

“Christmas to a T” – Christmas Timing
Life Group Notes for Week Beginning 2nd December

Briefly share something which you are looking forward to about this Christmas season.

Christmas was planned in the heart of God for all eternity and the timing of the event was “at just the right time” according to the Apostle Paul.

Read Galatians 4:1-7

Q. Have we had occasions where we have experienced God’s perfect timing in our own lives?

In Galatians 4:4 we are told that the birth of Jesus took place at just the right time. Jesus came to put into action the plan of Father God.

Q. Do you think Mary and Joseph felt like everything was “under control”?

Q. Paul goes on to say in Gal 4:4 that Jesus was “born of a woman, born under the law” – Why do you think Paul describes it this way? What is he trying to emphasise?

Q. Why was Jesus born?

Q. What reasons does Gal 4 verse 5 give us for the birth of Jesus?

The passage says we are slaves in need of redeeming (v1-3)

Q. How might we feel if we were a slave to an oppressive human master and someone came along and redeemed us or set us free? How might we feel towards that person?

Q. What does Paul say in verse 3?

Jesus came at Christmas to redeem us from slavery to sin

Q. Why else did he come (v5)?

Q. What does it mean to be adopted into God's family?

Q. If we are no longer slaves, what are we (v7)?

Read 1 John 3 v 1

The shadow of the cross is always hanging over the Christmas events....

Q. Why are Christmas and Easter intrinsically linked?

Read Luke 2:8-15

Q. What is the good news the angel announces? (it is not just that a child has been born)

Q. Why is this Saviour "good news"?

Q. Why will he cause "great joy"?

Q. Who is this news for?

As we celebrate Christ's coming at Christmas, and as we celebrate not just the new born, but also the crucified and resurrected king, may we be encouraged to share the good news with those we encounter this Christmas season.

Spend some time praising God, like the angels in Luke 2, for the wonder of Christmas – which is "the Son of God made man, to enable men to become sons of God"

You could pray or sing a carol such as "God rest ye Merry Gentleman".