

# A D V E N T S T U D Y Q U E S T I O N S

F O R P E R S O N A L G R O W T H O R D I S C U S S I O N

N O V E M B E R 2 6 , 2 0 1 7

**ADVENT SHARING TIME:** Among the Christmas traditions that your family observed when you were growing up, what was your favorite, and why?

- 1 What concepts from John's sermon most stood out to you this week?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2 What did you learn about the setting of the birth of Jesus? How did you respond to what you learned?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3 Read Luke 2:6-7, where it is written that there was no guest room available for Mary and Joseph and Jesus; and John 1:9-13, where we see that "He came to that which was His own, and His own did not receive Him."
  - A The lack of room in Bethlehem seems to be a symbol of the world's unreadiness to embrace the coming of Christ. What do we see happen in the rest of the accounts of the life of Jesus that would confirm this sense that the world was not prepared to receive Him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - B John 1:12-13 indicates that some WERE ready to receive Him, and that as a result they became children of God.
    - i. Think through the lives of some of those people in the gospels. What did it look like 2000 years ago to "receive Him?"
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - ii. What do you think it looks like today to "receive Him?"

- 4 Read the account of the reason for the incarnation of Jesus in Philippians 2:3-8 and discuss these questions:
- A It's been said that Christmas has become a "me-centered" holiday. Do you agree? What do you think might lead people to that conclusion?
  
  - B The mindset of Christ, revealed in Philippians 2, would lead us in an "other-centered" direction. How did Jesus live out that "other-centeredness" while living among us? How can we follow His example, especially in this season?
- 5 In what ways do you hope that this study will prepare your heart for a different kind of Christmas celebration this year?