



Everyone recognizes the look of Christmas. What everyone needs to recognize is that Christmas should change how we look at everything. This series will explore some of life's greatest themes through the lens of the birth of Jesus.

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1** This week's message reminds us that the birth of Jesus reframes the way we should picture love. What are some of the reasons people often have trouble giving and receiving love? How has this been difficult for you?

**2 LOVE LOOKS like Christmas.** The Bible contains a lot of stories, but they all come together to tell one big story. How would you summarize that story in one sentence?

**3** At the center of this story is a baby. **Read John 3:16-17 and 1 John 4:7-10.** As you reflect on these familiar passages what stands out to you about God's great love? How has that changed the way you love God and others?

**4 BECAUSE LOVE... gets close.** Most religions picture God as fixed, immobile, and hard to reach. Christmas pictures a God who hits the road compelled by love. John reminds us that God **"became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood"** (John 1:14, MSG). What is so significant about God's willingness to get so close? How have you experienced his closeness recently?

**5 BECAUSE LOVE... goes low.** Christmas communicates and commemorates the greatest demotion in history. **Read Philippians 2:6-8.**

What are some of the things Jesus gave up for us? What does that tell you about his character and how does that impact how we should live?

**6 BECAUSE LOVE... gives all.** God loved us enough to become a man; He even loved us enough to become a servant. And if that's as far as His love went, we would still be lost. God had to love us enough to become a substitute. **Read 1 John 3:16.** With that in mind, how does Christmas rebuke the notion that *"being good is good enough"*?

**7** Spend a few moments reading and reflecting on these passages: **Hebrews 10:4-5, 10, 2 Corinthians 5:21, and Romans 5:8.** What's one thing that each of them points out about the big story the Bible is telling? How do you need to respond to these truths?

#### Closing thoughts

All other religions tell us how to look for God. Only one faith declares that **LOVE LOOKS for you!** God came looking for you not "because of" but "in spite of." His love is not created by your worth; His love creates your worth. **Pray Ephesians 3:17-19** over your group. May we all remember that Love is looking for you this Christmas. Please receive the gift.

