

tell me The Story Again

Part 2: The Journey

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The Beginning of the Story

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ²just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. – **Luke 1:1-4**

The story of Jesus' coming is...

Worth repeating (verse 1)

Credible — based on eyewitness accounts (verse 2)

Reliable (verse 3)

The confident foundation on which the heart of God is revealed (verses 3-4)...

God loves you

God is for you

He is coming after you

He is relentless

Tell Me the Story Again

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. – **Luke 2:1-5**

The journey of obedience is about a promise

God gave us a promise: Therefore, the Lord himself will give you sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel. – Isaiah 7:14

The journey of obedience isn't easy for anyone

Why? God often gives us the *what* before the *how*.

The journey of obedience is a partnership

God has a role for each of us to play. You are a partner, not a puppet.

The journey of obedience is inconvenient

God often uses inconveniences to accomplish his plan.

The journey of obedience can feel lonely

God has placed us all on a journey and we are not alone.

Next Steps

Give the gift of serving. One of the most impactful gifts you could give this season is to serve at one of our Christmas Eve services on Sunday, December 23 or Monday, December 24.

We'll be opening our doors to hundreds of new people, and we want to offer them amazing hospitality and first-class children's programs. Sign up today using the insert in today's program. We'll contact you to follow up and wrap up all the details!

Invite friends and family. Christmas Eve is one of those times of year when people who don't have a church of their own will come to ours — if someone will invite them and meet them here.

To make that easy for you, Christmas Eve invitations are available in the Commons today. We encourage you to pick one up for each person God has laid on your heart to invite, then offer that invitation in person. Let them know which service you'll be attending and invite them to join you at that service.

Small Group Questions

- 1) Do you have a favorite Christmas story or movie? Why do you like it?
- 2) What's the most difficult journey (literal or figurative) you have ever taken? What did you learn on the way?
- 3) Read Luke 2 out loud. What does God whisper to you about your role at Christmas?
- 4) What faith obstacles are making your journey to the manger difficult? What do you need God to change in your heart to overcome these obstacles?
- 5) How will you "stand and be counted" this Christmas?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?