

Prepare the Way
Worship The King – Part 5
Christmas Eve, 2021
Dr. Jeffrey Allen Love

“This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. ‘Joseph, son of David,’ the angel said, ‘do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’”

Matthew 1:18–21 (p.733)

- **Jesus Came And Will Come Again.**

“All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet: ‘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.’ When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.”

Matthew 1:22-24 (p.733)

1. **Celebrate Jesus’ birth and look forward to His return.**

“There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.”

John 14:2-3 (p.823)

2. **Live in and enjoy Jesus’ peace and hope every day.**

“I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13 (p.868)

My Next Step This Week: _____ Knowing that Jesus is coming again, I am putting all of my hope in Him from this moment on.



Discussion/Groups Guide

Christmas Eve 2021

Worship the King, Part 5

ONE VOICE

Prepare the Way

Life Groups are on break right now. We start up again the week of January 16, 2022. This guide is also great for discussions with your family and friends.

Find out more about Groups (in person and online) at alivechurch.com/groups.

Conversation Starters

- What is your earliest memory of Christmas?
- Did your family have any Christmas traditions? What were they?
- What traditions do you keep today?
- When did Christmas become more than an excuse to get presents?

Quick Review

Looking back at your Talk Notes, was there anything you heard in the service that stood out to you, challenged you, or maybe even confused you?

Discussion Starters from the Weekend Talk

Refer to the Talk Notes and Bible verses from the Talk Notes.

This week's One Thing: The key principle that Pastor Jeff Love challenges us with is:

Jesus Came And Will Come Again!

Series Memory Verse: Matthew 4:10 (p.735)

Background: Matthew 1:18-25 (p.733)

- Joseph could have had Mary stoned for adultery because that was the law. But because he cared for her, he had decided against this course of action. The key is that this was not God's plan.
 - See Matthew 1:1-17 (p.733); 2 Sam 7:12-13 (p.240); Psalm 132:11 (p.474); Isaiah 9:6-7 (p.523); and Isaiah 11:1 (p.525)
- We can take comfort from this as when things go away in our life or get tough, God's plan for us will be fulfilled.
 - See Jeremiah 29:11 (p.596)?

In his Christmas Eve Talk, Jeff encouraged us to ...

1. Celebrate Jesus' birth and look forward to His return. See John 14:2-3 (p.823)

- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is preparing a place for you to be with Him forever?

- See Romans 10:9-10 (p.864) to see what the Bible has to say about how you can begin a relationship with Jesus and experience that eternal life with Him in Heaven.
 - See also Acts 1:11 (p.831)
 - How does this verse encourage or challenge you?
 - We need to remind ourselves and each other of this truth - Jesus will come again.
 - See Philippians 2:5-11 (p.900)
 - What significance does it have to you that Jesus is the Name above every other name? That He will not come again as a humble baby but as a conquering King?
- 2. Live in and enjoy Jesus' peace and hope every day.** See Romans 15:13 (p.868)
- In what areas of your life are you not living in peace, joy, and hope?
 - Jesus came on the first Advent—Christmas—to bring hope, joy, and peace.
 - How would your life be different if you truly embraced this?
 - See also Romans 12:16-18 (p.866).
 - What does this say about how we should live and about how we should treat one another?

Digging Deeper

Food for thought at Christmas and for the coming year:

- Read Romans 12 (p.866) and reflect where you are this Christmas—celebrating the FIRST Advent—in your spiritual walk with God. Consider what Jeff said about Living in and enjoying Jesus' peace and hope every day.
 - What gifts God has given you: spiritual and material? Is there anything holding you back from exercising your gifts or sharing your material blessing with God's people?
 - Ask God to be released from whatever may be holding you back. Perhaps ask the members of your family or your Life Group to pray for you, so that as the New Year starts, you can truly be free to worship and honor God with what he has given you.
 - Finally, if you are struggling because you feel like you are out of touch with God or the church—whether it is your fault or someone else's—look back at the series Forgiven we studied in October 2021 and ask God to help you rebuild the relationship.

Next Step

My Next Step This Week: ___ Knowing that Jesus is coming again, I am putting all of my hope in Him from this moment on.