



“Low” & Behold: Look | December 12, 2018

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Sometimes life becomes so routine, that we stop paying attention. But did you ever think that could happen to your faith? Hear more about this below.

Key Verses

Matthew 1:21-23 (NIV)

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will

call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).”

Discussion

Often times, kids pay more attention than we think they do. They could notice something even as simple as a teacher putting her hair in a ponytail. A small change, no doubt, but significant to a child. Teachers always doubt whether kids are paying attention when, funny enough; adults stop paying attention just as often, if not more. When things become routine, when we do the same things over and over, it can be really easy for us to mentally check out.

1. Has a child ever surprised you and noticed something seemingly insignificant? Why do you think it surprised you so much?
2. Do you find yourself “checking out” when life becomes routine? Why do you think this is?

Sadly, this is true for some of us in our faith lives during the Christmas season. The older we get, the longer we’ve celebrated Christmas. The story doesn’t change. And because of that, it becomes easy not to notice what is really going on and the significance of the season. The Christmas story is so rich with examples of God showing up with and for the low, the marginalized and the oppressed. The story of how Jesus came sets the tone for his entire ministry, and yet somehow, we forget this in the midst of parties, Christmas cookies, and holiday shopping.

3. Do you feel like you’re caught in a “Christmas routine” and missing the significance of the season? Why or why not?
4. What do you find the most hopeful about the Christmas story? Do some of your traditions get in the way of remembering this truth?

In Matthew 1:21-23, we read about the fulfillment of the Lord’s promise to send a savior for the world. His name means “God with us.” That is what we should be looking for and looking to in the story of Christmas. Christ in Christmas is remembering that God came to Earth, low, as a baby in a manger. It’s remembering that His birth has incredible ramifications for our lives today. Instead of getting caught up in arguments about what’s on our coffee cups, remembering the miracle of Jesus’ birth should be at the center of everything we do this season.

5. What do you think “God with us” really means? What does it mean to you personally?
6. What does Jesus’ birth mean for those who choose to follow Him? How does it change *everything*?

What’s Next?

The word “lo” in the phrase “lo and behold” actually comes from the word “look.” In this series, let’s take time to stop and look at what God wants us to see and do with the Christmas story.

This week, as you live out your faith, look around to find ways that God is working in your life and how He shows up daily. He is God with us, and He is at work even today. This world needs God, so look for the places in your life and in your faith where you can show others that God is actually here, alive and with us. Help them see that God is alive in you and help them look at little bit differently at Christmas because of it.