



MISSION: CHRISTMAS 3

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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DECEMBER 17, 2017

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT: God is on a mission - a long-range operation to take humanity from our fallen, sin-infected state back to the glory he created us to reflect. The mission didn't start in that stable in Bethlehem - it started from the very beginning, and we haven't yet reached its fulfillment.

2. BIBLE VERSE

In the beginning, humans reflected God's glory.

As the pinnacle of His creation, Adam was given dominion over every living thing. He not only reflected God's character on earth, but he was in communion with God, seemingly on a regular basis.

Genesis 1:26 [NLT]

"Then God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.'"

Q. What are some of God's qualities we were created to reflect?



3. DISCUSSION

At the completion of the mission, those who are saved will recapture that glory.

The end result of God's mission isn't just to make this life better - it's to deal with the sin problem so we can once again be near God and reflect His glory. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, God remained just, and punished our Savior for our sins... and yet He remained loving, restoring our souls and guaranteeing us a future with Him forever.

2 Thessalonians 2:14 [NLT]

"He called you to salvation when we told you the Good News; now you can share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Q. God is both loving and just. Which aspect do you tend to focus on more? Which aspect does today's global church focus on?

Q. What are the dangers of focusing solely on God's love? What are the dangers of focusing solely on His justice?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family and thank God for putting such a costly plan into effect to save you. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to better reflect His character in this life, and to help you share the good news, so more can experience salvation in this life, and a glorious future with God.



THE GIFT OF WISDOM

Family Devotional/Overflow Kids Discussion Guide

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DECEMBER 17, 2017

1. POWER VERSE: James 1:5 *"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God... and it will be given to him."*

Watts Up: "Ask God For Wisdom And He'll Give It To You!"

2. DISCUSSION:

- Q. If you needed a cup of water, where would you go to get one?
- Q. If you needed a new oven, where could you buy one?
- Q. If you needed braces on your teeth, where would you get them?
- Q. If you needed a computer, where could you buy one?
- Q. If you needed help with your homework, who would you ask to help you?
- Q. If you were really sick, where would you go for help?
- Q. If you needed money for school, who would you ask for it?



- Q. Would it make sense to ask your doctor for a new pair of shoes? Why not?
- Q. Would it make sense to ask a person who had failed math for help with your math homework? Why not?

- Q. Would it make sense to ask someone who is always in trouble to help you make an important decision? Why not?

3. BIBLE VERSE:



Explain to your kids that when they have some sort of need, the best way to get that need met is to find a person or a place that is a source for what they need. For example, if they need shoes, they should go to a shoe store. If they need help mastering a particular skill, they should go to someone who has already mastered that skill. And if they need wisdom, they should go to God, because he is the source of all wisdom.

Read Proverbs 2:6:
"For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."

- Wisdom has two parts:
- 1: Knowing what God wants them to do.
 - 2: Then doing it. Emphasize that the first thing they should do when making a decision is to ask God what He wants them to do.



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Pray together about any areas in your family where you need wisdom. Let your kids hear you ask God both for wisdom in a specific situation and for the courage to act on the wisdom He provides. Thank Him for being so willing to provide you with the wisdom you need.