

Worship

INTRO // Welcome.

- Jesus deserves our worship ALL THE TIME.
- No matter what's going on in our lives it never negates His goodness and what He has done for us.
- Worship should be our natural response to Him.

ILLUSTRATION //

Story about the sense of joy you have or you have observed in others during Christmas time for Christians and non-Christians alike.

TRANSITION //

Have you ever noticed that many people become happier or more excited during the Christmas season? Of course, there are exceptions to this, however, it seems that the general public gets a little lighter in their attitudes and people even smile at each other more.

In fact, Health and Society Scholar and creator of trackyourhappiness.org, Matt Killingsworth, collected data on 20,000 people and found that, "...Christmas Day, though not celebrated by everyone, is the happiest day of the year by a significant margin..."

And I believe the reason for this increase in joy is due to the increase of Jesus in society during this time of year. Jesus is present! We hear songs about Jesus' birth; we see the manger scenes and angels in stores; and there are programs that show some form of the Christmas story on TV. The message of Jesus carries hope and joy for all people.

There really is not a time of year that highlights a Bible story quite as much as Christmas time.

TENSION // What is the question or the topic we are wrestling with in the message?

So tonight I want us to ask ourselves, what is my response to the presence of Jesus?

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SCRIPTURE // Luke 2:8-20

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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MAIN POINT // If there was one BIG thought that you could guarantee your students leave thinking about what would it be? What's the main point we are focussing on?

THE PRESENCE OF JESUS PRODUCES WORSHIP - IN OUR BODIES, OUR SPEECH, AND OUR MINDS.

ILLUSTRATION // Related to something that automatically affects body, speech, and minds (I'm talking about the affects of a taser gun).

APPLICATION // What does the main point have to do with our students lives? How is what we are talking about something they can all relate to?

When we encounter the presence of Jesus our minds will be effected, our bodies will be effected and our speech will be effected.

Our Bodies:

9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

After experiencing the glory of the Lord and hearing the good news that Jesus was their savior and had come, the shepherds reacted. They went to see the thing that happened. They didn't have this experience and then just sit there. They wanted more. They wanted to experience more of God, more of the glory, and they wanted to worship up close, so they went. They moved. They went to seek Jesus and be in the presence of God once again!

Our Speech:

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

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The presence of Jesus affected the shepherd's speech. They could not help but talk about what they had experienced and seen. They had to spread the word!

Our Minds:

20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Their minds were changed. They were no longer just watching sheep and thinking of the mundane things of life and work to be done. Their thoughts were now on Jesus and their experience with Him resulted in them praising Him!

CHALLENGE // Equip students with action steps they can take that week to grow in this area of their faith.

This week, I challenge you to allow the presence of Jesus to affect you. Don't be satisfied with the last experience you had in the presence of Jesus. Go after Him again. Don't stay still. Move towards Him. Choose at least one block of 10 minutes a day this week to worship Jesus and encounter His presence. This can be by listening to/singing worship music; by speaking praises to Him; or by testifying to someone about what God has done in your life.

CLOSE // Begin transitioning to altar time. Call up band. Have prayer team get ready. Etc.

ILLUSTRATION // This should be a powerful, emotional, and or vulnerable story or physical illustration to help land the message and set up altars.

I found a really interesting fact during my research about getting tased. I learned that although it affects body, mind and speech automatically; it only affects the heart if it is applied directly to it...

In an article about tasers and the human body by Dr. Sima Patel, it says, "Humans have protective mechanisms: The skin, which provides high resistance to electricity; and soft tissue, which surrounds muscles and organs like the heart, also reduce the current."

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Have you experienced the presence of Jesus? He affects our bodies, speech and minds, but none of those affects will last unless we let Him first affect our heart.

- God has given us free will.
- His presence produces worship but life change requires our willingness to let our hearts be directly touched
- He wants to give us more than a worship service experience, He wants to give us a life of worship - affecting every part
- Don't have a one-time experience w Jesus, go get more
- Watch your life in His presence produce a change in your body, speech and mind

ALTARS WITH ACTION // Every altar time we should be giving EVERYONE something to do. Be intentional with how we are challenging students to respond to the message.

SALVATION OPPORTUNITY // Before we dismiss we always want to give students the opportunity to receive Jesus.