



Our hope is that you were challenged by Sunday's message and would desire to take the study a little deeper. Whether for personal study, family study, or for a Home Group gathering, use this study to go deeper.

Open

December 10, 2017

Christmas *just feels* accessible to everyone. To be sure, there are those who choose not to celebrate Christmas, those who celebrate something else, or those who are hostile to it altogether. But even among many who identify as non-religious or other-religious, Christmas is a season to embrace. Most of that appeal is based broadly on tradition, like gifts, lights, parties, vacation, music, and even Santa. I get it. But I can't help but wonder if the true message still attracts a hardened heart. Why? In our Christmas series, *The Message Of Christmas*, this week's focus was on the angel's statement, "...which will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10).

Main Point

Jesus' arrival is the fulfillment of a promise God made from the very beginning - a relationship with Him was available to everyone. No one should feel unwelcome.

Read

Luke 2:8-10, 25-35; 3:(23-)38

Discuss

- Among the non-Christians you know, what reasons do they give for celebrating a holiday that is otherwise meaningless to them?
- Do the songs, the significance of gift giving, the meaning of certain Christmas traditions ever spark conversation? What do you say?
- The "all the people" part of the message was a reference to Israel first. How is this a hopeful reality for the rest of us?
- Israel was always supposed to provide the opportunity for God's blessing for the rest of the world. Simeon's prophecy (Luke 2:29-32) suggests Jesus' benefit to both Jews and non-Jews. How would Jesus fulfill what Israel did not?
- Bottom line, from God's word, how is the birth of Christ an evangelistic message to all people, everywhere?