

Theme: Christ came to bring glory to God and peace to men.

## **I. Introduction – Welcome & Thanks**

## **II. In Heaven: Glory to God (v14a)**

- A. The heart of Christmas is glory to God
  - 1. The angels words – first!
  - 2. God is the main actor in this story
  - 3. Christ came to bring glory to God (Jn 17:4)
  - 4. Christmas is first and foremost about God!
- B. Focus on God – not the trappings
  - 1. Gifts are nice – God is better
  - 2. Christmas music is nice – God is better
  - 3. Family is nice – God is better
  - 4. Focus on God – all else falls into place

## **III. On Earth: Peace to Men (v14b)**

- A. The outcome of Christmas is peace to mankind
  - 1. Primarily, peace with God (Rom 5:1)
  - 2. We had been in darkness, cut off from God
  - 3. God sent Christ to make peace (2 Cor 5:18-21)

- B. The effect of peace with God – peace between men
  - 1. This is secondary, but important
  - 2. Peace with God can lead to peace with others

## **IV. Conclusion & Summary**

- A. Celebrate Christmas – by keeping God first
  - 1. This is why we were made
  - 2. This is the only way life works and makes sense
  - 3. Take time to think and talk about what God has done
  - 4. Read the Christmas story (together)
- B. Celebrate Christmas – God has shown His favor
  - 1. Christ came to reconcile us to God!
  - 2. He does not need us, but He wants us (Casting Crowns)
- C. Celebrate Christmas – the Light has come
  - 1. Christ the True Light has come
  - 2. We are to take His light to the world

### The Heart of Christmas

Luke 2:14

December 24, 2005 - Christmas Eve Night Service  
Candle Lighting, Silent Night/ O Come All Ye Faithful  
Impromptu

4 I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

John 17:4

1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**

Romans 5:1

18 All this is from God, who **reconciled** us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**: 19 that God was **reconciling** the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of **reconciliation**. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be **reconciled** to God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

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2 Corinthians 5:18-21

How refreshing to know You don't need me

How amazing to find that You want me

Casting Crowns "In Me"