



BEHIND THE SCENES

Behind the Scenes

Discussion Guide
December 17, 2017
Philippians 2:5-11

Questions for Study

** Before you begin discussing these questions, read through Philippians 2:5-11 as a group.

1. Think of some of the events often associated with Christmas time (school programs, work parties, social events, etc.). How does knowing what happens “behind the scenes” to make these events happen – planning, organization, set-up, clean-up – help you more fully appreciate the event itself?
2. Why is knowing the story behind the scenes of Jesus’ birth valuable? What might we miss if we overlook the backstory?
3. Read Philippians 2:5-11 as a group. This is a passage that helps us see the “whole storyboard” behind the scenes of Christ’s coming. Once you’ve read the passage, answer the following questions.
 - What do we learn about the nature and identity of Christ BEFORE He came as a baby at the first Christmas? (See especially verses 6-7.)
 - What does this passage tell us about Christ’s death and exaltation? Why is this important to keep in mind at Christmas?
 - Reflect on what you read in Philippians 2. How should we respond to these truths we learn? List 3-4 responses that rise out of this passage.
4. Now read Matthew 1:23. What truth about Jesus’ identity does this verse show us? Why is this important?
5. Both Philippians 2:5-11 and Matthew 1:23 show us that God draws near to us in the person of Jesus Christ. What difference can this reality – that God has drawn near to us – make in your daily life?
6. Share how what you’ve learned “behind the scenes” from Philippians 2:5-11 can help you approach Christmas. What practically will you do to keep this truth in mind, during this Christmas season?
7. As we approach Christmas, what can you do to sustain a focus on Christ? If you have a family, how can you help your family with this?
8. **Challenge:** Memorize Matthew 1:23: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).