

the story

FOUND US

Pastor
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THE GREATEST LOVE STORY OF ALL TIME

The greatest love story does not begin, *"Once upon a time"*, it begins

“ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

~ 1 JOHN 4:9-11 (NIV)

● Christmas is a love story about _____.

“ I and the Father are one.” ~ JOHN 10:30 (NIV) “ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son...” ~ GALATIANS 4:4a (NIV)

“ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.” ~ 1 JOHN 4:9 (NIV)

The Lesson of The Father's Love:

Just How far God the Father would go to make a way for us to

● Christmas is a love story about _____.

“ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman...” ~ GALATIANS 4:4a (NIV)

“ 'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' ” ~ LUKE 1:38a (NIV)

“ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: 'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.' ”

~ LUKE 2:34-35 (NIV)

The Lesson of Mary's Love:

God can use anyone _____.

- Christmas is a love story about _____.

FOUR LEVELS OF LOVE

1. *If you scratch my back, I'll scratch your's.*
2. *If I scratch your back, maybe you'll scratch mine.*
3. *I'll scratch your back, without expecting anything in return.*
4. *I'll scratch your back, even when you stab me in mine.*

“ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

~ 1 JOHN 4:10 (NIV)

The Power of Jesus' Love transforms John from _____.

- Christmas is a reminder to regift the story of Love to _____.

“ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

~ 1 JOHN 4:11 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS available on the APP |     Google TV

- 1 - When you think of the “greatest love story,” what examples usually come to mind? What makes God’s love story different from the love stories we celebrate in our culture?
- 2 - 1 John 4:9-10 says that love begins not with us loving God, but with God loving us. How does understanding this change the way we view Christmas and our relationship with God?
- 3 - The sermon talks about a Father’s love, a Mother’s love, and a Son’s love. Which of these loves stood out to you most, and why? How does that perspective deepen your understanding of the Christmas story?
- 4 - Mary’s response to God was one of surrender: “May it be to me as you have said.” What might surrender look like in your own life this season, especially when obedience includes both blessing and cost?
- 5 - The message describes different levels of love, culminating in God’s love that gives even when rejected or wounded. Which “level of love” do you see yourself on most often, and what would it look like to grow toward Christ-like love?
- 6 - John writes, “Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” How can we “continue the greatest love story” this week—at home, at church, or in our community—by making room for others like the innkeeper did?

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the
story
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candlelight

CHRISTMAS

COLLECTIVE

NEW
Times

MONDAY
DEC. 22nd

6:30pm

TUESDAY
DEC. 23rd

6:30pm

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 24th

3:00pm & 5:00pm

