

12-21-25 Discussion Questions

The pastor describes how his father sacrificed by working graveyard shifts to provide Christmas gifts, yet he still struggled with selfishness as a child. How do we sometimes fail to appreciate God's sacrifices for us even when we're aware of them?

Isaiah 53 describes the Messiah as having no beauty or majesty to attract us, yet we often try to make Jesus attractive and appealing in our own image. Why do we struggle to accept an unattractive package when the contents are priceless?

Jesus told Nicodemus that no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born again, emphasizing complete transformation rather than mental acknowledgment. What does true spiritual rebirth look like in practical, daily life?

The sermon suggests we anticipate receiving gifts at Christmas but rarely anticipate what God wants to give us on Sundays or in daily life. How can we cultivate the same excitement for receiving from God that we have for earthly gifts?

The pastor challenges us to consider whether we've prayed about wrapping and delivering God's presence to our families during Christmas gatherings. What would it look like to prioritize God's presence over presents in your holiday celebrations?

Mary and Joseph didn't have a comfortable birth story on their bucket list, yet God called them to a difficult mission. When has God called you to something undesirable or uncomfortable, and how did you respond?

The sermon states that we want God to change our circumstances when God wants to change us from the inside out. Why is it easier to pray for changed circumstances than to surrender to personal transformation?

Jesus kept silent during his torture and crucifixion even though he had the

power to speak and change everything. What does Christ's voluntary silence and restraint teach us about responding to suffering and injustice?

The Ethiopian eunuch related to Isaiah 53 because, like the suffering servant, he would have no descendants. How does recognizing our own brokenness or loss help us connect more deeply with Christ's suffering?

The pastor warns that if people cannot see Christ in our lives, we are holding them back from discovering God. What specific changes might God be asking you to make so that others can see His presence in you?