

In the beginning the Word already existed.  
The Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.  
He existed in the beginning with God.  
God created everything through him,  
and nothing was created except through him.  
The Word gave life to everything that was created,<sup>[a]</sup>  
and his life brought light to everyone.  
The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

So the Word became human<sup>[a]</sup> and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

## **1. Christmas begins in eternity.**

### **Colossians 1:15–17 NLT**

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.  
He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,  
for through him God created everything  
in the heavenly realms and on earth.  
He made the things we can see

and the things we can't see—  
such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.  
Everything was created through him and for him.  
He existed before anything else,  
and he holds all creation together.

**2. We can live with confidence because Jesus is not just a temporary solution –  
He is the eternal, unchanging foundation of our lives.**

**3. The King and His Kingdom have come.**

### **Mark 1:1–15 NLT**

This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. It began just as the prophet Isaiah had written:

“Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
and he will prepare your way.  
He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the LORD’s coming!  
Clear the road for him!’”

This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey.

John announced: “Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. I baptize you with <sup>(d)</sup> water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!”

One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.”

The Spirit then compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness, where he was tempted by Satan for forty days. He was out among the wild animals, and angels took care of him.

Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God’s Good News. “The time promised by God has come at last!” he announced. “The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!”

**4. We don't have to be ruled by darkness. God's reign has entered our world, making the freedom, renewal, and purpose we long for fully accessible under His kingship.**

**Matthew 16:25–26 NLT**

If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?

**5. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.**

**John 1:14 ESV**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**John 1:12 ESV**

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

**6. God removes the barriers between Him and us—He comes close, meets us in the wilderness, and leads us into hope.**

# Small Group Guide: The Kingdom of Life Has Come

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## **Opening Question:**

What does the idea of a “kingdom” mean to you personally? Have you experienced a sense of God's kingdom breaking into your life recently?

Christmas is more than a holiday — it's a cosmic invasion where God enters human history through Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches us that before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, He existed in eternity as the Word, who was with God and was God (John 1:1-14). His incarnation was not a random event but the fulfillment of eternity stepping into time — a divine invasion into darkness with the Light that cannot be extinguished.

God's kingdom is not just a distant concept; it's a present reality accessible today. As Jesus declared, “The kingdom of God is at hand” (Mark 1:15). When you accept Jesus, you are invited into this kingdom—the realm of His rule, His love, and His life. This is a kingdom rooted in grace and truth, full of mercy and justice. It's a place where darkness is confronted and overcome by the Light of Christ, who became flesh and dwelt among us.

Living in His kingdom means we realize that Jesus is the eternal foundation of our identity and future. No matter what darkness surrounds us or what struggles we face, His Light within us shines brighter. Christmas is an invitation to host His presence daily—to walk in the Light, to discover that Heaven is closer than you think, and His reign is for us here and now.

## **Remember:**

You don't have to be ruled by darkness. His reign brings freedom, renewal, and purpose.

Your worldview shifts from self-reliance to dependence on God's everlasting power.

You are called into His kingdom to live, walk, and thrive in His grace.

As you reflect on this season, consider how you can actively participate in His kingdom daily—through your choices, your attitude, and your trust in His power to transform.

## **For Discussion:**

1. How does understanding that Jesus existed before time and entered into history influence your view of Christmas?

2. In what areas of your life do you need to invite God's kingdom to bring light into darkness?

3. What is one practical step you can take this week to “live in” the kingdom of God more fully, knowing it's already here and accessible?

