

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR LOVE

John 1:1-5, 14, 3:16; 1 John 3:16, 4:9-10

- *"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, and His life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it…So the Word became human 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."* (John 1:1-5, 14)
- *"No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is Himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us."* (John 1:18)
- **Jesus, the unique One, full of unfailing love and faithfulness, came to earth on Christmas, to reveal to us all how much the Father loves us.**
- *"But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."* (Romans 5:8)
- **The announcement of Jesus' birth to the shepherds was a message of love and hope to all people.**
- *"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a Son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"* (Matthew 1:23)
- **No matter how the world may define Christmas, it has always been, first and foremost, about Love.**

Christmas Is A Time To:

<u>REMEMBER</u> THAT GOD LOVES US

- *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16)
- **Christmas is filled with reminders of God's generous love for humanity.**
- *For a Child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on His shoulders. And He will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* (Isaiah 9:6)

- *"But the angel reassured them. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior-yes, the Messiah, the Lord- has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!'"* (Luke 2:10-11)
- **Jesus' birth, first proclaimed to humble shepherds, shows that God's love and the gift of His Son bring hope and peace to all who believe, regardless of status or background.**
- *"Look! The virgin will conceive a Child! She will give birth to a Son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"* (Matthew 1:23)
- **By sending Jesus, God shows that He is not a distant deity but a loving God who wants to be involved in our lives.**
- *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it."* (John 1:5)
- **Jesus' birth is a beacon of unending love and hope which comes with a promise that the darkness will never overcome us.**
- Question - When was the last time you thanked God for His love for you?

Christmas Is A Time To:

<u>RESPOND</u> TO GOD'S LOVE

- *"This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."* (1 John 4:9-10)
- **Our worship is a natural expression of gratitude for the amazing love that was given to us which is further seen in Jesus' humble birth.**
- *"Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being."* (Philippians 2:6-7)
- *"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice - the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him."* (Romans 12:1)
- **When we worship, we align our hearts with the humility of Jesus, acknowledge His sacrifice, and respond with lives that reflect His love.**
- *"You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being."* (Philippians 2:5-7)
- *"When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with His mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."* (Matthew 2:10-11)
- **Christmas is just the beginning of God showing how much He truly loves us.**
- *"But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."* (Romans 5:8)
- *Question: What are some ways we can show our love for God this Christmas season?*

Christmas Is A Time To:

<u>SHARE</u> GOD'S LOVE WITH OTHERS

- **Christmas is more than just a festive season; it's a time for us to reflect on and extend the love we received from the Lord to others.**
- *"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters."* (1 John 3:16)
- *"Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God."* (Ephesians 5:2)
- **At Christmas, we can follow the example of Jesus by sharing the selfless love of God to others by giving time, help, and encouragement to those around us.**
- *"Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."* (John 13:34-35)
- **When we show love for one another, others take notice that we are fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.**
- *"Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God."* (Ephesians 5:2)
- *Question: What are some ways we can show our love for others this Christmas season?*