

Transition:

If you were writing the story of God being born, what would it look like? Where would it happen? What would the parents be like? What period in history would it be? How would the event be celebrated?

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difficulty in believing in the virgin birth? Is it necessary? (Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6)
2. How would you describe eternal life – what actually is salvation? Is it just *not* going to hell? (John 17:3)

Fundamental:

Salvation – take a look specifically at verse 21. This is the primary reason that Jesus was born! To save! Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God. Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God, according to the hope of eternal life.

1. Why do you and I need a Savior? (Rom 3:23; Rom 6:23; 1 John 1:8)
2. What do you and I need to be saved from? (Matt 22:13, Mark 9:48)
3. What is required for salvation? (Mark 6:12; Rom 10:9-10)
*Focus primarily on Repentance and Faith – knowing that both will be covered in later weeks.
4. Can you and I be saved by any other means? (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim 2:5-6)

Homework/Challenge:

1. What do you believe God is asking you to do in response to this story?
2. Please read Matthew 2 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Consider having the most recent convert share their salvation story. Or maybe share your own testimony!

Prayer:

Be bold about sharing the gospel as needed in your group! Is there anyone who needs to move from Spiritually Dead to Spiritual Infancy?