



PART 2: STAY CONNECTED

Sermon Notes

Text: Genesis 2:18; Luke 2:15-16; Matthew 2:1-2; 1 Peter 5:5-11

Intro:

God can even use the worst Christmas ever to bring good into the world (Romans 8:28).

Birth Stories:

1. The Birth of Humanity

Genesis 2:18

Loneliness leads to brokenness. We were made for community.

2. The Birth of Jesus

Jesus was born into a family

People came to Jesus in groups. We should too (Luke 2:15-16; Matthew 2:1-2)

3. The Birth of the Church

Jesus didn't leave us alone - he gave us the Holy Spirit and the Community of Christ (the Church)

We, corporately, are the Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16)

A shared experience with God makes something great even better.

Birth stories: When God brings life into the world, he brings that life into a community.

Conclusion:

1 Peter 5:5-11

Every birth story starts with a little pain and suffering...but the end result is life.

Stand firm and stay connected.

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What is the best and worst part about being a part of a community? Think of examples like a church, a friend group, a sports team, or a family.

Study & Discussion:

1. What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you? What questions do you have?
2. Read Genesis 2:18. This statement was made *before* sin entered into the world, so Adam had a perfect relationship with God and creation. Why do you think that wasn't enough?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. What does it mean for the church (the people) to be the Temple of the Holy Spirit? In light of that, do you understand Paul's warning against doing damage to the church (v. 17)? How can we work to protect and care for God's temple today?
4. Read 1 Peter 5:5-11. What stands out to you? How does this passage relate to current events? What is Peter telling us to do? How do you "stand firm in the faith"?

Practicing the Way of Jesus:

1. Ask God to put in your mind a list of people who you need to stay connected with this Christmas. How will you do that?
2. How can you stay connected to your church family in this season? What practical steps will you take this week to strengthen those connections?

Prayer: